

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.

Biography

KING OF FASHION. The Autobiography of Paul Poiret. Translated by STEPHEN HADEN GUEST. Lippincott. 1931. \$3.

Paul Poiret is a striking figure of today. With his dark-colored skin and his light-colored clothes, he would stand out in any group even if he were not accompanied, as he so often is, by a number of his most beautiful mannequins. His theories of dress and decoration have been shouted round the world, and listened to. He has known intimately many of the greatest artists (actors, writers, painters, dancers, etc.) of his day. He is a recognized bon vivant in a city, in a country, of bon vivants. Such a man's autobiography should be rich in anecdotes and personalities, a witty Who's or Who's not Who, in his own circle. There are many people in M. Poiret's book, and there are many stories, but always the teller is so completely the hero (he comes out of every little fray so entirely the victor) that before many chapters a monotonous, egotistical fog settles dully down upon the pages. Many of the personal squabbles recorded are probably of more interest in France than here, and surely some lightness of style must have seeped out through the translation. The "King of Fashion" is said to be creating comment in Paris. This side of the Atlantic it is more likely to be dipped into here and there for a little malicious humor or a tidbit about a well known name. M. Poiret, at any great length, is too long.

THE MEMOIRS OF GARIBALDI. By ALEXANDRE DUMAS. Appleton. 1931.

Mr. Garnett's translation of Garibaldi's extremely interesting memoirs is here printed with, for the first time in English, the addition of the supplementary material added by Dumas. It is a book not only of high adventurous interest but of very great charm. This edition is illustrated, and is accompanied by maps.

THE LIFE OF JIM BAKER, Trapper, Scout, Guide, and Indian Fighter. By NOLIE MUMFORD. Denver: The World Press, Inc. 1931.

This is an outline of material about Jim Baker rather than a formal biography, but it contains some extremely interesting material on the Rocky Mountain region in the mid century.

Drama

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL. By NIKOLAI GOGOL. Acting version by JOHN ANDERSON. New York: Samuel French. 1931. \$1.50.

John Anderson in his acting version of "The Inspector General" has resuscitated an old play through the altogether reasonable expedient of writing a new one, and thereby well accomplishes the purpose announced in his clear, high-minded preface: namely, to "bring Gogol nearer to the theatre as it is, and avoid the stilted emulations of existing English versions." Mr. Anderson has gone behind the gratuitous husk of literal translation to find inspiration in a spirit which is certainly Gogol's for a play which Gogol would certainly have approved.

In the full integrity of his creative, personal, response to Gogol's satiric idea, the present adapter has brought Gogol's intention much closer to complete theatrical design than did Gogol himself. Repetitious scenes are enlivened by an ingenious variety of treatment; details which Gogol in the prodigality of greatness merely suggested, are enlarged with enhancing theatrical effect; material is frequently rearranged to produce a more progressive action. The last two acts of the Russian play in the new version compose one rushing catastrophic episode, making Hlestakov's departure so casually opportune that it takes on something of the ultimate in glorious malice. And in the same spirit, the unhappy victims of Mr. Anderson's additional vigor are encouraged to blow themselves up preposterously before they are confronted with the devastating reality of an actual inspector. The device of Gogol's abrupt, concluding announcement and tableau always seemed to us, in spite of its spectacular intellectual implications, rather empty of theatrical potency. Mr. Anderson preserves Gogol's conceit (which was parodied in Meyerhold's production by a *papier-mâché* tableau) and with his full-fledged inspector general concedes the theatre perhaps a little more than its due of the obvious.

Technically Mr. Anderson has done a

brilliant job. And in speaking for himself, idiomatically and positively, far from violating the essence of "Revizor," he has illuminated it.

Fiction

THE GOOD HOPE. By HENRY SYDNOR HARRISON. Houghton Mifflin. 1931. \$2.

