

ROGUES IN CLOVER. By PERCIVAL WILDE. Appleton. 1929. \$2.

This story of a reformed card sharp's campaign against followers of his old calling is highly entertaining and refreshing. During his six years of outwitting the unwary, Bill had mastered and practised every trick of the trade so that when he turns against his former competitors they are at his mercy. His method is to be introduced casually into a game suspected of containing one or more dishonest players, and then, by expert observation, to lay bare the cheats. Bill's special forte is poker, but he is equally skilful at detecting hanky-panky in roulette, faro, and even casino, but bridge, old maid, and slap jack do not seem to come within the range of his talents. The book begins heavily with the repentant, prodigal Bill's return to his father's home, but quickly drops its solemn air and keeps thereafter to a note of comedy.

A SEARCH FOR AMERICA. By FREDERICK PHILLIP GROVE. Carrier. 1928. \$3.50.

Mr. Grove's search was somewhat thrust upon him in the beginning, but it ended by being most comprehensive, and the picture he presents is drawn from a double perspective. The Old World peers at the New, and society's upper crust takes a long look at what lies under that crust.

The author, born of cultured British-Scandinavian parents, found himself left at twenty-one with a literary and artistic education and very little else. Feeling that genteel poverty was his almost inevitable future in Europe he came to America as an immigrant. His struggle to adjust himself in a material way makes interesting reading. He is by turn a waiter, a book-agent, a factory worker, a hobo, and a harvest hand. The difficulties he experienced in arriving at an understanding of the attitude of mind which he found on this side of the Atlantic are a clear illustration of how definitely the American spirit was an accomplished fact even thirty years ago. In the end he rejects it and goes to Canada, where he has lived since. Mr. Grove's gift for narration will divert even those readers who resent his sometimes drawing conclusions from a view of only one side of the picture.

THE BEST EUROPEAN SHORT STORIES OF 1928.

Edited by Richard Eaton. Dodd, Mead. \$2.50.

THE SEVEN DIALS MYSTERY. By Agatha Christie. Dodd, Mead. \$2.

DARK STAR. By Lorna Moon. Bobbs-Merrill. \$2.50.

QUEEN OF NINEVEH. By Algernon Crofton. Covici-Friede. \$2.50.

THE PLUNGER. By E. J. Dies. Covici-Friede. \$3.

THE SCARLET THUMB. By Jermyn March. Henkle. \$2.

JUDITH SILVER. By Hector Bolitho. Knopf. \$2.50.

DAYS IN THE SUN. By Martin Anderson Nexö. Coward-McCann. \$3.

PALE WARRIORS. By David Hamilton. Scribners. \$2.50.

LIVES AND DEATH OF ROLAND GREER. By Richard Pyke. A. & C. Boni. \$2.50.

A DUCHESS AND HER DAUGHTER. By Alfred Bishop Mason. A. & C. Boni. \$2.50.

THE LOVE CLINIC. By Maurice Dekobra. Payson & Clarke. \$2.50.

THE LADY OF THE LOTUS. By Ahmadul-Umari. Oxford University Press.

THE CURIOUS LOTTERY. By Walter Duranty. Coward-McCann. \$2.50.

DODSWORTH. By Sinclair Lewis. Harcourt, Brace. \$2.50.

BARBARIAN. By Dickson Skinner. Appleton. \$2.

BLACK GOLD. By Robert McBlair. Appleton. \$2.

PROTESTANTISM IN THE UNITED STATES. By Archer B. Bass. Crowell. \$3.

ROSE THE DANCER. By Winifred Carter. Crowell. \$2.

THE STRENGTH OF THE HILLS. By Ellery H. Clark. Crowell. \$2.

THE GAMBLER. By Aylwin Martin. Crowell. \$2.

DYNASTY. By Clarence Budington Kellard. Harpers. \$2.

CRISIS. By Claude Houghton. Harpers. \$2.50.

HOBBY HOUSE. By Russell Neale. Harpers. \$2.50.

ONE BY ONE. By Moray Dalton. Harpers. \$2.

ALL IN A DAY. By Martin Armstrong. Harpers. \$2.50.

THE DEVIL AND THE DEEP SEA. By Elizabeth Jordan. Century. \$2.

THE HAMMER OF DOOM. By Frances Evérton. Bobbs-Merrill. \$2.

SUMMER FRUIT. By Dornford Yates. Minton, Balch. \$2.50.

KIF. By Gordon Daviot. Appleton. \$2.50.

SALAD DAYS. By Theodora Benson. Harpers.

