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News from the States

What the SATURDAY REVIEW most desires for this department is the pithy paragraph upon some significant matter, whether in relation to author's activities, bookselling activities and problems, the trend of reading in a particular territory, or allied matters. Booksellers' anecdotes will be welcomed. It is our aim to furnish a bird's-eye view of reading and writing America which will prove valuable both to our subscribers and to the book world at large. We hope that our subscribers will submit items from time to time.

IOWA

Mrs. L. Worthington Smith writes from the "Hawkeye" state:—

Ferner Nuhn and his wife, Ruth Suckow, have taken an apartment in Des Moines. Miss Suckow, author of many Iowa novels, was evasive when asked whether she was gathering material for a Des Moines background. She answered that she was writing as usual. Ferner Nuhn, also Iowa born, is one of the most discriminating reviewers who contribute to the Des Moines Register Sunday Book Page. He is the author of frequent magazine articles.

The Chicago Branch Alumni association of Iowa State college bestowed the merit award for 1932 upon Carrie Chapman Catt. Mrs. Catt was graduated from the college at Ames in 1880 and has been a national figure for many years. A recent poll in a national magazine named her as one of the ten greatest American women of all time. She is most widely known for her leadership in the equal suffrage movement but has recently gained international eminence through her work as chairman of the conference on the Cause and Cure of War.

James Depew Edmundson, scholar-capitalist of Des Moines, Iowa, is one rich man who need not worry over the difficulties attendant upon acquiring entrance to heaven.—The January issue of *The Palimpsest*, the magazine that is published monthly by the Iowa Historical Society for the purpose of the dissemination of Iowa History, is devoted to him, quite honor enough to satisfy the most ambitious subject.

Forrest Spaulding, Des Moines Librarian, estimates that his library patrons read more than a quarter of a million dollars worth of books in November. 1,077 new borrowers were added during the month. 76,175 subscribers took out 115,252 books in November, an increase of 8,013 over the same month last year.

Louie Hyman, bookstore proprietor, says that the depression has been a good thing for libraries and bookstores. "First people read to find out what it's all about. Pretty soon they read for cheaper pleasure. Reading isn't as expensive as an evening at the movies. It is cheaper than gasoline for the family car. After a while people read because they like the quiet evening at home. Now many want better homes and a family. Good thing for the people."

KENTUCKY

A new and welcome correspondent, Frances Jewell McVey, sends us the following items from Lexington:—

William H. Townsend, Lexington lawyer, author of "Abraham Lincoln in His Wife's Home Town," "Lincoln the Litigant," and a collector of Lincolniana, is co-author with William E. Barton of "Abraham Lincoln, the President," which was issued February 1. Mr. Barton having died before his book was finished, Mr. Townsend was designated to complete the work.

In the contest sponsored by the University of Kentucky campus theatre, the prize play was written by Virginia Boyd and Parry Kraatz, both graduates of the University of Kentucky, and both skilled in acting and producing plays at the campus playhouse. "Alas! Poor Yorick," a satire on the campus theatre, will be produced in March. Other plays given this year on the University of Kentucky campus have included "Once in a Lifetime," "Journey's End," Sheridan's "The Critic," and "The Circle."

The University of Kentucky Library is rejoicing in a new building dedicated in October 1931, with Mr. John Finley of the New York Times as the principal speaker. Since 1917 when the University Library contained only 22,000 books, the library has grown until there are 130,000 books, exclusive of letters, pamphlets, and other such items. In the new fire-proof building many Kentuckians are finding a repository for their valuable letters, diaries, and documents. Copies of unique family papers of interest to historians are being preserved by means of the photostatic machine in the library.

J. T. Cotton Noe, Professor of History

of Education at the University of Kentucky, elected "poet laureate of Kentucky" by the Kentucky Legislature, has been giving a series of radio talks on poetry on Thursdays at 1:15 o'clock over the Courier Journal and Louisville Times (WHAS) remote control station at the University of Kentucky. Mr. Noe is a native of Springfield, Kentucky, which also produced Elizabeth Madox Roberts.