This is the last characteristic utterance of one who in his brief career reaped the rewards and penalties of work done in the mode of yesterday. Harrison came of age with the birth of this century, his first novel, "Queed," appeared in 1911, the year of "Jennie Gerhardt" and "Hilda Lessways." But for a certain timeliness of scene and costume it might have been done a generation earlier. Its large audience liked it none the worse for being old-fashioned. A vast number of Victorians were extant then, and a great number still survive. Harrison was a young bachelor and then an older bachelor who believed in fairies, romantic love, virtue, woman. There are always grateful hearers for any one who writes ardently and simply and, if you will, sentimentally, of common things.

"The Good Hope" is a fantasy of mortal frustration and fulfilment, in the vein, though not in the style, of one of Dickens's Christmas stories, "The Chimes" or "The Haunted Man." It is on about that scale, a novella or a long short story. It has a strong moral, a wistful "love interest," and a ghostly motive to remove it from the commonplace and humdrum. Of its plot let us only say that it concerns a young modern who has risked everything in the boom days of the stock market, is caught in the crash, and is rescued from suicide by a supernatural visitation—an agency whose status is not made clear till the end. The book reveals the author's faith in simple goodness, the power of devoted love, and the persistence of personality after the death of the flesh.

It is a fit tablet to the memory of one who retained in our age of weary adolescence the fresh heart of a child. The preface, by one of Harrison's friends, John Stewart Bryan, is a tribute to his character and talent and especially to his power of inspiring others. One sentence, or part of a sentence, might well stand as his epitaph: "His life, like a diviner's rod, revealed to those who were admitted to the magic of his fellowship powers that but for his genius would never have been evoked."

THE FOREST SHIP. By ARNOLD HÖLLRIEGEL. Viking. 1931. \$2.50.

There's no doubt that Herr Höllriegel was vastly impressed and intrigued by the Amazon forest—so fascinated, indeed, that he finds it difficult to put his feelings into words.

He first erects a rather banal superstructure, consisting of a realistic tourist ship and a sentimental old muffin of a German professor trying to answer the call of the wild once before he dies. (Dr. Schwarz and the very obvious methods used to stir our pity for him, get rather irksome before we see the last of him.) Then the author brings in a theatrical-property Englishman, a veteran globe-trotter, to tell Dr. Schwarz and the other travellers, the story of Francisco de Orellana, one of Gonzalo Pizarro's lieutenants, who was the first white man to discover the Amazon.

Orellana and his little band came down into the hot country from the bleak heights of the Peruvian Andes. They fought Indians and heat and hunger; finally, in desperation, built a ship out of forest trees, and contrived to escape to the sea. Orellana's story is told partly for its own sake and partly as a comforting fable for Dr. Schwarz, to prove to him that the romanticist and explorer never really arrives. The real thing is always just over the horizon. The Spaniards had found roomfuls of gold in the Inca country, but that didn't satisfy them—there must be more gold, and bigger cities, somewhere in the mystery of the Amazon.

The epic trek of the Spanish conquistador and his companions is told with eloquence. It gives the stay-at-home reader a certain notion of the vastness, the mystery, the possible terror and malignancy of the Amazon jungle. But the spell of the narrative is broken frequently by the literary necessity of making the narrator—the veteran globe-trotter—pause to light his pipe, or in some other way remind us that what we are actually listening to is a yarn spun before a

(Continued on next page)

'Praised by the leading critics

The Grass Roof by YOUNGHILL KANG

"As astonishing as 'Kim' was at its first reading. . . . Its pages glow with pictures of rivers and mountains and people, of flooded rice fields reflecting the moon or the dawn of minds in love or revolt."

