

## The New Books History

(Continued from page 271)

raglio with accounts of its architecture, manner of life of the court and the harem, and the history of the great period of Turkish rule as written in what might be called the home life of the Sultan.

THE MARCH OF CIVILIZATION. By Jesse E. Wrench. Scribners. \$2.20.

PILGRIMS OF THE SANTA FE. By Agnes C. Laut. Stokes. \$3.50.

VENICE AND BONAPARTE. By George B. McClellan. Princeton University Press.

## Miscellaneous

ALASKA BEAR TRAILS. By HAROLD MACCRACKEN. Doubleday, Doran. 1931. \$2.50.

An interesting narrative of adventure in the game regions of Alaska, abundantly illustrated, and written by a man with experience as an explorer and scientist. A good reference book for those interested in the great bears of Alaska.

TRADERS AND SMUGGLERS IN THE DESERTS OF EGYPT. By COLONEL ANDRÉ VON DUMREICHER.

A first-hand account of adventure in the desert directorate whose business it was to maintain public safety and stop smuggling in one of the wildest and least known regions of the world. The book is as full of interesting anecdote and experience as of valuable information.

FAMOUS SEA FIGHTS. By John Richard Hale. Dial. \$2.50.

WORD ECONOMY. By L. W. Lockhart. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Tubner.

WAR-THOUGHTS IN PEACE-TIME. By C. D. Broad. Oxford University Press. \$1.

YEARS OF BUILDING. By Caroline A. Yale. Dial. \$3.50.

TURNPIKES. By Joseph Austin Durrenberger. Valdosta: The Author. \$2.50.

TRACKERS AND SMUGGLERS IN THE DESERTS OF EGYPT. By Col. André von Dumreicher. Dial.

THE LOST CONTINENT OF MU. By James Churchward. Washburn.

THE SONG OF GOD. By Dhan Gopal Mukerji. Dutton. \$3.50.

LATIN AMERICA IN WORLD POLITICS. By J. Fred Rippey. Crofts. \$3.75.

IRELAND IN AMERICA. By Edward F. Roberts. Putnam. \$2.50.

CONTRACT BRIDGE SUMMARY. By Winfield Liggett, Jr. \$1.

EDUCATION FOR NEWSPAPER LIFE. By Allen Sinclair Will. Newark: The Essex Press. \$3.

GETTING A JOB AND GETTING AHEAD. By Albert Fancher. Whittlesey House. \$2.

MODERN PHOTOGRAPHY. Rudge.

U-BOATS WESTWARD! By Ernst Hashagen. Putnam. \$3.50.

MASKS. By Herbert Kniffin. Edited by William G. Whitford. Peoria, Ill.: Manual Arts Press. \$3.

## Poetry

THE AENEID, Edited with Introduction and Commentary. By J. W. MACKAIL. Oxford University Press. 1931. \$7.

Professor Mackail, who at one time held the chair of poetry at Oxford, has made an edition of Virgil's epic whose avowed purpose is to treat the poem as a poem, leaving questions of history, geography, and mythology to one side. It is perfectly true that the technique of commentary has grown so lush that it sometimes obscures the matter it was intended to make clear, and the practice of using ancient works of literature as mines for queer words, queer facts, and queerer theories is often exasperating to true lovers of literature. Also there is a special sin of editors which has been a great burden to the public. A sentence in Mackail's preface deserves to be quoted entire for its healthy frankness in this regard.

Acknowledgment of debts to predecessors is, even when carried to punctiliousness, good manners as well as honesty; setting their views out, balancing them against one another, and coming to one's own conclusion, is a process which it is superfluous to record; and often, it may be suspected, commentaries are immoderately swollen, not from over-conscientiousness, and not even from the besetting sin of scholars, love of controversy, but from timidity,

and because the writer is afraid of the charge of "not seeming to be aware" of what has been written on the point by others.

The commentary is not so unlike others as might be expected, except that there is a good deal of superfluity omitted. But any attempt to make Virgil intelligible in a modern language must follow the same general pattern. The critical apparatus is brief but, for its purpose, sufficient. There is a good deal of interesting material on the growth and stages of composition of the poem, both in the notes, in the Introductory Notes to the various books and in the Introduction proper. Here also are the facts of Virgil's life and a discussion of his hexameters set forth with the editor's well-known felicity of language. The best part of the Introduction is that it really does lead to the poem. Readers will find themselves insensibly drawn along until they leave the shores of commentary altogether and

vela dabant laeti. in altum

A book which "serves truth and Human Good"!



