

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.

New MACMILLAN Books

John Masefield's new novel **THE HAWBUCKS**

THE countryside which inspired REYNARD THE FOX is also the background for this racy new Masefield story. John Masefield depicts with poetic charm the mode of life and thought of a generation which lived according to the ancient code of country gentlemen. You will find a rare flavor in the coterie of gay young blades who hunt foxes, race thoroughbreds and pursue the ineffably fair daughter of Squire Harriewood with equal recklessness. Readers of *Reynard the Fox* will like this rustic, picturesque, and merrie England. \$2.50

William Stearns Davis **THE WHIRLWIND**

A Romance of the French Revolution
By the author of *A Friend of Caesar*
SECOND LARGE PRINTING

A master of historical romance tells a magnificent, quick-paced story of the stirring days of the French Revolution. An authentic historical background is peopled with living characters whose daily existence in those turbulent times is shot through with love, hatred, danger, intrigue and disaster. The story will hold you through its suspense and its truth. \$2.50

Joseph Gollomb's new mystery **THE SUBTLE TRAIL**

By the author of *The Portrait Invisible*
The Goldfish, detective extraordinary, introduced to mystery story readers in *The Portrait Invisible*, solves another ingenious murder by his peculiar and fascinating psychological methods. \$2.00

A Timely New Book **PALESTINE TODAY AND TOMORROW**

By John Haynes Holmes

This is a gentile's survey of Zionism, Dr. Stephen S. Wise says: "It is the most understanding book that has been written about Palestine." You will understand the recent bloodshed and rioting better after reading this vivid and accurate description of conditions there. Out Nov. 6 \$2.50

Second Large Printing **The Universe Around Us**

By Sir James Jeans

"He has managed to give an amazingly complete picture of the universe as it appears to the astronomer, without in any way straining his reader's attention... The book moves forward like a story and it is an exciting story that Jeans has to tell."—*The New Republic* \$4.50

This World of Nations

By Pitman B. Potter

A clear, readable, interesting exposition of world organization today, written for the busy reader who wants a complete, compact survey. \$4.00

Berkeley Square

By John L. Balderston

The London dramatic hit in which Leslie Howard is now starring in America. This is the revised version of the play and it makes diverting reading. \$2.00

Vachel Lindsay's New Poems **Every Soul is a Circus**

America has come to expect something different from Mr. Lindsay. His new collection of poems fills that expectation. The author also contributes many illustrations to the general decorative designs, done by George M. Richards. \$2.75

THE LETTERS OF THOMAS SERGEANT PERRY

Edited by Edwin Arlington Robinson

The culture and charm of a bygone era are revealed in this collection of letters of Thomas Sergeant Perry, a Boston gentleman of the old school. \$3.00

At All Booksellers Now

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY : : NEW YORK

PETER THE GREAT. By STEPHEN GRAHAM. Simon & Schuster. 1929. \$3.

Biography

Very justly, Mr. Stephen Graham has, in the past, gained an enviable reputation for his delightful and excellent studies of the Russian people, the Russian mind, and the Russian religion. A charming style and a sympathetic, yet penetrating, insight into his subject have always made his books delightful and instructive reading. This latest work, however, will, undoubtedly, be a disappointment to some of his admirers. Evidently Mr. Graham, too, has fallen victim to the general demand for "full-length biographies that give vivid and authentic portraits." In fact, there is too much portrait and too little background. The narrative itself is thin and evasive, and the average reader will experience difficulty in following the course of events. There is an unhappy tendency to introduce important characters into the narrative with too little preparation.

In style, too, the book is poorly done, and stands out in great contrast to other works of Mr. Graham. It is choppy and disjointed. Even, alas, there are places where the author must be suspected of attempting to popularize his story. And, as is so often the case in such attempts, the results are positively vulgar. It is almost shocking, for example, to read from the pen of Mr. Graham this line: "Peter forgot his promises to his mother and took many joy-rides to Solombola and Hohnagra."

In brief, this latest biography of Peter approaches, in no way, either in content or in quality, other recent works of biography that treat of this period. Nor does it fulfil the awful advance description sent out by the publishers. Incidentally, it may not be out of place to remind them that, contrary to their advance description, "that repacious Livonian laundress and lover" who finally married Peter was not "known later as Catherine the Great."

Fiction

PAPER HOUSES. By WILLIAM PLOMER. Coward-McCann. 1929. \$2.50.

We fail to learn as much about Japan from Mr. Plomer's book as he expects us to. He has high hopes for the success of his method: a series of short narratives that shall, by implication and suggestion, expound for us much that is of particular interest in the Japanese temperament. But Mr. Plomer is not sufficiently explicit; he seems too close to his material to remember that we (average untraveled Westerners) have no experience that can help us appreciate his elusive commentary. He makes the mistake of not writing as a Westerner interpreting the East. He resolutely excludes not only all glamour, but all sense of exoticism and novelty as well. At the risk of causing Mr. Plomer acute pain, we must say that a more plausible insight into Japanese character may be gained from M. Raucault's hilarious extravaganza, "The Honorable Picnic," than from all of Mr. Plomer's purposeful solemnity. "Paper Houses" does not live up to its pretensions.