—REBECCA WEST in the *London Daily Telegraph*.
Second large printing \$3.00

Many Thousands Gone . . .

by JOHN PEALE BISHOP

"The tales have a quicksilver brilliance which fastens upon your mind. . . . He impales the uncertainty, the pride, the pain, and the collapse of a war-driven people upon his pages."—*New York Herald Tribune*. \$2.50

These Russians . . .

by WILLIAM C. WHITE

"No clearer unvarnished record of stricken Russia has yet appeared; for Mr. White takes no side, but allows the tragic tale of Soviet rule to tell itself."—*London Sunday Times*. \$3.00

Three Pairs of Silk Stockings

by PANTELEIMON ROMANOF

"The most interesting novel of contemporary Russian life. . . . Many writers have pictured the life of to-day in Russia. Not one of them, however, has succeeded as well as Romanof."—ALEXANDER NAZAROFF in the *New York Times*.
Second large printing. \$2.50

Axel's Castle . . . by EDMUND WILSON

"There is simply nowhere to be found a more interesting, careful analysis and digest of the work of Yeats, Joyce, Eliot, Stein, Proust, and Valéry than is to be had in this book. His analyses have charm as well as value."

—BURTON RASCOE in the *New York Herald Tribune*.
Second large printing \$2.50

AT YOUR BOOKSTORE

Charles Scribner's Sons, New York



THE CALIPH OF BAGDAD

O. HENRY

By ROBERT H. DAVIS and ARTHUR B. MAURICE

"Turn up the lights, I don't want to go home in the dark!" was O. Henry's dying thought, paraphrasing the reigning song of the day. The strange fate which dogged his entire life and veiled it in mystery is at last described in this remarkable biography by two of his oldest friends—a rich, robust and fascinating life story of the Caliph of "Little old Bagdad on the Subway."

This is an Appleton Book
D. APPLETON AND COMPANY 35 West 32nd St. NEW YORK

Get the most out of your trip West and South! Read—

ADVENTURE UNDER SAPPHIRE SKIES

by CHARLES J. FINGER

Author of *Seven Horizons*, etc.

"An unusual travel book that will charm anyone . . . He gives you cowboy songs, any number of tales of what happened in romantic places, and with all this a great deal of just the information you would need if you were taking your own car on such a journey."—MAY LAMBERTON BECKER

Illustrated, \$2.50

MORROW & CO., PUBLISHERS

PULITZER PRIZE WINNER

YEARS
OF
GRACE

MARGARET AYER BARNES

H.M.CO.

TALKING YOUR
WAY THROUGH
EUROPEBy C. E. LeMassena
and E. L. HackesAs necessary to your trip
as your passport. Makes
French and German easy
and correct. Will save
you many an embarrass-
ing moment. \$1.00THE MYSTERY
OF THE
SILVER DART

By Captain Harry Loftus-Price

A real thriller that boys
from 12 to 16 will eagerly
devour. A gripping, vivid
aviation story by a bril-
liant flying officer. \$1.50

MOHAWK PRESS, N. Y.

NOT SENSATIONAL

This book will never be Fas-
hionable. But it may mark a re-
turn of the passion for literature
as a form of companionship. It
is a betrothal of Books and
Life—a delightful companion
for an hour, a day or a year.
\$2.50 Doubleday, DoranJOHN
MISTLETOE

by Christopher Morley

SIXTH SESSION
Bread Loaf Writers
ConferenceOF MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE
August 19-September 3A staff of noted authors, critics and edi-
tors give advice and criticism to those in-
terested in writing as a profession or an
accomplishment. The Staff includes: Her-
vey Allen, Lee Wilson Dodd, Robert M.
Gay, Edith Mirrielees, Theodore Morrison,
Gorham Munson and Margaret Widdemer.Address: HARRY G. OWEN
MIDDLEBURY VERMONT

SUMMER READING

Have you known that helpless feel-
ing of being stranded in a summer
resort on a rainy day without a single
good book?Every summer The Saturday Review
saves a vast number of its subscribers
from finding themselves in this pre-
dicament. They have their copies re-
directed to their summer homes, check
the new books they wish to order, and
either send the list to their favorite
bookseller at home or ask the local
circulating library to order copies.The price of a year's subscription is
\$3.50. The Saturday Review will fol-
low you faithfully wherever you may
wander this summer, and be sent
promptly to your winter home as soon
as you return.

