

## The New Books

## Fiction

(Continued from preceding page)

THE HOUSE OF JOY. By Jo VAN AMMERS-KULLER. Translated from the Dutch by H. VAN WYHE. Dutton. 1929. \$2.50.

Jenny, the principal in this ably written story of stage life in Holland, is the only child of old-fashioned, provincial aristocrats, a self-willed, intensely egotistical girl whose heart is set on becoming a noted actress. Prevailing over the immovable opposition of her parents and her fiancé, the gifted Jenny departs from home in the care of Margaret, an elderly elocution teacher, beginning her professional novitiate with small parts in obscure touring companies. Slowly working her way nearer to the goal of her ambition, Jenny at length joins an aspiring troupe of artists presenting a repertoire of classic dramas in an Amsterdam theatre. The engagement offers Jenny her vital opportunity, and she grasps it tenaciously. Aided substantially by the infatuation for her of a veteran, temperamental thespian, the artistic mainstay of the company, Jenny rapidly rises over all her colleagues to the position, hardly earned as yet, of permanent leading lady. But her ruthlessly won success and virulent selfishness have so disrupted the back-stage harmony of her associates that various of the members resign and nearly wreck the prospect of the company's continued existence. Jenny is an extraordinarily convincing embodiment of her type, and the portraits of her keenly contrasted fellow-players are achieved with a touch no less masterly and revealing. In every essential the novel is a worthy successor to this author's notable "The Rebel Generation," and well deserves the attention of discriminating readers.

THE LONE WOLF. By LOUIS JOSEPH VANCE. Little, Brown. 1929. \$2.

The original glamour is not quite there when, after fifteen years, we reread "The Lone Wolf." Mr. Vance's story is a trifle dated; for all its vigor it is not really of our time. It is often vivid, often ingenious, but it is not good enough to be considered a classic of the literature of crime. Furthermore, the criminal as protagonist never seems to make for the best story and the most satisfactory dénouement. The detective as protagonist is, apparently, the most effective way of portraying conventional crime. Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Thorndyke, Father Brown, Philo Vance—all these stand a better chance than "The Lone Wolf" of being remembered twenty-five years from now.

KNIGHT'S GAMBIT. By GUY POCOCK. Dutton. 1929. \$2.50.

Aubrey Joliffe was a founding who was adopted by a Church of England parson and his wife and brought up in the conservative English way. Aubrey, whether by inheritance or by accident, is not a conservative. His nature prompts him to innumerable questions about subjects that his godfather regards as irrevocably settled. The godfather is a fellow of no delicacy, and the result is a conflict in which the boy is eventually triumphant.

There is a great deal about English schools and English family life. Sometimes the narrative is interesting, and sometimes it drags. The book suffers from a certain aimlessness. The central theme is not powerful enough to bind the various threads of the narrative together. Some of the characters are interesting, but they spend a great deal of time doing uninteresting things, to the damage of the novel as a whole.

THE FACE IN THE NIGHT. By Edgar Wallace. Crime Club. \$2 net.

SLEEPING DOGS. By Carolyn Wells. Crime Club. \$2 net.

THE WEEK-END LIBRARY. Third Issue. Doubleday, Doran. \$2.50 net.

PERIL. By Lloyd Osbourne. Crime Club. \$2 net.

HIGH WALLS. By Arthur Tuckerman. Doubleday, Doran. \$2 net.

CRESCENDO. By Ethel Mannin. Doubleday, Doran. \$2.50 net.

UNDER THE ADMIRAL'S STARS. By Warren Hastings Miller. Appleton. \$1.75.

BABBITT OF MAIN STREET. By Isidor Golub. Privately printed.

THE INCONSISTENT VILLAINS. By N. A. Temple Ellis. Dutton. \$2.

SAILORS DON'T CARE. By Edwin M. Lanham. Paris: Contact Editions.

## Juvenile

(The Children's Bookshop will appear next week.)