PALE WARRIORS. By David Hamilton. Scribners. \$2.50.

THE BURNING FOUNTAIN. By Eleanor Carroll Chilton. Day.

EASILY PERSUADED. By Elizabeth Deane. Live-right. \$2.

Juvenile

(The Children's Bookshop will appear next week)

Miscellaneous

THE STORY OF ENGINEERING IN AMERICA. By CHELSEA FRASER. Crowell. 1929. \$2.50 net.

Here is a most interesting chronicle, presented in a style which will appeal to the young lad and also to his father. In the first chapter, entitled "The Engineer and His Work," the author briefly traces the development of engineering from its earliest days to its present specialized participation in modern civilization. After giving a very appropriate answer to the question: "How is it that so many American engineers gain distinction while still comparatively young, say, under fifty?" he says, "Engineers are the most optimistic, persevering class of workers in the whole universe. There is no problem presented to them that they will not tackle. What is more, they seldom fail to accomplish their ends, even under the most discouraging circumstances. The job may require a year, ten years, or even twenty."

How the old trails were expanded and developed into great modern highways as civilization advanced is followed by the story of our amazing accomplishments with railroads, bridges, tunnels, and subways. In beginning the chapter on dams and reservoirs the author describes his experiences when accompanying a group of Boy Scouts on an overnight hike. "Our boys wanted a place deep enough and wide enough to swim in, but the stream was both too shallow and too narrow. . . . So they went to work and the dam was soon built out of logs, boulders, brush, and sod." Lessons about strength, levels to which the water must back up, run off, spillways, and reservoirs were soon learned and "it was the best swimming hole any of us had ever used."

No volume of this size can contain the entire story of engineering in America. Wonderful developments in the fields of mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, and chemical engineering have been omitted, as well as all those remarkable achievements in industrial plant design and operation which include problems of organization as well as of invention and design. The industrial worker in this country today has about six times as much horsepower at his disposal as his European rival.

COLLECTING ANTIQUES. By W. G. MENZIES. Dodd, Mead. 1928. \$5.

This is at once a beautiful book, a mad-denying book, and (for some collectors) a valuable book. To take the last attribute first, the lists of furniture makers, potters, line engravers, and artists, the various glossaries, all are excellent for consultation. But here a difficulty—and this points to its qualities of high provocation—is that its very size prevents it from being anything but a library volume; it never could be classified as a handy *vade mecum*, the sort of general collecting book that the average gatherer in of antiques packs in his trunk before he sets out to forage in English and Continental markets. This is a fault very easily forgiven to a compendious tome on one subject, which moves from shelf to table and rarely ventures farther; witness Mr. Luke Vincent Lockwood's "Colonial Furniture," a scholarly study of a single theme which makes it invaluable to the student of Americana.

Mr. Menzies's reach is too high, stretching as it does from English furniture (oak, walnut, and mahogany) to the intricacies of French *ameublement*; dealing with British and Continental porcelains and potteries; considering painters of the Dutch, Flemish, French, Spanish, Italian, and English schools; devoting pages to mezzotints, etchings, woodcuts, and all the rest. It too far exceeds the grasp of the average collector; in a few contradictory, plagiarized words it is not what the everyday amateur's heaven is for. It is too diverse to be completely useful; half a dozen more practical collecting volumes could have been made out of the material of which Mr. Menzies is very evidently a master. All this is emphasized since the Preface speaks of "Collecting Antiques" as a beginner's book, a thing it most assuredly is not.

The writer, however, has no criticism at all of the magnificence of the examples that are shown; these stand as criterions of taste—and of the luck that might happen to anybody. Watteau's famous "Gilles" was picked up at the Paris Ham Fair for twenty dollars; recently an English friend at a rural sale bought a Poussin for seven pounds, and, just the other day, a fine Louis Seize bed was bid in for six francs (plus

(Continued on next page)

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The New Books

Miscellaneous

(Continued from preceding page)

the eighty-five centimes tax) at the end of an apathetic afternoon at the Hôtel Druot. The moral, therefore, is "Train your taste, and then you'll be ready for gorgeous bargains when they come your way. Mr. Menzies's illustrations leave nothing to be desired in this particular high virtue; they are very beautiful, very beckoning; the text, too, is readable enough, though lacking the brilliance of Litchfield's style, or the easy "chattiness" of Mr. Hayden's books. The chapters on the different Ages—Oak, Walnut, and Mahogany, will be both interesting and instructive for American collectors, and, since English porcelains and potteries are fast becoming such a vogue in this country, readers here will find the various lists of marks and makers fruitful in information.