Circulation Department

THE SATURDAY REVIEW

OF LITERATURE

25 W. 45th Street, New York City

The New Books

Fiction

(Continued from preceding page)

little circle of tourists on a Booth Line
steamship. The story didn't soothe the rest-
less imagination of the old German doctor
after all. He slipped overside one night,
just before the *Hildebrand* started down
river, and leaving a mackintosh and a pair
of field-glasses behind him, was swallowed
up by the forest.

International

THE HOLY LAND UNDER MANDATE.

By FANNIE FERN ANDREWS. Houghton
Mifflin. 1931. 2 vols. \$10.An elaborate but somewhat informal
study of Palestine as it is today with the
historical background of the events since the
war and accounts of all aspects of life and
social behavior, but with emphasis upon
political difficulties both national and inter-
national.

THE GENIUS OF MEXICO: Lectures

Delivered before the Fifth Seminar in
Mexico 1930. Edited by H. C. HERRING
and KATHARINE TERRILL. New York:
The Committee on Cultural Relations
with Latin-America. 1931.A useful series of chapters on the genius
of Mexican life, the heritage, and the art
of the Indian, education, economic, and
agrarian problems, immigration, and rela-
tions with the United States.

Juvenile

A LITTLE DIXIE CAPTAIN. By
KATHARINE VERDERY. Bobbs-Merrill.
1930. \$1.50.ALL ABOUT PATSY. By MARY PHIPPS.
Doubleday, Doran. 1930. \$2.To those of us who, like Bre'r Rabbit,
were "bred en bawn in de brier-patch," no
recital of childish days in the deep South
can ever equal the inimitable "Diddie,
Dumps and Tot," at once a chronicle of
childhood and a faithful transcription of
the simplicities and fidelities of a vanished
era. But for this very reason, perhaps, we
welcome all the more eagerly stories dis-
tinctively Southern in theme and setting
which are cast in a new mould.Refreshingly free from the *clichés* which
afflict so many of the breed, is "A Little
Dixie Captain," by Katharine Verdery, re-
membered for "A Dixie Doll" of last year.
Simplicity and sympathetic understanding
of character and circumstance make appeal-
ing and lifelike the fun and fancies of a
little girl on a Georgia plantation not long
after the Civil War. Naturalness and hu-
mor bridge happily the distance in time and
space. Incident and background are so
skilfully presented by suggestion and adroit
characterization, without hackneyed phras-
ing, that one has instantly the feeling of
being *inside* the picture. Uncle Johnny is
in the foreground, but Uncle Johnny seen
through the eyes of adoring little Annie
May, so that everything appears in the pro-
portions natural to a child. To the adult
reviewer this admirable balance of emphasis
is one secret of the charm of the book and
nowhere more clearly seen than in the rela-
tion of the "darkies" to the story. They do
not dominate the book any more than they
would have dominated "Ole Marster's"
household. Neither are they "end men,"
there just for some special song and dance,
but they are an integral part of household
and story.Winifred Bromhall's illustrations are a
graceful accompaniment to this winsome
tale of courage and tenderness and humor."All About Patsy," Mary Phipps's jolly
extravaganza for younger readers, wears its
bandanna with a difference. Here the local
color is pure theater. "Liza Jane, "the
dearest little pickaninny who lived in the
quarter behind the Big House," and Hattie
Pie, the fat black cook, "crooning the
sweetest tune," are stock comic figures of a
stereotyped quaint land of cotton. But a
rollicking rigmarole which scampers along
with such gayety and gusto will delight the
soul of any child, without benefit of ge-
ography. Patsy and her "Wonderful Bud-
dies" frolic and gamble alluringly through
the pages and through the gay hurly-burly
of Miss Phipps's pictures. The function of
these lively characters is to amuse. And a
southern plantation for backdrop lends color
if not conviction.