## Miscellaneous

GUILTY OR NOT GUILTY. By GUY B. H. LOGAN. Duffield. 1929. \$3.50.

Another item to add to the fast growing literature of crime! It is a good book; the subject matter is intensely interesting, the manner of presentation adequate. Fourteen murder cases are presented, some very famous ones which have been more exhaustively dealt with elsewhere, and some new to print. What stories these are, and how jejune crime fiction appears alongside the real, the infinitely various and inexplicable manifestations of human behavior! One never tires of murder cases because every one is different; murder is one of the few things left unstandardized. One's only fear is, as a famous crime writer has expressed it, that the supply of murders may become exhausted! For the connoisseur of crime it may be objected that these cases are too summarily dealt with. More space is needed for the development of the full flavor of a murder.

Among the fourteen here dealt with, we should award the palm to the case of the German Baker. This comes pretty near to being the perfect murder, because the corpus was finally and completely disposed of. Other murderers were not so fortunate as to have a nice, big oven handy. The beneficiaries went about their business in perfect serenity knowing that it is impossible to prove a murder without a corpse. Unfortunately for them they made too free with the missing man's effects and were had for forgery, thus marring the perfect crime.

## Philosophy

CHARACTER AND EVENTS. By John Dewey. Holt. 2 vols. \$5.

PRINCIPLES AND PROBLEMS OF RIGHT THINKING. By Edwin Arthur Burtt. Harper. \$3.50.

THE RECOVERY OF TRUTH. By Count Hermann Keyserling. Harper. \$5.00.

FUNDAMENTALS OF CHILD STUDY. By Edwin A. Kirkpatrick. Macmillan.

CREATIVE IMAGINATION. By June E. Downey. Harcourt, Brace. \$3.75.

A STUDY OF EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT OF PROBLEM CHILDREN. By Richard H. Paynter and Phyllis Blanchard. New York: The Commonwealth Fund.

## Science

MODERN BIOLOGY. By J. T. CUNNINGHAM. Dutton. 1929. \$3.

Professor Cunningham of London believes that some of the conclusions drawn from recent biological researches have been reached by fallacious reasoning and he hopes to show in his "Modern Biology" what the fallacies are in certain cases. He discusses in a series of more or less distinct essays, designated chapters, such perennially interesting problems as Mechanistic Biology and Neo-vitalism, Reproduction and Evolution, Recapitulation and Evolution, Acquired Characters, Secondary Characters, and Mind and Consciousness.

Although the presentation of an unorthodox viewpoint is always stimulating to the specialist, it usually makes confusion worse confounded for the layman. Accordingly the present volume is not for the latter who necessarily cannot be in a position to evaluate the material Dr. Cunningham presents in opposition to the consensus of modern biological opinion.

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A DISPATCH from London to "Science Service" states that "the library of Sir Isaac Newton is now for sale there, and British men of science are wondering what its ultimate fate may be. Will it cross the Atlantic to the United States, as so many of England's literary treasures have done in recent years, or will it find an appropriate resting place in the Royal Society's library or at Newton's alma mater, Trinity College, Cambridge? Though no definite price has been set so far, it is not likely that the books will be sold for less than \$100,000. The present owner will sell the library only as a complete unit, so there is no danger of it being scattered.

"Until the recent discovery of these books by Colonel R. de Villamil, the whereabouts of Newton's library was a mystery of many years' standing. Because of his eminence in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, it was obvious that Newton must have had a large library, but none of the biographies mentioned it. Until 1920 it was thought that the library had vanished completely.

"But in that year an old mansion at Thame Park, in Oxfordshire, was sold at auction by the owner, a Mr. Wykeham-Musgrave, who owned another home at Bartsley Park, in Gloucestershire. To this sale were sent a lot of old books from the latter house. The books were not known to be of any particular value, and were sold as rubbish, even though a few bore the autograph 'Is. Newton.' The entire lot went for about \$500. A few of the purchasers discovered that they had books from Newton's library. These were eventually sold in London by a large dealer in old scientific works, but a considerable number of the books were sent to the pulp mill and irretrievably lost. Of those sold, many were bought for American libraries. Many brought prices as high as several hundred dollars, and one, the copy of Euclid that Newton used as a student at Cambridge, was listed at \$3,000.

