## THE SATURDAY REVIEW OF LITERATURE, MAY 11, 1929



Time Table of Events 3:00 a. m.-Thin Haze of Dread 3:15 a. m.—The Properties of Horror 3:24 a. m.-On Private Heights 3:51 a. m.-A Woman's Slipper 4:14 a. m.-Tap-Tap-Tap 4:29 a. m.—A Turn of the Screw 4:41 a. m.—As the Colours of Dawn 5:01 a. m.-Lunatic Vistas 5:25 a. m.—There Was a Sailor

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# Foreign Literature

novel.

America today.

Reviewed by H. D. HILL

during the decade since the war numbers

hundreds of volumes. A bibliography of

some 1600 German works appearing since

1900 has been collected by Fritz Eberhardt,

"Amerika-Literatur. Die Wichtigsten seit

1900 in Deutscher Sprache Erschienenen

Werke über Amerika" (1926); a much less

comprehensive list of French titles has been

issued as a special supplement to Les Fiches

du Mois by the Office Centrale de Librairie

et de Bibliographie, Paris; the majority of

books listed by each of these treats of

exhibit a wide range. There is the mass of

travelers' impressions, which in the German

and English literatures come out as straight

Reisebücher, and in the French frequently

appear as short stories. "Hollywood

Dépassé" (1928) and "Qurantième Étage' (1928) by Luc Durtain, especially the title

story in the latter, are perhaps the best known of the French type. American sales

of reminiscences of visiting English authors

make it unnecessary to cite more than Philip

Guedalla's "Conquistador" (1926), Aldous

Huxley's "Jesting Pilate" (1926), and Bev-

erley Nichols "Star Spangled Manner"

(1928). In Germany the list is equally

long and the authors come from a wider

variety of groups; there is the Socialist Alice Salomon's "Kultur im Werden"

(1924), Paul Rohrbach's "Amerika und

Wir" (1926), and V. Litz's "Sozialpoli-

tische Reiseeindrücke in den Vereinigten

Staaten," give impressions from the in-

dustrial world; Marta Karlweis, in "Eine

sketches six American women seen in the

course of a trip with her husband, Jakob

Wassermann. In Dutch there is J. Huizinga's

Among the books which are studies rather

than impressions there are general works

like André Siegfried's "États-Unis d'Au-

jourd'hui" (1926), Bernard Fay's "The

American Experiment" (1928), M. J. Bonn's "Geld und Geist" (1927), J. A.

Spender's "America of Today" (1928).

On the political and economic side are A.

Tardieu's "Devant l'Obstacle" (1927), J.

Gachon's "La politique étrangère des États-

Unis" (1929), R. Michels "Wirtschaftliche

und Politische Betrachtungen zur Alten und

Neuen Welt" (1928), the Hon. George

Peel's "Economic Impact of America"

(1928). On other special subjects are C.

Brinkmann's "Demokratie und Erziehung

in Amerika" (1927), W. A. Visser 't

Hooft's "The Background of the Social

Gospel in America" (1928), R. Michaud's

"Panorama de la Littérature Américaine

Contemporaine (1927), and E. Dovifat's

"Der Amerikanische Journalismus" (1927).

American labor movement are the two sub-

jects which have been most discussed, alike

in descriptive and in controversial literature.

There are three important official reports

American industrial technique and the

"Amerika Lebend en Denkend" (1926).

(1928),

Frau Reist Durch Amerika"

Both in form and in subject these books

HE list of books on contemporary

America published in Western Europe

A Life of Lenine

LA VIE DE LENINE. By PIERRE CHASLES. Paris: Librairie Plon. 1929.