THE SALT-BOX HOUSE. By Jane De Forest Shelton. Scribners. \$2.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION. By A. F. Myers and O. C. Bird. Doubleday, Doran. \$1.50.

YOUR EYES AND THEIR CARE. By Edgar S. Thomson. Appleton. \$1.50.

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL SPEAKING. By William P. Sandford and Willard H. Yeager. Shaw.

THE NEW CITIZENSHIP. By Seba Eldridge. Crowell. \$2.50.

ESSAY BACKGROUNDS FOR WRITING AND SPEAKING. By Anthony Faulkner Blanks. Scribners. \$2.

PERSUASIVE SPEAKING. By John A. McGee. Scribners. \$1.60.

LESSONS IN FINANCE. By James Arthur Dupre. Meador. \$1.50.

PRACTICAL SPEECH-MAKING. By E. D. Shurter and C. A. Marsh. Houghton Mifflin. \$2.

THE VILLAS OF PLINY. By Geoffrey Bret Harte. Houghton Mifflin. \$7.50.

THREE NORMANDY INNS. By Anna Bosman Dodd. Putnam. \$4.50.

THE MILLIGAN CASE. Edited by Samuel Klaus. Knopf. \$5.

THE STORY OF SUPERSTITION. By Philip F. Waterman. Knopf. \$3.50.

THE BOOKMAN'S MANUAL. By Bessie Graham. Bowker. \$4.

BANKERS BALANCES. By Leonard L. Watkins. Shaw.

MORE FAMOUS TRIALS. By the Earl of Birkenhead. Doubleday, Doran. \$4 net.

NEWSPAPER REPORTING OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS. By Chilton Powlette Bush. Appleton. \$3.

THE QUACKS OF OLD LONDON. By C. J. S. Thompson. Lippincott. \$4.

DIABETES AND ITS TREATMENT. By Frederick M. Allen. Funk & Wagnalls.

WHAT EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT EYES. By F. Park Lewis. Funk & Wagnalls.

CARE OF THE MOUTH AND TEETH. By Harvey J. Burkhart, D.D.S. Funk & Wagnalls.

A BALZAC BIBLIOGRAPHY. By William Hobart Royce. University of Chicago Press. \$5.

THE DELPHIC MAXIMS IN LITERATURE. By Eliza Gregory Wilkins. University of Chicago Press. \$3.

TRAINING FOR GROUP EXPERIENCE. Recorded by Alfred Dwight Sheffield. Inquiry, 129 East 52nd Street, New York.

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE. By I. David Cohen. Century. \$3.

DICTIONARY TO THE PLAYS AND NOVELS OF BERNARD SHAW. By C. L. and V. M. Broad. Macmillan. \$4.

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE IN GREAT PICTURES. By James Carter. Funk & Wagnalls. \$2.

Sociology

THE CHALLENGE OF THE AGED. By ABRAHAM EPSTEIN. Macy-Masius: The Vanguard Press. 1929. \$3.

The social problem is, apparently, a vicious circle. Reform on one front tends to throw another out of alignment at another point. In Mr. Epstein's book we are told, for example, that medicine and improved environmental conditions have indubitably increased the span of life; but this very improvement, an increase in the period of life from forty to fifty-eight years since 1855, has accentuated the problem of old age. The cityward drift, speeding-up processes in industry, and even laws to safeguard the interests of the worker, all tend toward elimination of the aged from profitable employment.

Mr. Epstein's book is an eloquent plea on behalf of those who are neglected because of their years. He presents facts which are seemingly irrefutable, and he deduces from these facts unanswerable arguments on the side of old-age insurance. It is one of the curious anomalies of social history that the United States, the wealthiest and presumably the most advanced of industrial nations, is also the tardiest of all in recognizing the plight of those who constitute industry's human scrap-heap. Seven of our states have old-age pension laws on the statute-books, but pensions are actually paid in but two. On the other hand, "there is hardly a Eu-

ropean nation which lacks a comprehensive plan of social insurance or pensions." Mr. Epstein shames us with his facts, but he does more: he points the way toward solutions. This is one of those rare books which one would like to see placed upon the required reading-list of all prospective legislators. Our industrial executives will probably neglect it, since they seldom go toward social reform face-front. Consequently, if its mission is to be fulfilled, it will need to be read by those socially-minded citizens who persist in viewing industry in human rather than stock-market terms.