## Has Science Discovered God?

Edited by  
EDWARD H. COTTON

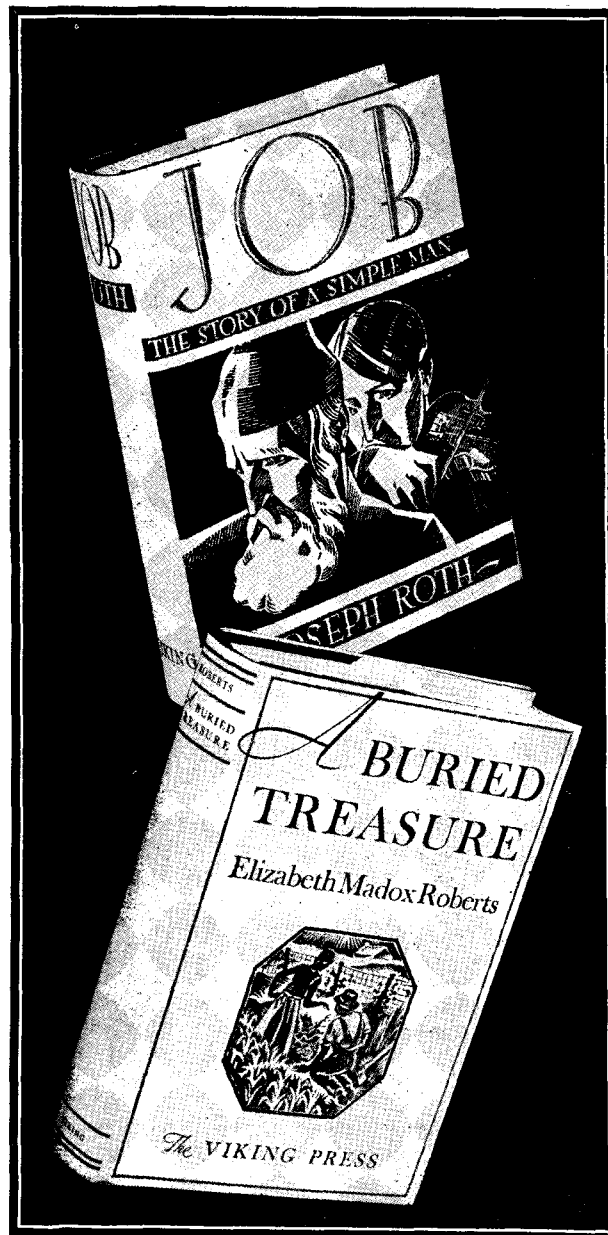
Read the views of Mather, Millikan, Eddington, Curtis, Conklin, Einstein, Huxley, Patrick, McDougall, Thomson, Pupin, Langdon-Davies, Stetson, Jeans, Lodge and Bird. The Contributors were asked to write with entire freedom, seeking only to serve truth and human good.

17 portraits

\$3.50

from CROWELL'S List of Good Books

THOMAS Y. CROWELL COMPANY, NEW YORK



## The Book Clubs select two outstanding novels

As their November selections The Literary Guild and The Book-of-the-Month Club have chosen two Viking novels: A BURIED TREASURE by one of America's most distinguished writers and JOB by a German author whose novel has taken Europe by storm.

## JOB

The Story of a Simple Man

By JOSEPH ROTH

Translated by Dorothy Thompson

This warm and human tale of a modern Job starts in the ghettos of Russia, moves to the streets of New York and ends as a rich and unforgettable memory in the hearts of its readers. Entirely apart from its literary importance, which has been hailed by many of the greatest writers abroad\*, this novel has a contagious quality—a simplicity and tenderness that have already endeared it to thousands. As *The Saturday Review* says, "It is so full of tenderness and beauty, so genuine in its emotion, so restrained in the handling of situations, and so poignant . . . it is a book to read and remember." \$2.50

\*Hailed by Lion Feuchtwanger, Ernst Toller, Thomas Mann, Frank Thiess, Arnold Zweig, Julius Meier-Graefe, Stefan Zweig and the critics of France, Germany, Sweden, England and America.