Grant Knight, Professor of English of the University of Kentucky, is working on a definitive biography of James Lane Allen. Allen lived near Lexington at "Scarlet Gate" and walked three miles to teach his classes at Transylvania College, the first college west of the Alleghenies, founded in the "County of Kentucky" in 1790 by an act of the Virginia Legislature. John Fox, Jr., was a student at Transylvania as was Jefferson Davis. Henry Clay was a member of the board of trustees of the institution.

Paul Morton, City Manager of Lexington, is a brother of David Morton, Professor of English at Amherst, poet and critic. Both were born in Louisville, Kentucky, home of Cale Young Rice, Alice Hegan Rice, George Madden Martin, Eleanor Mercein Kelly, to name perhaps the most renowned of the Louisville writers. Mr. Rice has completed a new book of poems which will appear in March.

OHIO

We extend all sympathy to one of our contributors, Katharine Garford Thomas, who recently lost her father, Arthur L. Garford. Mr. Garford was a distinguished citizen of Elyria, Ohio, serving his community in the fields of industry and politics, in local and national philanthropy, and in the realm of education.

Recently Mrs. Thomas had sent us the following notes:—

The Korner and Wood Company of Cleveland is one of those attractive book stores which one enjoys visiting whenever possible. The occasion of my recent errand there was to secure if possible the loan of some of the latest books as it is not easy to find them in the public libraries these days and few of the type that I wished could be found in the circulating libraries. Mr. Korner told me upon this occasion that various clubs in Cleveland were sponsoring some programs that were being given in their store and attracting many people. The lectures are upon literary subjects, sometimes book reviews, and are given by Cleveland lecturers, among them being Charles Stephens Brooks, author of a dozen volumes, speaking on Reminiscences, from "English Spring" his latest book, which contains seventy-five sketches by his wife, Mary Seymour Brooks. All of these lectures are free to the public.

Before leaving the Halle Book Shop in Cleveland a few days ago we were interested to learn about Miss Veronica Hutchinson's seventh book, "The Circus." Miss Hutchinson is a native of Cleveland. After attending the Carnegie Library School where she specialized in work for children she returned to Cleveland and became associated with the children's division of the Public Library where she remained until assuming charge of the Halle Book Shop in 1918. In her anthologies she has demonstrated her theory that successful children's books must be sorted to fit the special age for which they are intended. Since her connection with the Halle Book Shop Miss Hutchinson has initiated the guest-author plan whereby popular authors visit this shop to lecture, to meet their readers, and to autograph their books.

OKLAHOMA

The following comes from Elizabeth Williams Cosgrave:—

John Joseph Auslander, author of "Wah' Kon-Tah," is a member of the Osage tribe of Indians and with the exception of three years and a half in England where he was a student at Oxford University, a brief residence in Los Angeles and a period of service in aviation during the World War, has spent his life on the Osage Reservation near Pawhuska, Oklahoma. (Obviously this writer is not to be confused with the more renowned Joseph Auslander, the poet.—Ed.)

SOUTH CAROLINA

For the subjoined we are indebted to Hannah Hemphill Coleman:—

The quaint sea-coast towns of this State are attracting writers seeking rest and relaxation as well as inspirational background. Dr. Henry Bellaman, New York, author, musical critic, and reviewer started the fashion and does some of his best work at Pawley's Island. Welbourne Kelly of Montgomery, author of "Inchin' Along," and Henry Lesesne, novelist of Sumter, S. C., are spending the winter at the Weston's cottage at Pawley's, each having a book under construction.

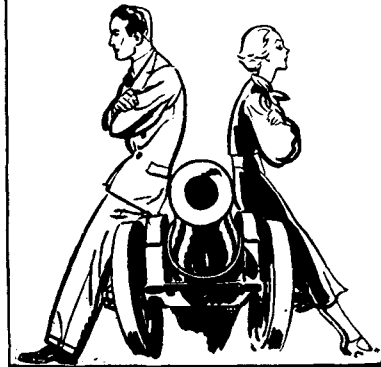
The Charleston Record, a down-state weekly, is being edited by Major Peter Gething. Major Gething is the son of a British General, and himself a veteran of Gallipoli, brings to an already rich local field additional interest in his articles and editorials. Reprints of stories and poems by himself appear in the literary sections of the paper.