"In 1927, at the time of the tercentenary of Newton's death, Colonel de Villamil wrote an account of 'The Tragedy of Sir Isaac Newton's Library' in *The Bookman*. This came to the attention of Mr. Wykeham-Musgrave, who finally invited Colonel de Villamil to visit his Bartsley Park home to see a few books that still remained. He had previously discovered a catalogue of the library, made about 1760, showing that it had contained 1,896 books.

"I went," he later said, 'expecting to see probably fifteen or twenty books, but found I could count at least 300 or 400, and I guessed that there might be 600. I have catalogued them, and have actually found 860, which, out of 1,896, is more than one would call a residue.'

"All these books had been stuck away in cupboards and corners, where their owner did not even know of their existence, otherwise they would probably have been sold at Thame Park and lost.

"Colonel de Villamil has now worked out the complete history of the library. After Newton's death it was sold to his neighbor, John Huggins, warden of the Fleet prison. He gave the books to his son, Charles Huggins, rector of Chinnor. When he died, about 1750, his successor, Dr. James Musgrave, bought it from the estate for £400 and pasted his own bookplate in the books over the Huggins bookplate. The Musgrave plate consisted of his arms combined with the Huggins arms, for he had married Charles Huggins's niece. Underneath was the Latin motto, 'Philosophemur.' This bookplate is still in the books, together with the number's Dr. Musgrave put in them when he catalogued the library, about 1760. It is this catalogue that Colonel de Villamil found.

"Dr. Musgrave died in 1778, and the library passed to his son, who took it to Bartsley Park. There it was recatalogued and renumbered. Though the original owner was then recognized, the Newton tradition was finally forgotten, and they were stuck away as old books of no particular value. There they remained until discovered by Colonel de Villamil."

JOHN GALSWORTHY has donated his "Forsyte" manuscripts to the British Museum. Apropos of the gift the *Manchester Guardian* has the following to say: "They are worth a small fortune, and they are certain to appreciate greatly in years to come. No other English writer, with the possible exception of Mr. Shaw, has such a vogue abroad, and almost every month sees an advance in the prices of his first editions. As readers of our Christmas Number will recall, Mr. Galsworthy is one of the few modern authors who write everything in their own hand. He once told me that he found it impossible to think with a typewriter in front of him, and he raised his eyes in mock horror when I mentioned the dictaphone. In his study at Hampstead all his manuscripts are carefully preserved in a row of red morocco boxes shaped like book covers. Those he has presented to the British Museum are to be seen in the Greville Room. Mr. Galsworthy is at present on holiday in France."

Another gift to the Museum is that of Gabriel Wells, who has presented to it a number of letters from Charles Greville, English diarist, which were simultaneously published for the first time by the *London Times* and the *New York Times* on June 15.

The letters show how near Great Britain and the United States came to war in 1856 over the "Crampton Affair." They will now be available at all times to students and historians.

RANDOM HOUSE is about to issue an edition of the "Narrative of the Life of Mary Jemison." This Indian captivity, perhaps the most conspicuous in the field of Americana, now is printed, for the twenty-third recorded time, with friendly authorization by the Trustees of The American Scenic & Historic Preservation Society.

This reprint of the 1824 edition attempts to hold the spirit with its quaint spelling rather than to slavishly duplicate the first printing. Nor are there included any of the many and important editorial notes contained in the current edition published by The American Scenic & Historic Preservation Society. This folder shows a text page and the paper size of the book.

An etched portrait study, based on the Bush-Brown statue at Letchworth Park, New York, is inserted as a frontispiece. The binding is leather back with paper over board sides. There are planned 192 pages to be printed from type for nine hundred and fifty copies priced at six dollars each.