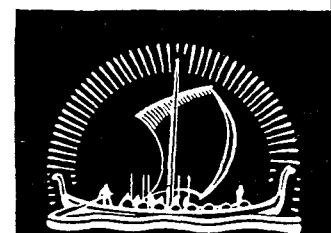
ELIZABETH MADOX  
ROBERTS writes

## A BURIED TREASURE

One of our foremost writers gives us a new novel to stand beside her two American classics: "The Time of Man" and "The Great Meadow". In it she tells the story of a poor man and his wife who unexpectedly come upon a pot of gold concealed in their cornfield. With this incident as a starting point Miss Roberts weaves a charming love story into the larger pattern—the effect of this discovery on a whole community. The time of the story is brief, yet it seems to the reader a dramatic interlude in lives that have grown familiar and important to him. *A Buried Treasure* combines humor and drama in one of the loveliest stories Miss Roberts has ever told. \$2.50

There is also a limited edition of 200 copies, numbered and signed by the author. \$7.50

THE VIKING PRESS • NEW YORK





from THE INNER SANCTUM of  
SIMON and SCHUSTER  
Publishers, 386 Fourth Ave., New York



ARTHUR SCHNITZLER: 1862-1931

It was only a few short weeks ago that this column recapitulated the enduring satisfactions of knowing ARTHUR SCHNITZLER—and of being entrusted, for the last seven years, with the publication of his works in America.

The honor of helping to consolidate SCHNITZLER's fame on this side of the Atlantic [we repeat one short paragraph], the thrill of sponsoring a masterpiece like *Fraulein Else*, the perverse glow of writing a passionate series of advertisements about him without using a single adjective, the heat of battle and the exhilaration of triumph in defending *Casanova's Homecoming* against the onslaughts of JOHN S. SUMNER, the joy of visiting him in his enchanted garden in Vienna, the sheer and cumulative delight in re-reading his pages of autumnal splendor—all these recollections are evoked by the name of ARTHUR SCHNITZLER.

His sudden death comes as a personal blow to *The Inner Sanctum* and as a shock to the world of letters. There is a melancholy irony in the fact that the novelette which he had but recently completed should bear the title *Flight Into Darkness*.

It was the destiny of ARTHUR SCHNITZLER to adorn and articulate a city famous for its geniuses, to depict with incomparable grace and tenderness the glamour and disenchantment of Vienna, to draw from words such music as Kreisler draws from strings.

ESSANDESS.

NOT SINCE de Profundis has there appeared from the pen of a prisoner anything so startling beautiful and so magnificently revealing of the human heart and mind as

The Uncensored Letters of  
Charles Chapin

\$2.75 all bookshops 2nd edition

Better than Haunch, Paunch  
and Jowl

If Tomorrow  
Were Today

By Bernard Sacks

an amazing novel written with the skill and profundity of the Russian novelists.

All Bookshops, \$2.50 Rudolph Field

HOOKER'S  
ECCLESIASTICAL  
POLITY BOOK VIII

With an Introduction by  
Raymond A. Houk, editor

The editor establishes the authenticity of Book VIII, contributing to the history of Church and State relations in Elizabethan England and a better understanding of Hooker's life and work. \$4.75

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS  
Descriptions of any books sent on request

## The PHOENIX NEST

It seems to us funny that we get so many circulars and advertisements in the mails,—in fact the fact that we get so many circulars and advertisements in the mails seems to us most annoying! We mean at home. At the office, of course, we never get anything but envelopes full of publicity, in return for which we are so rude as never to make any acknowledgment. But at home in the morning—when we are at home in the morning—we expect to get real letters. Only nobody ever seems to send us real letters. Only c. and a., as we said before. If one lives in any one place too long, one gets—or you get—on so many mailing-lists. And the delighted expectation of a lot of morning correspondence, to be gaily chuckled over while you are burning the bacon so that you have to open the window, is so often disappointed that when a real letter does come you usually throw it away at first and afterward hunt for it in the scrap-basket. But, oh well, why discuss life,—it's too depressing. . . .

We got one thing in the mail at the office which wasn't a circular though; it was publicity. It is called "A Solo in Tom-Toms" and is written by the Gene Fowler who wrote "Trumpet in the Dust," "Shoe the Wild Mare," and the life-story of William J. Fallon, "The Great Mouth-piece." Covici, Friede, Inc. had asked Mr. Fowler, born Mr. Devlan, to give them some biographical material, and this is it, and they thought it so funny that they made it into a booklet of which only 350 copies were printed and none are for sale. We sat down and read it immediately and were somewhat charmed and also thought it rather smart. But Mr. Fowler tells absolutely all about his pretty interesting existence. . . .