FIVE LITTLE MARTINS AND THE

MARTIN HOUSE. By CAROLINE VAN
BUREN. Boston: Marshall Jones Co.
1931. \$2.A type of children's book that has begun
to appear frequently of late is the story of
a family circle written with no definite plot
in the old-time sense but, instead, the ac-
count of the day-by-day affairs—mildly ad-venturesome, frequently humorous, and al-
ways wholesome—of a normal lively group
of children. Perhaps the Bastables have been
giving us many descendants. The type,
however, is a good one, capable of endless
expansion and variation, and no complaint
is hereby implied.The five young Martins, in the present
volume, fill many lively pages with their
doings, and the author has maintained an
excellent natural style, with sufficient humor
and practically no sentimentality—the latter
being the acid test for this type of book.
There are chapters upon a school teacher
who went at her problem most mistakenly
till one little Martin set her right, upon a
neighborhood stepmother who was expected
to start in wrong but did nothing of the
kind; upon a childish invalid who soon be-
came quite well when the Martins' ideas of
healthy living were substituted for those
she was being made to follow; upon gip-
sies, a pet mule, and various other topics.
Many pages contain, it should be added,
their own valuable suggestions as to cour-
age and right living. The book is not il-
lustrated.

THE GOLDEN SPEARS AND OTHER

FAIRY TALES. By EDMUND LEAMY.
New York: Desmond Fitzgerald. 85
cents.Though all children cannot actually see
the strange shaped mountains of Ireland,
or run with bare feet on the silver strands
there, all children can indeed have a re-
flection of all its glamorous romance and
wonder through just such stories as Ed-
mund Leamy gave out many years ago in
"The Golden Spears." The Golden
Spear was the name Connla and Nora gave
to a sharp-pointed mountain, whose rocky
top, above its robe of heather, glowed gold
at sunset. Its plural comes from its fairy
counterpart. Other stories follow the title
one with a rare combination of imagina-
tive Irish setting and a matter-of-fact way
of telling, which would appeal to children.
Indeed, so many Irish fairy tales are more
to be understood by grown-ups that it is a
distinct pleasure to find these definitely
catering to youngsters. The fairies are
flesh and blood, whose human experiences
enhance the charm of magic happenings.
Leamy knew children. He wrote for them
and them alone, and even as he entertains
he teaches, interests, and by his love of
loveliness, uplifts.The stories in this collection are not new.
Those contained in "The Golden Spears"
were first published in Dublin in 1890;
the title then read "Irish Fairy Tales." "The
Fairy Minstrel of Glenmalur" was pub-
lished in 1899. Which all goes to show
that old favorites never die.WEST POINT WINS. By LIEUTENANT
PASCHAL N. STRONG. Little, Brown.
1930.This is a capital yarn for a boy in his
middle 'teens who is engrossed in football.
It will intensify his enthusiasm for the career
of a West Point cadet if his longings be at
all in that direction. It is a tale told with
little art, and, in spite of accuracy of de-
tail, with a nonchalant disregard for prob-
ability.If one were to believe Lieutenant Strong's
book, life at the U. S. M. A. is one round
of student pranks and athletic sports, with
the occasional diversion of a tour on the
area, imposed most frequently, it would
seem, for keeping faith with the West Point
ideal of honor. Only as in a glass darkly
do we glimpse the methods by which West
Point more effectively accomplishes its pur-
poses than any other educational institution
in the world. It is believed by some that
you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's
ear. But the Military Academy can make
not only a soldier but a gentleman, in in-
ward spirit as well as outward manners, out
of the occasional bumpkin or roughneck that
enters its doors, and that in an incredibly
short time. This is not theory but fact;
we have seen it done repeatedly. We should
like to have a book some day show how it is
done.It is a pity the publishers did not apply
to the Drawing Department of the Academy
for permission to use some of its photographs
for illustrations. The actual is so much
more impressive than the imagined at West
Point.COME ALONG. By JOSEF BERGER.
Houghton Mifflin. 1930. \$2.If a grown-up dare hazard a guess, "Come
Along" will shower deep delight upon its
listeners. It is a story for very little chil-
dren, simply and delicately told—the story
of Big Dipper, the bean farmer, whose boy
and girl have run away to find a puppy.
But the longing for a puppy is not unique
in the Dipper family. It echoes in the heartof a thousand wishful children, whom
"Come Along" meets along the road and
brings back to the dog patch. How the
dogs finally come up, how the dog catchers
of four states are done out of a job, and
how Little Dipper and his sister, Little Bitty
Dipper, are found, is an exciting story,
strung on a thread of quiet amusement with
little lyrical touches that are seldom lavished
upon children.