Brief Mention

NECESSITY makes strange bedfellows, whether that necessity arises from the exigencies of political office, economic stringency, or merely the incompressibility of type. Therefore we bring into one column such disparate volumes as a collection of humorous stories by Irvin Cobb, an anthology of selections from the writings of the Church Fathers, and an account of the forming of the association for the preservation of Mount Vernon. The last-named work, entitled "Mount Vernon on the Potomac" (Macmillan: \$4), is a chronicle of the efforts made by Ann Pamela Cunningham to unite the women of the South in an organization for the purchase and maintenance of the home of the first President. It is told by Grace King, who introduces into her record letters and quotation that incidentally cast light upon personalities and events of the years in which the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association was forming. The book has little interest for the general public, but should have some appeal for the patriotic women who are making themselves responsible for keeping in condition one of the shrines of the nation. Likewise of limited scope, but a volume beautiful in its typographical dress and in its lavish array of pictures, is Gertrude Whiting's "Tools and Toys of Stitchery" (Columbia University Press: \$10). Miss Whiting, beginning in lively vein with an interesting chapter on the beeswax that is used in needlework, continues in more matter-of-fact fashion to describe the other implements used in stitchery, presenting at the same time considerable detail bearing on the articles sewn as well as the tools employed for their manufacture. Tucked away into more specialized information is considerable spicy comment.

A work of far more general interest is the translation (the first to be made into English), by Eileen Power, of "The Goodman of Paris" (Harcourt, Brace), a treatise on moral and domestic economy by a Citizen of Paris. This fascinating book was composed about 1393, by a wealthy member of the *haute bourgeoisie* for the instruction of his young wife. It is in three sections, the first dealing with religious and moral duties, the second with household management, and the third presenting a treatise on hawking. The entire volume is of exceeding interest, but the second, in especial, which sets forth the whole duty of woman as wife and housekeeper, and which is a portrayal of the manner of regulation of a well-ordered medieval household, makes entrancing reading. We recommend it to all who would gain an insight into a long-past age.

Another volume which should prove welcome in many a library is "Fathers of the Church" (Dutton), a selection which F. A. Wright has made from the writings of the Latin Fathers. An illuminating introduction and brief prefatory sketches of the Fathers from whose works extracts are presented add to the value of a book that has culled from writings generally regarded as forbidding matter of vivid interest. From the wisdom of the Church Fathers to the "Random Thoughts of a Man at Fifty" (Knickerbocker Press) is a leap indeed. Mr. John Harsen Rhoades, who in a book thus entitled presents "tips on life from a Wall Street Banker," has made a catch-all of his volume. In it are bits of verse, anecdotes usually pointing a moral, maxims and aphorisms, none of them of any particular originality or force.

The last book on our list is good entertainment, a collection of humorous stories, by Irvin Cobb, gathered together under the title "Irvin Cobb at His Best" (Doubleday, Doran), all of which have previously seen publication in periodicals. Among them are "Speaking of Operations," a good-humored satire that will draw smiles from those securely beyond the suffering of the experiences about which it is built, "The Life of the Party," a gay and amusing tale, and "A Plea for Old Cap Collier," a clever argument in favor of the old-fashioned dime novel of the Nick Carter variety.

FIVE MEN of FRANKFORT

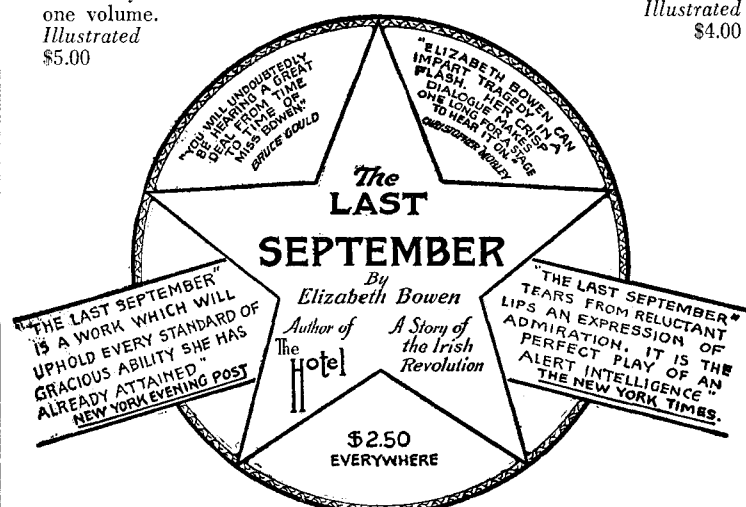
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