Reviewed by AMELIA VON ENDE FIGURE, bound in a not too remote future to assume the proportions of a mythical hero, Vladimir Ilitch Oulianof, who called himself Lenine, looms so large

in contemporary history that there is no end of books about him and his work, and his apotheosis has few parallels, if any, even in his native Russia. Outside of the Soviet Republic-if so it may be called-opinion about him has been divided between those who utterly condemn the ideas he stands for and the means by which they were realized, and those others, who, discontented with the present state of things in the whole world, pin their faith for betterment upon the success of the social structure which he raised upon the ruins of imperial Russia. Pierre Chasles, whose long sojourn in that country and whose position as delegate to international conferences in London, Genoa, and Paris enabled him to acquire a thorough knowledge of Bolshevik psychology, is the author of several books on Russia. He is not blinded by the tremendous power of Lenine's personality, but writes about him dispassionately and succeeds in penetrating through the web of myths that have already collected about him to the real man behind them.

Lenine's father rose from an inferior position to that of director of the rural schools in the district of Simzirsk, which, according to the Russian system conferred upon him hereditary nobility. But Chasles adds:

Whatever may be said about it, the family was no more noble than peasant; it belonged to the milieu of cultured bourgeoisie.

Trotzky, however, remarked at one occasion, that Lenine was like a Russian peasant at work, both rough and shrewd. The Asiatic strain in Lenine's appearance, which was much commented upon by writers, is briefly disposed of by M. Chasles. Though he admits that the father's ancestors may have been of that Finnish-Mongol race which lived along the central part of the Volga, he adds: "Lenine was no more Mongol, than Alexandre Dumas and Pushkin were negroes."

Vladimir Ilitch Oulianof was a model student at the college of Simbirsk, of which a friend of his father, Fedor Kerensky, was the director. He carried off the highest honors in every branch of the curriculum, except logic. Perhaps subsequent events developed in him that trenchant power of argument, which made Gorki say of his eloquence that it had the logic of an ax. The fate of his older brother, who was implicated in the attempt upon the life of Alexander III. on the first of March 1887, and with four accomplices was hanged, may have quickened the germ of rebellion in his heart. The college was suspected of being a hot-bed of revolutionary ideas.

ANNE DOUGLAS SEDGWICK has never — even in 'The Little French Girl' -touched the heights and probed the depths of imaginative understanding as she does in



wegung in den Vereinigten Staaten"(1928), and H. Dubreuil's series of articles in L'information Sociale (Spring, 1929). The publication in German of Henry Ford's "Mein M. Chasles records Lenine's early revolu-Leben und Mein Werk" in 1924 called out tionary activities, which led to his deportation to Siberia, his years of exile in hundreds of books and pamphlets in a storm of controversy which has been Switzerland, England, and France, his reequalled only by the current discussion of turn to Russia during the war, the great Judge Lindsay's books; samples of this feelnight of his victory over Kerensky and his ing are A. Friedrich's "Henry Ford, der final apotheosis without much personal com-König des Autos und der Herrscher über ment. But an undercurrent of sentiment, the agitated tempo, the shifting scenes, and the die Seelen" (1924), G. Faldix's "Henry Ford als Wirtschaftspolitiker" (1925), I. vibrant atmosphere make the story of this M. Willie's "Taylor-Gilbret-Ford, Gegenturbulent life read like a highly dramatic wartsfragen der Amerikanischen und Europäischen Arbeitswissenschaft," (1926), European Books on America and A. Bratter's "Amerikanische Industrie-

magnate" (1927). Finally, there are a certain number of philosophical treatments of America. Outstanding among these in the German language are E. Voegelin's "Ueber die Form des Amerikanischen Geistes" (1928), and L. Ziegler's "Zwischen Mensch und Wirtschaft" (1927). In French (and also in English translation) there is L. Romier's "Qui Sera le Maître" (1927). To date, most of the European books have treated America as the antithesis of Europe. Yet in a certain number of the most recent volumes America and Europe are seen as parts of a common whole which contrasts externally with other forms of social organization (Drieu La Rochelle's "Genève ou Moscou" (1928) and within which the problem of the individual faced with the circumstances of modern life is becoming increasingly the same (L. Romier's "L'-Homme Nouveau," (1929).

## Foreign Notes

Richard Dehmel, whose death in 1921 deprived Germany of one of the outstanding literary figures of the time, left behind him a diary which has now been published under the title, "Bekenntnisse" (Berlin: Fischer). It is an interesting chronicle revealing a reflective and sensitive mind caught in the turmoil of a world against many of the standards and dogmas of which he was in bitter revolt. Included with the poet's journal are scattered essays and addresses.