Mary Jemison was taken by the Indians in the year 1775, when only about twelve years of age, and was still residing among them at the time of her writing in 1823. The book contains "an account of the murder of her father and his family; her sufferings, her marriage to two Indians, her troubles with her children, barbarities of the Indians in the French and Revolutionary Wars; the life of her lost husband, etc., and many historical facts never before published." To it is added "an appendix, containing an account of the tragedy at the Devil's Hole, in 1763, and of Sullivan's Expedition; the Traditions, Manners, Customs, etc., of the Indians, as believed and practised at the present day, and since Mrs. Jemison's captivity; together with some anecdotes, and other interesting matter," by James E. Selaver, who published the narrative in 1824.

IN 1927 there was founded in London a Kipling Society, the aims of which were: "To read papers and hold discussions upon Kipling's writings; to circulate promptly among members information of any occasional verses, etc., written by Kipling, which might otherwise escape their notice; to form a complete Kipling Library (including early, out-of-date works, and the many books that have been published dealing with Kipling and his writings) for the convenience of members; to issue a periodical, dealing with the proceedings of the Society, and containing other matters of interest, and to do belated honor to, and to

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extend the influence of, the most patriotic, virile, and imaginative of writers, who uphold the ideals of the English-speaking world." The home of the Society is in London. Its president is, and from its creation has been, Major General Lionel C. Dunsterville, who was the original "Stalky" of "Stalky & Co." One of the vice-presidents is G. C. Beresford, Esq., the original "McTurk" of the same stories. There are to-day thirty-seven vice-presidents of the Society, five of whom are citizens of and residents in the United States, and one of Canada. The total present membership of the Society numbers over seven hundred, living in all parts of the world, of whom but forty-eight are citizens and residents of the United States, scattered in fourteen different states. Of these forty-eight, four memberships are held by libraries as such.

The Society states that while it is unlikely that it could do much in the way of national gatherings in the United States, because of the great distances and costs involved in any effort to get together nationally, nevertheless, if a material increase in membership can be made in this country, it would seem practicable and most attractive to arrange local and, perhaps, State meetings among members.

The annual dues of the Society, paid in London, in English money, are 10 shillings and 6 pence, to which, in individual payments, must be added the cost of money order and postage. Any person interested may join direct by paying as above and forwarding application to "The Hon. Secretary, The Kipling Society, Escart, Milford-on-Sea, Lymington, Hants, England." The Secretary is Mr. R. T. Gibson Fleming.

However, it will be very desirable, for the convenience of members in this country, if there can be established and maintained here a branch of the office of the Secretary of the Society, through which all business on this side of the water can be conducted. To meet such costs as may be involved in the operation of such an office, the entrance and annual dues for members joining and paying dues through the United States Office of the Secretary, will be three dollars (\$3.00) a year, payable in advance; and it is most earnestly hoped that the members will feel that the greater convenience to them resulting from the maintenance of such an office will more than compensate them for the small advance charged over and above the dues as paid in England. The Secretary for the United States gives his time and labor without compensation of any kind, and such

expenses as the printing and distribution of this sheet have been met by contributions from a few leading admirers of Kipling's works who are citizens of this country and members of the Society.

THE Lazarist Mission in China has recently issued an imposing volume of six hundred pages by Alphonse Hubrecht, entitled "Grandeur et Suprématie de Peking," which brings together the result of twenty years of historical, archaeological, and literary research. The first portion of the book is a history of China and of her foreign relations from the beginning of the Mongol dynasty to the proclamation of the Republic; the second deals with the palaces, temples, tombs, and pagodas of Peking and its vicinity, with sidelights on the family, social, and religious life of the inhabitants. The volume contains, too, impressions and reminiscences of the author.

The United States Civil Service Commission announces an open competitive examination for Junior Librarian (for men and women) and Under Library Assistant (for men only).

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It will be a year come Michelmas since *The Inner Sanctum* demolished its time hallowed rule against quoting reviews in this column. But when a book begins to "click," all injunctions, taboos, restrictions, and inhibitions are off.

And *Private Secretary*, the new novel by ALAN BRENER SCHULTZ, is clicking . . .

The staccato of typewriters, the insistence of telephones, the repartee, light and bitter, that flashes across the humming rooms from rouged lips to rouged lips—these have been accurately described in a steady flow of easy, light-fingered prose. It rushes on with the speed of motor cars, swirls and tumbles like the swirl and tumble of the crowds at luncheon time. . . . Unquestionably, Mr. Schultz has captured his locale.—THE NEW YORK SUN.

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—ESSANDESS

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By STUART CHASE  
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WE'VE heard from the *Phanician*. Six days after we sent him an important telegram we've received an answer to it. We gather from its general *dolce far niente* vagueness and its generous greetings to us that the *Phanician* is on anything but labor bent. Probably he's still living in the memory of the Bohemian gambols, or else he's again making an excursion to that great estate on which Mr. William Randolph Hearst keeps giraffes and lions as backyard pets. We only hope he is accumulating all sorts of juicy items for you. . . .

No, certainly we didn't mean juicy in reference to broiled wild animal steaks. We meant meaty gossip,—oh, well, we can't get away from the implications. . . .

Talking of animals, the Yale University Press is about to issue "The Great Apes," by Robert M. Yerkes and Ada W. Yerkes. For several years odds and ends of news have been drifting into the papers concerning the observations on the habits of chimpanzees being made in the Primate Laboratory at Yale and Mr. Yerkes's own experiments with gorillas in Florida. And now here is a book that embodies the results of this most painstaking scientific research. We wouldn't have believed it. We wouldn't have believed that a work produced by and primarily for scientists (pace the editorial on our first page) could have proved so altogether fascinating. It's an entirely unvarnished chronicle of the social, parental, and familial relations of the anthropoids, but in a hasty scramble through its pages we couldn't find a paragraph that wasn't packed with interest, and never have we seen a volume which more triumphantly proved that facts, just plain, unadulterated facts could be as enthralling as romance. So many curious matters spring to attention in it that we refrain from mentioning any lest we be swamped by the mass. Springing, by the way, reminds us of the old limerick. Well, we're glad we sprang. . . .

Have you ever heard of "Perelmangitis"? It's what Horace Liveright says the literary world will be suffering from after S. J. Perelman has published "Dawn Ginsberg's Revenge" on August 16. . . .

Commander Fitzhugh Green, who in private life (or is that public life?) is on the staff of Putnams, and who has written no less than twenty-six books in addition to collaborating with Lindbergh in "We," says he can write at any time, at any place, and under any conditions. He has written with gunfire about him, in an airplane, in a submarine, in an Eskimo igloo. Now he's just published a book on Bob Bartlett, "master mariner." We wonder, if he can write twenty-six books when he's so to say a'dangle in the universe, how many he could produce if, like the rest of us poor worms, he were tied to a small corner of homeland. . . .

Homeland reminds us (something is always reminding us of something else until we zigzag through the literary gossip like a tipsy man) that Maristan Chapman has a new novel about the mountain folk of Tennessee off the press of the Viking Press. Sounds, doesn't it, as though that ought to be a new refrain? Press, press, press, the boys are stamping, or something of the sort. Well, Mrs. Chapman's books are something to stamp for; they have a sort of wild-apple pungency and wind-swept freshness. You'll meet Wait-Still-on-the-Lord Lowe and others of the characters of "The Happy Mountain" in "Homeplace." . . .

An English periodical (we refrain from mentioning its name lest we be supposed to have but one source of supply for our foreign news) writes above an article on Proust the caption: "The Marcel Wave," and in another column informs us that the house at Thetford, Norfolk, in which Thomas Paine, author of "The Age of Reason," was born is about to be sold. And Peadar O'Donnell, the Irish novelist whose "The Way It was with Them" appeared last summer is about to have his new tale, "Adrigoole," published by Putnams. We don't know what Adrigoole means, whether it's fish, flesh, or fowl, but we're willing to venture that it will be interesting, for Mr. O'Donnell has a gift for hard-bitten description, the power of making an economically written narrative connote much, and sympathy for the people whom he depicts

with understanding but without sentimentality. . . .

Does anyone want to win \$250? It will buy one of these new automobiles we see by the papers Sears, Roebuck and Montgomery, Ward are planning to send out in crates which are to serve as garages when their original purpose has been fulfilled. All you have to do to get one is to win the first, second, third, and fourth prizes offered by the Poetry Society of England (they total \$250) for the best poems on Power in its broadest acceptance as evinced by Caesar, Alexander the Great, Edison, Pasteur, Macdonald, Macdowell, Roosevelt, and a further assorted lot of celebrities. We confess that a list that includes both Christ and George Grey Barnard seems to us to allow sufficient leeway for anything—even winning four prizes at once. If you're interested, write to Mrs. Alice Hunt Bartlett, Editor of the American Section of the Poetry Review at 299 Park Avenue, New York City. More than one poem may be sent. "As we have reason to know," the announcement before us states, "Mrs. Bartlett favors the sonnet form." As it is signed by Mrs. Bartlett, we imagine it does have reason to know. . . .

Ladies, take notice! The Macmillan Company is about to issue a book by William H. Baldwin entitled "The Shopping Book," which is a "guide to household wisdom." It tells you how to buy economically and soundly, providing much useful information as to what constitutes good value in a number of selected instances, and many warnings in general. It's a great advance over a volume of the type which Bella Wilfer used to address as "Oh, you donkey!" That was a cook book, of course, "The Complete British Housewife," it was called, you will remember, and it had a maddening habit of saying "take a salamander," as if one were to be found just around the corner. It hasn't, as a matter of fact, the faintest kinship with this volume, and we hadn't any reason to mention it except that as we told you before something is always reminding us of something else. But the Bella Wilfers of the world will surely be the better off for having such a guide as "The Shopping Book" to help them through their novitiate as housekeepers, and if there were a Dickens today he might immortalize the volume. . . .

At last there is to be an English translation of the memoirs of that famous adventurer of the eighteenth century, Lorenzo da Ponte. Curiously enough, though they were first published in New York a century ago, and though they are full of spicy anecdotes of the career of this man who was adventurer, grocer, truck driver on the old Reading Pike, language master, Columbia professor, and operatic impresario, they have never until now been converted into English from the Italian in which they were written. Now they have been translated by Elizabeth Abbot. Lippincott is to issue them. . . .

Longmans, Green & Company sends us further news on the activities of Lord Charnwood of whom we were speaking last week. He is, it seems, to contribute a volume entitled "The Monarchy" to the English Heritage Series which Longmans is inaugurating. This is a series which is designed to interpret the Anglo-Saxon outlook. Its volumes will be in the nature of essays on matters political, physical, artistic, literary, and social. In addition to Lord Charnwood's volume, Longmans will issue this fall two others in the series, "English Public Schools," by Bernard Darwin, and "English Humor," by J. B. Priestley.

Priestley reminds us that a grand, two-volume novel, entitled "The Good Companions," is coming from his pen via Harper & Brothers. But there we go again. We'll stop before anything reminds us of anything else. Oh, no, we can't before we say that we were reminded all wrong last week. That forthcoming book of Maurice Hindus on Russia of which we were speaking isn't "Broken Earth"; that's an old one. The new one is called "Humanity Uprooted." Hindus's name just reminded us of this earlier volume, and we wrote the title down without realizing it. So you see what comes of this unfortunate habit of being reminded. *Peccavi, peccavi.*

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