Finally having finished with Mr. Fowler's not so nefarious career, we turned to a book Macmillan had sent us. We admit that it would cost you five dollars, but it cost us merely several hours out of our working-day. It is called "Illustrated Magic," translated from the original by Ottokar Fischer and edited by J. B. Mussey and Fulton Oursler. It really is a swell book, for even if after reading it you can't do the sleight-of-hand which naturally it takes a long time to learn, or even if you fail at the other stunts at which professional magicians are so proficient, at least you have been shown by much text and many pictures just how a lot of the stage magic is worked. We even learned how a lady is sawed in two, and it's simple enough when you know how it's done. Not that we have any sadistic desire to saw any lady in two. But we wished to be informed, just for interest. And also, it's not true that an Indian fakir can climb up a rope after his assistant, a rope that is thrown into the air and remains suspended, apparently attached to nothing. Nobody has really ever seen such a thing. That shows how much you can believe of what you hear! . . .

Did you ever hear of the Sappho of Soho? Our friend Louise Morgan Theis, who writes for *Everyman* in England, tells us that the newest of the new English publishers, Desmond Harmsworth (the most charming member of a famous family) has been very amusing on the subject of this lady; for he is publishing a volume of poems called "Unholy Music," by a charwoman poet named Lucy Watkin. When he found her, Miss Theis tells us, she had over two thousand poems written on odds and ends of paper, some of them tucked in her stockings! Mr. Harmsworth is also publishing

a pamphlet by Ezra Pound, entitled "How to Read," and has a work in progress by John Collier (one of our favorite authors since reading "His Monkey Wife.") . . .

Richard Hughes has written Harpers, his publishers, that he received a fan letter from John Barrymore, with reference to "High Wind in Jamaica," published over here as "The Innocent Voyage." Mr. Barrymore spoke of having been sent the book by Edward Sheldon:

I made the error of starting it before dinner to which we had asked some people. I left unobtrusively just before coffee—went straight to bed and finished it—thereby forever crystallizing a reputation for studied eccentricity! The simplest way of squaring oneself is to send a copy of your book to everyone present. It is more terrifying than "The Turn of the Screw," and more discerning than "Penrod,"—and almost if not quite the only thing I have ever read that reveals the labyrinthine and potential monstrosity of a child's mind before it inhibits itself into a cognizance of the constabulary!

We are glad to learn that Mr. Barrymore endorses two of the—to us—greatest books in the world, namely Henry James's "The Turn of the Screw" and Hughes's "High Wind." . . .

It came as a surprise to us that Harrison Smith had left Jonathan Cape.

Alas for the rent in that gorgeous caparison

Of Cape that is Jonathan, Smith that is Harrison!

The publishing world seems all knocked out of shape

Since Jonathan Smith has left Harrison Cape,—

Beg pardon! We mean that like kin and like kith

Seemed Jonathan Cape unto Harrison Smith;

But now there'll be set up a separate gar- rison:

HERE will be Jonathan—THERE will be Harrison.

Never were names better wed in a firm, anent

Musical euphony,—could it be permanent! Tender them garlands of wilted forsythias, Stifle a sob over Damon and Pythias, Firms may arise that will shine by comparison.—

But Jonathan, Jonathan, what of your Harrison!

Oliver La Farge's "Laughing Boy" is another book we think most highly of. And now it has been announced by the O. Henry Memorial Award Committee that he is the winner of the best short-story of the year, for his "Haunted Ground" which appeared in the *Ladies' Home Journal*. The announcement was made at the same time that Houghton Mifflin published his new novel, "Sparks Fly Upward." And speaking of short-stories, that reminds us that Frank Sullivan recently started a threat in the *New Yorker* to write even short, short, short, short stories, and, as it was, tore off a short, short, short story. And that reminds us that Frank took us sadly to task for letting Crowley, the President of the New York Central, know that he never took trains. And all the railroads are nervous, and he does, he does, he does take trains. He takes a train every day some place just out of loyalty to old Commodore Vanderbilt, and probably to keep in some sort of trim.—what sort of trim do you like? I think Frank with a little nink trim would be nice. And if the B & O people call us up we'll tell them the same thing.—he does, he does, he does take trains. . . . THE PHOENIXIAN.