Miscellaneous

AMONG THE NUDISTS. By FRANCES
and MASON MERRILL. Knopf. 1931. \$3.The German *Nacktkultur* movement,
which commenced about the beginning of
this century, has developed rapidly since the
close of the European war. Strange to say,
it has attracted little attention in the Eng-
lish-speaking world. A book showing its
significance by describing its hygienic, es-
thetic, educational, sexual, humanitarian,
democratic, and social aspects was published
in England in 1929 after encountering ob-
stacles in America in 1927. Recently a few
articles have appeared which give super-
ficial and often misleading accounts of the
movement.The authors of the book under review
are a young American couple who spent a
few weeks in Europe during the summer of
1930. They visited two nudist centers in
Germany which are frequented by foreign-
ers. Apparently they saw nothing of the
more typical and characteristic centers near
Berlin and elsewhere. Two of the sixteen
chapters are devoted to the rudimentary be-
ginning of a similar movement in France.
Of the twenty-one illustrations at least four-
teen were obviously and five more were
probably posed, so that they portray very
little of the spontaneity of action in the life
of these centers. The publisher's blurb con-
veys an exaggerated impression by speaking
of "a land of naked men and women in the
heart of civilized Europe." No groups
practise nudity in public or all of the time,
its practice being limited almost entirely to
leisure time and private grounds.The philosophy of nudism is inadequately
treated in one chapter. The style of the
authors is journalistic and somewhat too
obviously sprightly. But they give a
graphic and entertaining account of their
brief experience. Their candor and sin-
cerity should help to make better known
this interesting and important movement.BIG TOWN. By PHILIP MCKEE. With
a Foreword by SHERWOOD ANDERSON.
New York: John Day Company. 1931.
\$3.The big town of which Mr. McKee gives
something of a description and something
of a social history happens to be Dayton,
but he truly says that it is typical of Middle
Western cities of its magnitude; as Muncie,
Indiana, lately disguised as Middleton, is
typical of smaller places. People who found
"Middletown" arduous reading in spots will
have a much easier time with "Big Town."
Mr. McKee writes smoothly and knows
what he is talking about; he has done a
good enough job—but a job which has been
done before. If there is anything on which
American literature of the past decade has
given us copious information, it is the Mid-
dle Western city, and Mr. McKee offers
nothing new. The publishers point with
pride to his chapter on Lib, the madam, and
indeed it is a good chapter; but recent lit-
erature has been full of madams and Lib
is not materially different from the others.The style and the approach are almost
pure Menckenes, till past the middle of the
book; then the reader is brought up with a
shock of surprise. A chapter with the *Mer-
curian* title of "Mass-Production Charity"
turns out to be almost a eulogy of the com-
munity chest which has eliminated the waste
and inefficiency of earlier unorganized bene-
factions; and the chapter on "The Educa-
tional Boom," though brief and sketchy,
manages to treat progressive education with
an excellently balanced judgment. A sound
enough book which would have been more
impressive a few years ago, before Lewis
stamped his trademark on its material and
Mencken stamped his idiom on so many
writers.THE WILL TO LIVE: An Outline of Evo-
lutionary Psychology. By J. H. BRAD-
LEY. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.
1931. \$4.This useful book was prepared as an at-
tempt to give evolutionary psychology a
place in the education of the young. It is
"an outline of common sense psychology,
treated neither on traditional academic lines
nor on those of a particular school" and
gives "some idea of the development of our
present powers." The book is an interest-
ing attempt to bring into one simple expo-
sition material from all the various psycho-
logical schools.