In twelve pages of sprightly "Prefatory Notes" Mr. Plomer airs his views on the Japanese people, on Japanese life, and on Lafcadio Hearn. The latter is *persona non grata* to Mr. Plomer; we are told that Hearn was intellectually myopic, that he

lacked "proper background and backbone," that he was "no scholar," and (by implication) that he indulged in "indiscriminate japanegyrics." The rest of the Notes are less obviously controversial, but they are nevertheless characterized by an asperity and a mild sort of cocksureness.

The body of the volume is eight narratives of varying lengths. The only narrative that is estimable and at the same time redolent of Japan is "The Portrait of an Emperor"; this is good reading. The two satires at the end of the volume are irritating because of their apparent pointlessness. As literature "Paper Houses" is flimsy; as exposition of Japanese society and character it is spotty.

MOSAIC. By JOHN PRESLAND. Appleton. 1929. \$2.

"Fragments for a mosaic—it is all the knowledge we ever have of each other's lives." So speaks one of the characters of this novel, and the author is constantly aware of the thesis in telling the story of Nadine, a woman almost too bizarre and mysterious, but withal naïve and simple. One fragment comes from Smith, the little archaeologist, for whom T. E. Lawrence seems to have served as model. From him we learn that Nadine was a woman without parents, without a country, without ties. She was beautiful, possessed a queenly manner, and had lived a life of varied experiences, including starvation and snake-charming.

The second fragment comes from Professor Lavallière, who had loved Nadine in his youth when he was diplomatic attaché at Vienna. There she was mistress to the wealthiest man in Europe, a Greek who promoted massacres and rebellions and cornered the European wheat market. Lavallière loved her unrequited, and lost his job in the scandal which involved the failure of Agorapoulos, his trial for murdering his secretary, and the departure of Nadine when she learned the way he got his wealth.

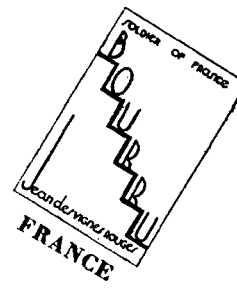
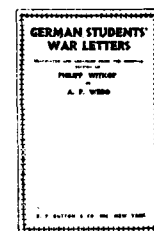
The third fragment comes from Richard Hardress, English gentleman, whose brother, Sir Martin Hardress, had married Nadine after finding her about to be murdered as a witch in the slums of Cairo. Richard hated Nadine because she ruined his brother's life through her inability to comprehend the English sense of honor, family, virtue, and tradition.

The method of presentation is, of course, a literary trick, a trick of merit, but in this case made ineffective by the situation, which involves the meeting of the three narrators with the doctor who apparently does the writing and who has just met Nadine as an old woman in rags selling chestnuts on the streets of Paris. The story smacks too much of the exotic, and supplies too much material which the movie magnates would love. The author writes an adequate prose, but the final impression is that of a good idea which did not turn out to be a very good book.

ALEXANDER BOTTS: EARTHWORM TRACTORS. By WILLIAM HAZLETT UPSON. Farrar & Rinehart. 1929. \$2.

These twelve amusing short narratives tell of the efforts—usually successful and always spectacular—of Alexander Botts to unload Earthworm Tractors on to an almost unwilling public. Botts meets with a good deal of what current business jargon aptly calls

(Continued on page 378)



GERMANY **THE WET FLANDERS PLAIN**

By HENRY WILLIAMSON

This contains none of the commonplace din of the average war book, but is on the contrary quietly and sensitively written by the man to whom Arnold Bennett, Walter de La Mare and John Galsworthy paid such high tribute. \$2.00.

3 Entirely Different War Books!

GERMAN STUDENTS' WAR LETTERS

Compiled by PHILIP WITKOP

ALL dead!!!... The 120 young authors of this book were all killed in action. \$3.00

BOURRU: SOLDIER OF FRANCE

By JEAN DES VIGNES ROUGES

In some respects the author is more brutally frank than anyone who has yet written of the war. The central character is Bourru, a splendidly individualized 'Everyman' of the French Army. \$2.50

E. P. DUTTON & CO., INC.



FOLLY

Said WILLIAM SHENSTONE

is the loveliest word in the Language

THE poet put the ponderous book aside. Why bother his drowsy head with hoary wisdom? Why fret with spinsterly words, lifting high their skirts from beauty's sweet contagion? William Shenstone lay in the sun, tilting his jug and baiting the Muse with daring words that went with wine. Gay words that blended music and ideas . . . that set the teeth of English saints on edge! How horrified were Duty and Decorum when such a word as *Folly* tripped by in sinful finery. Yet *folly*, the poet concluded solemnly, was the loveliest word in the English tongue. Aunt Agatha and Mrs. Dalrymple and Milly knew *folly* well. The enchanting story of how each fell from grace after the manner of her generation, has been established as the great fiction success of the year. Thousands have read it once and are now reading it *again* with deepening exhilaration.

THEY STOOPED TO FOLLY

A Comedy of Morals

By

ELLEN GLASGOW

TWO DOLLARS, FIFTY CENTS

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN