

## The New Books

The books listed by title only in the classified list below are noted here as received.

### Fiction

**FOREST FIRE.** By REX STOUT. Farrar & Rinehart. 1933. \$2.

This is a good example of the modern novel which sets out deliberately to make fiction out of abnormal psychology. The care with which Mr. Stout builds up his background and gives us details in regard to his people does not entirely conceal the fact that the narrative surface is always tightly stretched over a skeleton of laboratory principles. There is, of course, no particular reason why this means of construction should not result in a book as effective and as true to life as any springing from a less controlled impulse, provided the author can vitalize his puppets sufficiently. There are three main participants in Mr. Stout's intrigue, which takes place in the forest regions of Montana, where an elaborate governmental service is necessary to check forest fires during the dry summer season. The Chief Ranger, Stan Durham, is not an attractive personality, though he may be an efficient fire fighter. Nor is the girl who comes to stay at one of his posts, looking for adventure in the West, particularly interesting. The boy, Harry, who brings emotional confusion and eventually tragedy into both their lives is a more cheerful specimen, though even in his case Mr. Stout has felt it necessary to hint at mysteries beneath a happy and careless exterior.

The drama which Mr. Stout has arranged is largely centered on the distinctly abnormal Stan Durham, but the cards are rather unfairly stacked against him by the author. There is much space devoted to the clinical details of Stan's reactions to his friendship with Harry, and in the author's obvious eagerness to prove his point he ends by making him something of an unbelievable figure. If in the end it is doubtful, in spite of much excellent material and straightforward writing, whether "Forest Fire" is a good novel, it is largely because of this lack of imagination. There are moments, in fact, when something extraneous, not devoted to the main purpose of the book, would be welcome, and would enhance its effect. The whole is convincing and workmanlike, but not memorable, and Mr. Stout's people, always a little flat and abstract, follow too often a preconceived line of conduct, and too little the devices of their own hearts.

**FAMILY REUNION.** By JANET CURREN OWEN. Harper. 1933. \$2.

At Christmas old Mrs. Brinton's family grudgingly returned to the ugly house in Jersey City. They were an odd assortment: there was Opal, who had married a chauffeur, thus putting herself beyond the pale so far as her sister Beryl was concerned. Sylvia, the widow of the only son, returned from her secret life in Baltimore, there to encounter the two daughters she

had deserted years before—Harriet, married to a painter; Rosamund, separated from her wealthy husband. All Mrs. Brinton's boarders were gone for the day, with the exception of Mr. Werner, who was the old lady's star-boarder and a candidate for her aging hand.

The reunion was typical of many others, but on this particular Christmas there were many undercurrents of emotion, petty jealousy, and hatred at work, intensified by the animosity of years and the purely fortuitous events that the past year had wrought in the fortunes of the individual daughters, sons-in-law, granddaughters. There was a great-granddaughter too. The old lady's fluttering and ineffectual attempts to make things run smoothly broke down by the time the day had run its course, but it was the presence of Mr. Werner in the house that brought about the final débâcle.

These many elements in constant interaction, Mrs. Owen has handled with an easy narrative talent—certain complications she resolves, others are brought to a momentary head. Rosamund rejoins her husband; Beryl, the self-righteous, loud-mouthed, martyred daughter receives a momentary set-back; the future is cleared for Mrs. Brinton's fourth romantic escapade; the daughter-in-law, Sylvia, returns to Baltimore to her illegitimate son and her married lover. "Family Reunion" makes consistently entertaining reading and should make a better motion-picture than the average.

**SON OF EARTH.** By HOWARD ERICKSON. Dial. 1933. \$2.

Here is fiction reduced to its lowest common denominator—short, simple declarative sentences, relating in a matter of fact manner the life of Tolf Luvversen, Danish farmhand in Iowa. It is a chronicle of unremitting toil, simple aspirations, strong passions. Tolf was determined to make something of himself—a doctor, a preacher, anything that would lift him above the drab life of his family and the back-breaking labor he had known from childhood. To this end he studied by himself and dreamed more than he studies. He would save his money and go to school—but then it would be nice to have a bright new buggy and an "English" girl. He got the buggy, but the American girl made a fool of him, used him for her own purposes, threw him aside when she had no further use for him and he got nothing from the relationship but a headache.

This circumstantial account of the day-to-day life of an inarticulate Danish farmhand possesses startling verisimilitude to life. Written throughout in the present indicative ("Tolf does not try to comfort Christine, and she goes snuffing to her room. He undresses and gets into bed, thinking of what lies before him,"), unrelieved by any concern for rhetoric or

"fine writing," detailing the surface aspects of life and making no direct attempt to analyze motives or the sources of action, it nevertheless manages to achieve cumulative force, indicate the origin of motives, and suggest the sources of action. As such it is a thoroughly successful portrayal of a life that does not easily lend itself to fictional technique, that, in fiction, usually either sinks into dullness or explodes into melodrama.

**SOME TAKE A LOVER.** By ANN DU PRE. Macaulay. 1933. \$2.

Under a title which obviously plays for the let's-be-shocked public and with a jacket so specifically anatomical that it defeats its own purpose, this novel unrolls an old enough story in a modern journalistic manner. An old woman is dying and there is a fortune to be intrigued for. The grandchildren gather at the Long Island country house and await death, getting in as many last minute bids for the inheritance as possible. The story is told mostly in conversational form that is bright enough to keep the reader's mind off the belabored theses. "Some Take A Lover" is one more of those novels which seem to be taking the place of the old long short-story in fiction magazines. As such they fill their brief entertainment turn, but even the slight permanence of book covers rests too heavily upon them.

**THE EYES OF LOVE.** By WARWICK DEEPIING. McBride. 1933. \$2.

A somewhat idyllic love story, entirely free of any clinical manner, this is hardly in the prevailing mode of current fiction yet one may hazard the opinion that it is something better than most of the brazenly clever, ultra-modern studies. It has no taint of Victorian pruderies, no hypocritical moralization, and it never descends into sentimentality. Its pathos and tragedy are genuine, its characters subtly understood and fully portrayed, and the composition as a whole is well proportioned. Although it leads to a "happy ending," neatly buttoned up in a conventional "lived-happily-ever-after," that does no violence to probabilities, and is artistically satisfying. The story plays against a background of the rural England which Mr. Deeping portrays with finely sympathetic understanding.

**HIZZONER THE MAYOR.** By JOEL SAYRE. Day. 1933. \$2.

Carrying burlesque to the point at which it becomes burlesque on itself, this snappy story presents in transparent disguise some of the jazziest antics of Jimmy Walker and "Big Bill" Thompson, late Mayors of New York and Chicago, respectively, with laughable but essentially undistorting exaggeration. If the laugh is really upon the American voter, that, too, is a fair hit. Rival campaign sensations reach their climax in a successful scheme for keeping Negro voters from the polls by enticing them to a wholesale baptizing, but the candidate who wins by this ruse is compelled to share the expected spoils of victory with his defeated rival, the outgoing Mayor. A few respectable citizens figure in the narrative, but they are of a sort to make respectability odious. Drinking parties, a beauty contest, and an unconvincing series of murder mysteries help to speed up the action to an appropriately absurd finish.

**TUNCHI.** By CARL LIDDLE and DAVID THIBAUULT. Century. 1933. \$2.

This is something much better than merely another "jungle novel," or tale of strenuous adventure in the South American "green hell." It is engrossing enough merely as romantic adventure, but, in addition, its Indians are not of the conventional wooden variety, but convincingly human beings. It seems to be anthropologically sound, based upon intelligent observation and first hand study of the Jivaran head-hunting tribes of the "oriente" of Ecuador, that little known hinterland the ownership of which is still in dispute.

The plot of the tale is built upon the quest of a young American who enters the jungle in search of a missing compatriot. This leads him into association with the Indians and also brings contacts with the few traders—"jungle rats"—who exist in the remote districts. It runs through a long series of adventures, including tribal feuds, wars, slave trading, and, above all experiences in Indian witchcraft, and observation of the process of head-shrinking which produces the "tsantsa" or dried head. The Indians, and half breeds, are drawn with skill and apparent understanding; even the heroine is more than a lay figure. The total result is a story of unusual quality, especially in its execution.

**THE WATER WHEEL.** By JULIAN L. SHAPIRO. New York: The Dragon Press. 1933. \$2.50.

This is naturalism reductio ad absurdum. Following in the wake of Joyce and Stein, it is chronologically right, and in parts, combines the eccentricities of both.

The story concerns itself with the few actions and many thoughts of John Sanford, law-clerk, ex-convict, sinner, legatee of a Litvak match-vendor, and New Yorker in the most provincial sense. Were it not for the fact that Sanford clearly states that he is a graduate of a college in Easton, Pennsylvania, and that he has been two years clerking in a law office, the proverbial sensitive adolescent of seventeen would characterize him; it does anyway. Completely absorbed in his own undisciplined mental meanderings and speculations, Sanford thinks and thinks through the pages of his novel. And every New Yorker who has traveled in subways, walked in Central Park, or eaten at Childs will find some brain child of Julian Shapiro's (John Sanford's) that he can call his own. For this author is observant; and a sensitive passage is almost as frequent as a coarse one.

If the reader enjoys, or believes in the literary value of detailed descriptions of run over dogs, sputum, urinals, the taste of a dime, or manure in a rainstorm, he will find all that, and more, in "The Water Wheel." If he believes that every man is entitled to spell, punctuate, and create words as he pleases, Shapiro will gratify that notion too. If the obscenities of taxi-drivers and drabs is interesting, interest abounds in this book. If an exotic format and type-setting are stimulating, the yellow and green "Water Wheel" will satisfy. And if these qualities make for literature, why then "The Water Wheel" is that. But do they?

### International

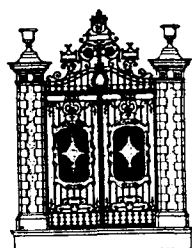
**EUROPE AND THE AMERICAN TARIFF.** By O. FRED BOUCKE. Crowell. 1933. \$1.50.

With President Roosevelt, at the behest of the "brain trust," plunging us rapidly towards the goal of a "planned society," O. Fred Boucke's "Europe and the American Tariff" has some claim upon the attention. Like Lawrence Dennis, Mr. Boucke knows that the free trader's universal paradise which was the dream of the Manchester economists is an impossibility until we have the world state. Differences in currencies, wage rates, social services, local inventiveness, costs, climatic conditions, inevitably give rise to tariffs in a world of nationalist states. The end of free trade is cheapness, the end of protection is security. "You pays your money and you takes your choice." This doesn't mean that the benefits of security are always passed along to the working population, or that tariffs on finished goods foisted upon a commodity-exporting country do not wreak havoc with the farmers and owners of raw material who find the balance of trade seriously disturbed by having to sell in an unprotected market while they buy in a protected market. Mr. Boucke is aware of the tension existing in a tariff-infested world. Yet price levels under free trade can be smashed in such a way as to get just as much tension through the application of the Manchester tenets. It's a vicious circle. So Mr. Boucke comes out, at the close, for more planning, for "production for domestic consumption, a steadied social economy. . . ." He is against unlimited capital export. His way lies autarchy. This would involve us in its own difficulties. But this is also matter for another book.

**MEN OF MARACAIBO.** By JONATHAN NORTON LEONARD. Putnams. 1933. \$2.50.

Jonathan Leonard has his prejudices. Possibly because he has written a book about Henry Ford, he is sick of talk about economics, social problems, and the machine age. He dislikes government. He is tired of hypocrisy, yessing the boss, and synthetic liquor. He doesn't cotton to bridge. The termite-men, as he calls them, who are going Fascist or Communist appall him. He doesn't like the American practice of turning out junk to sell to foreign nations who have to borrow American money to pay for the shipments. He is, in short, in a pretty bad way. Yet he has a refuge—the Maracaibo Lake region of Venezuela. Here, where Americans were pumping oil in the late New Economic Era before East Texas glutted the market and put the Venezuelan fields at a disadvantage, there are no sociologists, little prudent greed, a lot of blessed confusion, tolerance, laziness and indepen-

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dence. No Latin American government, says Mr. Leonard, the philosophical anarchist, has ever dreamed of shaping the lives of its non-political citizens. There is no proletariat in South America, for a "proletariat is merely the exploited base of a highly industrialized structure, and there are no industrial structures worth the name in South America." "Best of all, there is a wonderful store of what-the-hell spirit. Every one is affected by it." Mr. Leonard certainly is. And his book about Maracaibo, brash, amusing, full of good talk, is a what-the-hell book. Those who have followed James Norman Hall to Tahiti, Hickman Powell to Bali, Ernest Hemingway to the Café du Dome and Spain, numerous worshippers of maize-culture to Mexico and Norman Matson to Cape Cod should get one last fillip of escape out of Mr. Leonard's book before the termite-men regiment the world and suppress Mr. Leonard.

## Brief Mention

Among books on travel *France on Fifty Dollars* by Sydney A. Clark (McBride, \$1.90) tells you how cheaply you can see France, especially if you are married. \*\*\* Among recent books in the field of science, two little manuals in *A Century of Progress* series, *Earth Oil* by Gustave Egloff, and *Time, Space and Atoms*, by Richard T. Cox (Century, each \$1), deserve mention, and also an elaborate and technical symposium, important as a reference book for students of agricultural economics, *The Agricultural Systems of Middle Europe*, edited by O. S. Morgan (Macmillan, \$5). *Forced Labor in the United States* by Walter Wilson, with an introduction by Dreiser, is a study of chain gangs and convict labor generally, a brief and a powerful one against the practice. \*\*\* An interesting miscellaneous group of books now on the new bookshelves contains Harold Coolidge's and Theodore Roosevelt's *Three Kingdoms of Indo-China*, a book which, as its authorship suggests, contains both adventure and valuable social studies. The photographs are excellent (Crowell, \$3). Next, *The Shorthand Letters of Samuel Pepys*, transcribed and edited by Edwin Chappell (Macmillan, \$2.75). These letters are from Pepys's important Navy files and deal with business rather than with music and his amorous pleasures. It is curious that they have never been published before. Also, *Scottish Abbots in Social Life*, by G. G. Coulton (Macmillan, \$3). This is a scholarly history beginning with Celtic monachism, and is a valuable contribution to the *Cambridge Studies in Medieval Life and Thought*. Finally, an interesting group of brief biographical studies of our contemporaries, *Friends of Men* by Charles F. Thwing (Macmillan, \$3). The

subjects are most of them educators or statesmen. Among better known names it is interesting to note William Roscoe Thayer, Talcott Williams, Henry T. Finck, Barrett Wendell, Frank Emory Bunts, and William Pepper. \*\*\* Special note should be made of the new edition, two volumes in one, of Charles A. and Mary R. Beard's *The Rise of American Civilization* which has already become a standard volume for all interested in the social history of America. This new edition contains a new chapter which brings the "interpretation of American history and American life through Coolidge's administration, Hoover's term of office, with the problems of the depression, foreign debts, and trade, etc., down to the election campaign of 1932 (Macmillan, \$3.50). \*\*\* *Maria Jane Jewsbury: Occasional Papers Selected, With a Memoir*, by Eric Gillett (Oxford, \$2) is a memorial to a "charming, vivacious, and exceptionally talented woman" whose literary career belongs in the first half of the nineteenth century. If she is unknown to you so much the better for the success of this little book.

In 1927 *Mona Wilson's Life of William Blake* was published in a limited edition and reviewed in this journal. It has now been reissued for \$3.50 by Robert O. Ballou, New York. \*\*\* Scholars and all endowed with literary curiosity will also be interested in a thesis by Gertrude M. Sibley (Cornell University Press, \$2) called *The Lost Plays and Masques, 1500-1642*, which gives in index form with notes the tantalizing list of Elizabethan and Jacobean dramatic literature of which we have only the name or memory. \*\*\* Religion is represented in recent books by a set of meditations for each week of the year by William P. Merrill of the Brick Presbyterian Church of New York (Macmillan, \$2.25), and by an interesting *Account of Methodism in American History*, by William W. Sweet (Methodist Book Concern, \$3). \*\*\* Under science a little book with a very broad scope is the *Chemistry Triumphant* of William J. Hale (Williams & Wilkins, \$1) in which in the course of an explanation not too technical to be followed and not too popular to be useless, he points out among other things that the Germans waited to declare war until synthetic ammonia for ammunitions was possible, but were rushed in before they developed the synthetic fats which might have saved them from collapse. Scientific also, but in the field of geography, is the regional and economic geography of the Mediterranean lands called *Southern Europe*, by Marion I. Newbegin (Dutton, \$4.50). This book is geology applied to the use made by man of land surfaces. It is a book for the student, evidently an important one, rather than for the general reader.

## ART

Edward Weston. New York: Weyhe. Best Fifty Currier & Ives Lithographs. Old Print Shop. \$1. Primitive Arts and Crafts. R. U. Sayce. Cambridge Univ. Pr. Macmill. \$2. The Propaganda Menace. F. E. Lumley. Cent. \$4.

## BELLES LETTRES

For Adults Only. B. Nichols. Doubl. Dor. The Facts of Fiction. N. Collins. Dnt. \$3.50. History of Norwegian Literature. T. Jorgenson. Macmil. \$5. All I Survey. G. K. Chesterton. Dodd, Mead. \$2.50. Shakespeare Under Elizabeth. G. B. Harrison. Holt. \$3. Comparative Essays. Present and Past. Ed. W. W. Read. Noble & Noble. \$1.20. Aristophanes. G. Murray. Oxford Univ. Pr. \$2.50. Preface to Poetry. T. Maynard. \$2.75.

## BIOGRAPHY

My Forty Years in Politics. W. S. Vare Phil. Swain. \$2.50. Bowsprit Ashore. A. H. Bone. Doubl. Dr. \$2.50. Alexander the Great. A. Weigall. Put. \$3.90. Life of Sir Michael Hicks Beach. Lady V. Hicks Beach. Macmil. 2 vols. \$12. The House of Earle. N. Waln. Lit. Br. \$3. William Marshall. S. Painter. Johns Hopkins. \$3. Fights for Freedom. C. K. Curtis. Rochester. N. Y. Once Upon a Time and Today. M. Nathan. Put. \$2.50. Three French Dramatists: Racine, Marivaux, Musset. A. Tilley. Camb. Univ. Pr. Macmil. \$3. The Dark Invaders. Captain von Rintelen. Macmil. \$2. St. Augustine. R. West. Appl. \$2. Macaulay. A. Bryant. Appl. \$2. Granville the Polite. E. Handasyde. Oxford Univ. Pr. \$3.75. Gambler's Wife. J. Lillenthal. Hough. Mif. \$3. Alfred Mond. H. Bolitho. Appl. \$5. Chinese Gordon. H. E. Wortham. Lit. Brown. \$3.50. Sir Henry Morgan. W. A. Roberts. Covic. Friede. \$3. John Marshall. Baron Craigmyle. Scrib. \$1.75. The Education of Shakespeare. G. A. Plimpton. Oxford Univ. Pr. \$2. Beatrice Cenci. C. Ricci. Liveright. Joseph Conrad. W. W. Bancroft. Stratford. \$1.50. Always a Grand Duke. Grand Duke Alexander of Russia. Far & Elm. \$3 net. Mary Austin Holley. M. A. Hatchet. Southwest. \$4. The Story of Mrs. Peck. Mint. Balch. \$2.50.

## DRAMA

For Services Rendered. W. S. Maugham. Doubl. Dor. \$1.50. Macbeth. The Emperor Jones. Ed. B. A. Heydrick and A. A. May. Noble & Noble. \$1.20. We, the People. E. Rice. Cow.-McCann. \$2.

## ECONOMICS

The Philosophy of Henry George. G. R. Geiger. Macmil. \$3.

## FICTION

Old Chicago. M. H. Bradley. Appl. 4 vols. Long Lost Father. G. B. Stern. Knopf. The Golf House Murder. R. Adams. Lip. \$2. Peter Duck. A. Ransome. Lip. \$2. Twentieth Century Short Stories. Ed. S. C. Bates. Hought. Mif. \$2.25. Fool's Gold. S. H. Page. Knopf. \$2. Spaniards Mark. A. Dwight. Macmil. \$1.75. The Mounted Falcon. F. Hess. Macmil. \$2.50. She Loves Me Not. E. Hope. Bobbs-Merrill. \$2. Bulldog Drummond Strikes Back. H. C. McE. Early Writings of Charlotte Brontë by F. E. Ratchford. Yale Univ. Pr. \$3.50. The Mystery of the Seven Bad Men. H. L. Gates. Macaul. \$2. Bulldog Drummond Strikes Back. H. C. McNeille. Crime Club. \$2. Danger Zone. P. Lee. 3rd. Sears. \$2. The Dark Adventure. A. Muir. Put. \$2. Storm Beach. Virginia. Hought. Mif. \$2.50. The Golden Piper. F. A. Kummer. \$2.50.

## FOREIGN

La Condotta Economica E Gli Effetti Sociali della Guerra Italiana. L. Elnudi. Bari: Lalerza (Yale Univ. Pr.).

## INTERNATIONAL

India Marches Past. R. J. Minney. Appl.

## JUVENILE

Full Steam Ahead. H. B. Lent. Macmil. \$2. The Junior Outline of History. I. O. Evans. Appl. \$2.

## HISTORY

The Struggle for the Control of the Mediterranean Prior to 1848. J. E. Swain. Stratford \$2.