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"As every serious student of German history knows," says the London Observer, "nothing is more ridiculous than the modern trick of depreciating Carlyle's 'Frederick the Great,' by comparison with Macaulay's flashy caricature. The victor of Rossbach and Leuthen was not only a great captain, but for over thirty years after his last battle, a great political organizer. Yet no strong man in all history was more cramful of faults, weaknesses, vanities, and absurdities. There is room indeed for a corrective of Carlyle's magnificent study of action, which, nevertheless, makes no inward study of the strange psychological complex.

"Herr Werner Hegemann has undertaken this analysis in a spirit of devastating exposure. He calls his volume Frederick the 'Great.' The results of his exhaustive research are thrown into the form of lively dialogues. We are given a picture of all Europe in Frederick's time, including Voltaire and the Pompadour no less than Maria Theresa and Catherine. An English translation will be published shortly."

#### **.**

Ex-President Hainisch of Austria is reported to have started work on a book on his eight years' official experience. The book, which is to be issued by the German firm of Cotta, is not to be published until after his death. It contains discussion of Austrian politics, and comments on the lead-

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# HESTER

which deal with them; "Industri in the United States," by H. B. Butler, deputy-director of the International Labor Office, Studies and Reports, Series A No. 27, (1927), "Report of the Delegation Appointed to Study Industrial Conditions in Canada and the United States of America," presented to parliament by the British Minister of Labor, Cmd. 2833, (1927), and "Amerikareise Deutscher Gewerkschaftsführer," by four representatives of the German General Federation of Trade Unions, (1926). Fuller surveys of the labor movement have recently appeared in France and in Germany, André Philip's "Le Problème Ouvrier aux États-Unis" (1927) and Heinrich Pollak's "Die Gewerkschaftsbewegung in den Vereinigten Staaten" (1927). General discussions of American industry, with widely different estimates of the desirability of its methods, are contained in J. Hirsch's "Das Amerikanische Wirtschaftswunder" (1926), A. Halfeld's "Amerika und der Amerikanismus" (1928), M. G. Levenbach's "Arbeit in Amerika, Die Soziale Be-

ing personalities of the country.

#### ال ال

The Anglo-Swedish Literary Foundation formed by the generosity of Bernard Shaw in setting aside for it the whole amount of his Nobel Prize in Literature, has just issued its first volume, containing four of the plays of Strindberg-among them "Dreamplay"-and a second volume will soon follow.

On the basis of an annual income of about £400. the Foundation is in a position to issue Swedish books of interest, by classical and modern writers, in satisfactory English translations, and thus play a useful part in the work for Anglo-Swedish cultural relations.

K K

Joseph Kessel's new novel, "Belle de Jour" (Nouvelle Revue Française), is a brutal portrayal of secret vice, with all its emphasis upon psychological analysis, but it is an exciting and powerful book.

# The New Books

The books listed by title only in the classified list below are noted here as received. Many of them will be reviewed later.

### Belles Lettres

TOO MANY PEOPLE and Other Reflections. By J. B. PRIESTLEY. Harper's. 1928. \$2.50.

Mr. Priestley's book of small essays is one of the proofs conclusive that a book is not its author, for if it were, the author of "Too Many People" would not be "one of the most promising young men of the generation" in England, but a wisely mellowed, gently satirical survivor of the 1840's, or thereabouts. He would, rain or shine, carry an umbrella, and rambling through the city or yarning with his contemporaries remark shrewdly on the changes and ravages wrought by time, and confess with smile and sigh the bewilderment inspired in him by the present age. He would be one of the forerunners of our life-is-a-poignant-joke school-forerunner, not member, because life would be so poignantly jocose to him that he could not baldly call it so.