This American novel has the same delicacy,  
surety and distinction as

THE BITTER TEA OF GENERAL YEN

—ISABEL PATERSON in N. Y. Herald Tribune

THE By Grace Zaring Stone  
ALMOND TREE

With impeccable artistry, Mrs. Stone portrays a woman of singular charm and amorous temperament, and her strange duel with her own daughter for the heart of a man. A very fine novel, says Richard Burton, acute, artistic, fearlessly true.

\$2.50 all stores

BOBBIS MERRILL

"The Simple Bard, unbroke by rules of Art,  
He pours the wild effusions of the heart;  
And if inspir'd, 'tis Nature's pow'rs in-  
spire;  
Her's all the melting thrill, and her's the  
kindling fire."

—ANONYMOUS.

## The AMEN CORNER

It was thus that the title-page (reproduced in facsimile in the Kilmarnock Burns in the *Oxford Miscellany Series*) recommended to the polite world of eighteenth-century Edinburgh

### POEMS

CHIEFLY IN THE  
SCOTTISH DIALECT

by

ROBERT BURNS

The legend of the Simple Bard dies hard; but nothing can be more different from the unsophisticated Scottish peasant whom fancy and tradition present, than the picture we get from the new edition of *The Letters of Robert Burns*, by Professor J. De Lancey Ferguson of Cleveland. Here we have a "highly though unsystematically educated" man, who drafted every important letter before writing out a fair copy for the post. He took his letter-writing so seriously that the letters give us Burns certainly as he was, but seen, too, through the glass of what he wished to be. From them we get the picture of the real Burns, and the real Burns was a complex whole to whose right understanding this correspondence is essential.

So far as present resources go, the new Oxford edition is the most complete and reliable ever published. There are sixty-one letters collected for the first time, and many more (the Oxonian got tired counting) to which substantial additions or corrections have been made. The letters of Burns suffered from his own idea of what they should be like, but they have suffered more from editors of weak stomach or exaggerated propriety. Some of the liberties of former editors which the Oxonian heard Professor Ferguson recount at the meeting of the Modern Language Association last winter in Washington almost made us rise from our obscure corner to staid assemblage with a sweeping denunciation of all editors and editing. One of them went so far as to change all Burns's "damns" to "curses"—a textual care which seems to imply an incomplete understanding of the meaning of the word "curse." But Professor Ferguson has been a perfect editor. Nothing but the discovery of new manuscripts could improve upon his edition. We noted last week that *The Publishers' Weekly* has already declared it "will be a standard item in the bookstores for many years to come."

We are always interested in the embellishments of our favorite books, and we are pleased to report that the present volumes are adorned with two portraits of Burns, the charming painting by Nasmyth and another thought to be by Alexander Reid, and facsimiles of seven letters.

Some of the most interesting things we have read about Burns we found in Mr. H. W. Thompson's delightful account of Scotland's Golden Age, *A Scottish Man of Feeling*. It was Mackenzie who sponsored the *Poems* of 1786, and it was Burns in 1787 who first called Mackenzie "the Addison of the Scots," a phrase echoed by Scott in the dedication of *Waverley* in 1814. Mr. Thompson, too, reminds us of Burns's attempt to win a place from the powerful Dundas family. How powerful they were Mr. Holden Furber has shown in his recent biography, *Henry Dundas, First Viscount Melville, 1742-1811*, Political Manager of Scotland, Statesman, Administrator of British India.

After reading *The Letters of Robert Burns* you will naturally want to turn again to his poems. We know of no better edition than the one in the *Oxford Standard Authors*, nor one handier than that in the *World's Classics*.

Here, by the way, are some lines from the poem *On the Death of Robert Dundas, Esq.* It is calculated to dispel the myth of the unlettered Muse of Burns:

Mark ruffian Violence, distain'd with crimes,  
Rousing elate in these degenerate times;  
View unsuspecting Innocence a prey,  
As guileful Fraud points out the erring way:  
While subtle Litigation's pliant tongue  
The life-blood equal sucks of Right and Wrong:  
Hark, injured Want recounts th' un-  
listen'd tale,  
And much-wrong'd Mis'ry pours th' unpitied wail!

—THE OXONIAN.

Our Book of the Month: THE LETTERS OF ROBERT BURNS, edited by J. De Lancey Ferguson. 2 volumes. \$10.00.

(1) \$1.75. (2) \$5.00 *The Anecdotes and Ego-  
tisms of Henry Mackenzie*. Also \$5.00 (3) The  
Oxford Scott. 24 vols. \$36.00. (4) \$5.00; (5) \$1.50.  
(6) 80c.