## MISCELLANEOUS

How to Lose Your Money Prudently. F. C. Kelly. Phila. Swain. \$1. More Money for Everyman. J. Mill. Phila. Swain. \$1.50. The Marketing of Library Property. G. H. Ihring. Bowker. \$2. Fifteenth Century Books. Compiled P. Butler. Chicago: Newbury Library. Self-Consciousness and Its Treatment. A. A. Roback. Cambridge, Mass.: Sci-Art. \$1.50. The Crime Club Jig-Saw Puzzle. Crime Cl. 35 cents. The Treasure of Drowning River. C. B. Glasscock. Phila.: Swain. \$2. Light-houses and Lightships of the United States. G. R. Putman. Hought. Mif. \$3.50. Current English Usage. S. A. Leonard. Chicago: Inland Pr. Modern Tennis. H. H. Jacobs. Bobbs-Merrill. \$2.50. Concurrence and Dissent. Ed. M. Frenner. B. M. Rogoff, and W. N. Sternberg. Merrill. The Evolving House. A. F. Bemis and J. Burchard. 2nd. Mass. Inst. of Tech. Pr. Social Work Yearbook. F. S. Hall. Russell Sage Foundation. \$4. Musings of a Mineral-Water Manufacturer. London: Williams & Norgate. The Way of All Women. M. E. Harding. M.D. Longmans. Green. \$3. Local Government in the United States. M. Seasongood. Harv. Univ. Pr. \$1.50. Your Job. R. O. Picard. Dodd, Mead. \$1.75. The Banking Crisis. J. I. Bogen and M. Nadler. Dodd, Mead. \$1.75. American Business Leaders. F. W. Taussig and C. S. Joslyn. Macmil. \$3.75. No Nice Girl Swears. A. L. Moats. Knopf. The Long Road Home. J. Moody. Macmil.

## PAMPHLETS

The Strange Case of Herr Hitler. E. R. Clinchy. Day. 25 cents. How the Public Gets Its New Music. Am. Soc. of Composers, Authors, and Publishers. How to Restore Values. A. W. Benkert and E. Harding. Day. 25 cents. Technocracy and Socialism. P. Blanshara. League for Industrial Democracy. 5 cents. Symposium on America and the World Situation. Univ. of Chicago. Pr. 10 cents. Monopoly vs. Freedom. J. Mill. Phila.: Swain. 60 cents. Tales of East and West. S. Rohmer. Crime Club. \$2.

## PHILOSOPHY

Seven Psychologies. E. Heidbreder. Cent. \$3. Thomas. J. Martain. Sheed & Ward. \$2.

## POETRY

Songs of Sunshine. C. M. Timpson.

## RELIGION

The March of Faith. W. E. Garrison. Harp. \$2.50. The Oxford Group Movement. H. H. Henson. Oxford Univ. Press. \$1. Modern Tendencies in World Religions. C. S. Braden. Macmil. \$2.50. The Finality of Jesus Christ. R. E. Speer. Revell. The Modern Dilemma. C. Dawson. Sheed & Ward. \$1.

## SCIENCE

Major Mysteries of Science. H. G. Garbedian. Covici-Friede. \$3.75.

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THE WEDDING MARCH MURDER Monte Barrett (Bobbs-Merrill: \$2.)	Bride marches up aisle but groom lies cold and dead in pastor's study. Detective Corrigan, among guests, doffs pumps and gum-shoes effectively.	Good analytical job with plenty of suspects—even officiating clergy. Solution hinges on missing pass key, hunt for which involves many thrills.	Good
THE SALT MARSH MURDERS Gladys Mitchell Macrae-Smith: \$2.)	Double murder in idyllic—oh, yeah?—English village excites detective instinct of sardonic and sharp-witted Mrs. Bradley.	One of the few mystery stories for the adult mind. Thrills, humor, considerable a-morality, and much slick psychology.	Very good
THE CASE OF THE APRIL FOOLS Christopher Bush (Morrow: \$2.)	April Fool joke in English country house turns into double murder which almost fools detective Ludovic Travers.	What stumped Travers was that one man killed the other—and yet he didn't. Shoal of red herrings and incessant action adds to enjoyment.	Good
THE CASE OF MATTHEW CRAKE A. G. Macleod (Dial Press: \$2.)	Miserly old British merchant, with unsavory past, splattered over study by bomb and two detectives are baffled.	When murdered man's features are obliterated you can draw your own conclusions—but there's reverse English on this one.	Fair
THE LAUGHING PERIL H. L. Gates (Macaulay: \$2.)	Devilish clever Chinese—Fu Manchu inoculated with T.N.T. and cobra venom—smiles sardonically, crucifies, kills 'til brave girl bops him.	Allee samee velly old stuff but allee samee packee samee old punch for those who want thrills and nothing else but.	Bleh!