It is this latter-this propensity never to call a spade a spade, never, in fact, to call a spade by any denotative label-which is a great part of the charm emanating from Mr. Priestley's brief reflections on this and that, on here to-day and gone to-morrow, on "birth is but a sleep and a forgetting," on "Other People's Accomplishments," and "Servants"-in short, on everything which occurs to Mr. Priestley during those sleepless nights when "the dark hour, belonging to no day, swoops down and claims you as its own," and "life is nothing but a pulse beating in the darkness, or, if not that, then only the remembrance of a vague, happy dream, bright faces fading and suddenly dwindling laughter. . . ." He fingers his subjects lightly, and, musing on what they could be if they weren't already something else, he turns them to gossamer stuff-substanceless but delicately colored, reflectors of strange lights and filmy shadows which hen concrete facts are the

> thoughts. e that persons who are apmany people" should be d by too many things, and who rushes away from Lonnext train home, thus denys obliteration from the mind

can using an existence of more people than he can comfortably cope with, rushes away from too many things by turning his back on them as they actually exist, and calling before him phantoms of the world, its people, and its materials which, although reminiscent of actuality, are more seemly to an eye weary of crowds and sameness. He says that his "Hell of Too Many People would be one long Oxford Street without any side-rows whatever, and everybody would be compelled to keep moving, except certain fiends, assuming the shape of stout middle-aged women, all umbrellas and elbows, who would be for ever wheeling round and standing and staring." His Hell of Too Many Things would be, I imagine, a fantastic and enormous department store, in which we should see displayed everything in the world as it actually is-thick notebooks filled with senseless notes; persons who, except for eulogistic purposes, are ignorant buffoons; servants who are, and always were, impudent and ungrateful; hotels that are always too hot and odorous; people who never do what they want to; news which tells of nothing but the tragic passing of life. But when Mr. Priestley turns his back on this particular hell, he produces a book of essays in which thick notebooks are sometimes discarded for thoughts unmarred by the scribbling of pens; persons ne or two thing ell, and need not, then, know many indifferently; servants who, although now unsatisfactory, were once the grateful fixtures of a family; people who at least were happy in childhood; the substitution, for news, of memories of football games which were played from morning till night in a green meadow, and of "the vegetarian and scientist . . . with his shock of gray hair, his booming voice, his tactlessness, his innocent enthusiasm"; and detached, not too serious, "wondering what, after all, is the pattern of [his] mind."

A LIFE OF SONG. By Marjory Kennedy-Fraser. Oxford University Press. \$3.

- SNAPSHOTS ON LIFE'S HIGHWAY. By Maude Speed. Longmans, Green. \$4.20. HAYM SOLOMON. Immigrant and Financier of
- the American Revolution. By H. S. Baron. New York: Block Publishing Co.
- HERBERT PUTNAM. Essays in Honor of His Thirtieth Anniversary as Librarian of Congress. New Haven: Yale University Press. \$12.
- THE INTIMATE JOURNAL OF GEORGE SAND. Edited and Translated by Marie Jenney Howe. New York: John Day Co.
- JAMES FORD RHODES, AMERICAN HISTORIAN. By M. A. De Wolfe Howe. New York: Appleton. \$3.50.
- NOBEL, DYNAMITE AND PEACE. By Ragnar Sohlman and Henrik Schück. New York: Cosmopolitan Book Corporation. \$5.

#### Drama

SHAKESPEARE'S HAMLET. Edited by Joseph Quincy Adams. Houghton Mifflin. \$2. ENGLISH COMEDY. By Ashley H. Thorndike.

Macmillan. \$4.50. NONE TOO GOOD FOR DODO. By Glenn Hughes.

Appleton.

THE FURNACE. By Francis Brett Young and William Armstrong. Knopf. \$2.50.

#### Economics

THE NEW INDUSTRIAL REVOLU-TION. By WALTER MEAKIN. Brentanos. 1928.

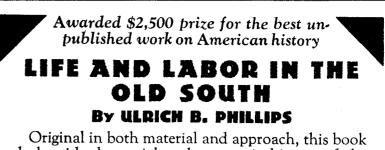
Mr. Meakin's book is a study of that movement toward a complete reorganization of large-scale industry in Europe which is becoming known under the term "rationalization." Not least among the author's services is his analysis of the meaning of this rather vague term, in the course of which he brings the concept out of the fog of academic discussion and relates it to the realities of the business world. The book was written to propose a practical solution for the grievous and menacing economic problem of post-war Britain, but it acquires importance to the general student of modern social institutions by reason of its careful analysis and suggestive interpretation of the record of accomplishment in German industry over the last decade. The chapters on the coal industry, steel, the chemical trust, general industry and power present in detail, but in simple enough language to fall within the comprehension of the layman, the methods employed in the resurrection of Germany's economic structure from the collapse which followed the peace treaty. The title is, perhaps, over-ambitious. We know as yet too little regarding the limitations of these new business methods to en-

title us to present them as equivalent in their range and influence to the revolution which transformed medieval society in all its parts. Yet a more definitive title would have failed to do justice to the scope of the author's interest in his subject. He considers the broad bearings of these recent developments in the field of industrial organization upon the doctrinal concepts of social science and upon the welfare of the community at large. The legal extinction of competition, the regulation of prices and output, the realignment of relations within the labor market which are aspects of this movement, are presented as problems of vast social import. LABOR AND INTERNATIONALISM. By Lewis L.

# Fiction

Louvin. Macmillan. \$3.

- A DEAD MAN DIES. By PERCY MARKS. New York: The Century Co. 1929. \$2.50.



deals with the social and economic history of the South up to 1861 in engaging style. The author, a na-

tive of Georgia, is Professor of American History at the University of Michigan. 45 illustrations, 4 maps. \$4.00

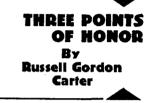
A knowing, quietly ironic story of a woman capable of fine things who is nearly ruined by too much ease and security, distinguished for its handling of acute personal relations. An Atlantic Monthly Press Novel. \$2.50.

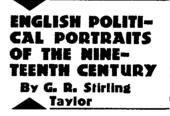


# MR. BILLINGHAM, THE MARQUIS AND MADELON By E. Phillips Oppenheim

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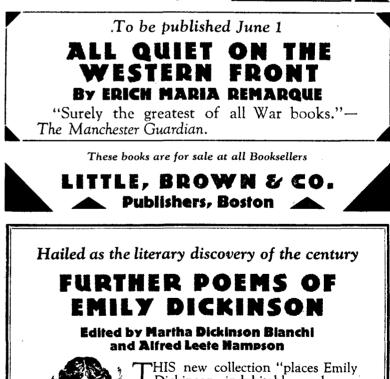


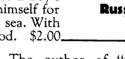


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# Biography

REMINISCENCES OF A MUSICIAN. By Clayton Johns. Washburn & Thomas. \$2.50. WILLIAM PENN. By George Hodges. Houghton Mifflin. \$1.25.

KARL MARX. By Otto Rühle. Translated by

Eden and Cedar Paul. Viking. \$5. LETTERS TO A FRIEND. By Rabindranath Ta-gore. Edited by C. F. Andrews. Macmillan. \$2.50.

The author of "The Plastic Age" has skillfully chosen youthful material-even his central character, Nora Dreyer, mother of three children and with three husbands in her past, is most surprisingly young in appearance and in spirit; and her children and their friends are exponents of modern, though not always flaming, youth. This youth spirit and the conflicts of Nora, a grown-up still growing up, lend Mr. Marks's novel its quality-these, rather than any skillful technique in handling them. He does a rather good study of Noraof her emotional outburst, her conscious and subconscious conflicts, her love for and phantasy idealization of her first husband and her search to refind him, after his death, in other men and in his three children.

Nora alone would have made a bookful, but there are Paul and Ted and Susan, each, with Mr. Marks' richness of characterization, worthy of a book of his own. So it (Continued on page 1005)



manently among the enduring poets of the English-speaking race."-Percy Hutchinson in The New York Times. "No other recent book can be so important to American literature."-Robert Hillyer in the Atlantic Monthly.

Dickinson indubitably and per-

"These hitherto unprinted treasures compose Emily Dickinson's most beautiful and, from every standpoint, most important book."-Louis Untermeyer in The Saturday Review of Literature.

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