THE BRASS CANNON

An amusing, ironic love story of Manhattan and points east.

By CHARLES ALLEN SMART
Author of *New England Holiday*

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PERSONALS

ADVERTISEMENTS will be accepted in this column for things wanted or unwanted; personal services to let or required; literary or publishing offers not easily classified elsewhere; miscellaneous items appealing to a select and intelligent clientele; exchange and barter of literary property or literary services; jobs wanted, houses or camps for rent, tutoring, travelling companions, ideas for sale; communications of a decorous nature; expressions of opinion (limited to fifty lines). Rates: 7 cents per word. Address Personal Dept. Saturday Review, 25 West 45th Street, New York City.

BINDERS for your Saturday Review numbers. Gold stamped, black buckram, wire fasteners, handy way to file the copies as issued, or the back files. Postpaid \$1.50. Mendoza Book Co., 15 Ann St., N. Y. C.

THE PHOENICIAN SAYS: "... about once a year we get sick unto death of the ... tributes poured out by ... publishers to celebrate the inestimably wonderful works ... they present to the public." In view of this berling outburst dare we suggest that you read (purchase?) THE CASE FOR TRAGEDY by Mark Harris, despite the fact that this critical essay has been favorably received by Allardyce Nicoll, Joseph Wood Krutch, the Herald Tribune, Cincinnati Enquirer, Los Angeles Record, and The Christian Century. G. P. Putnam's Sons.

"EXTENDED vacation" proves economically unmanageable. Young woman with varied library experience plus indexing, bookselling, secretarial training, desires to demonstrate her special usefulness in right position. Box 123.

YOUNG literary man would appreciate female companion. Box No. 124.

MIKE, I Fink I'm a keelboat catch. Peg.

WANT a backer for my play about Carol and Marie of Rumania. One set; small cast. Prisoner of Zenda—Graustark theme. Experienced Playwright.

ADVICE and diversion for "lorn," love or otherwise. Discussion of literary, philosophical, other subjects. Send letter you wish answered, self-addressed, stamped envelope, twenty-five cents. Individual reply to you. Belle Lettres.

The PHOENIX NEST

THE *New Contempo* appeared yesterday, carrying an original cover design by John Vassos, who, beside designing penthouses and illustrating books, created the name "Contempo" in 1929. The new issue contains material by Sinclair Lewis, Floyd Dell, Richard Boleslavski, Joseph Wood Krutch, a "Clinical Cartoon" of Branch Cabell, and an article, "The Depression Has Been a Success." *Contempo* is edited solely by A. J. Buttitta, from Snow Building, Durham, North Carolina. Its subtitle is "A Review of the International Scene."

When a postal headed Bulletin No. 3, League of the Last Days, came to us, beginning, "The two bodies now show discs which can be measured. Since first observed they have moved within the distance of the orbit of our planet Uranus and are approaching the distance of Saturn, etc., etc.," we were considerably startled, until we realized it was doubtless a trick way of advertising a new book, probably a mystery story!

We might point out to "W. K. S.," who writes in free verse "Translations from the Chinese," in London *Punch* for February 8th, that this idea was originated by our own Christopher Morley, some of whose "Translations" were gathered into a delightful book some years ago. Mr. Morley's old Mandarin is still roving about town and a new volume of his observations is under way.

Harrison Smith tells us of a recent letter H. G. Wells wrote to Dorothy Dudley on reading her book on the Dreiserian period of American literature, "Forgotten Frontiers" (Smith & Haas). Among other things Mr. Wells said of our fair country:

America gets more exciting every day. Its damned fabric of private-adventure-capitalism is practically dead, but there's nothing else! It is just as though God had made a great hen at the Creation and forgot to make it able to lay an egg. Adam and the Devil come to him. What is to be done? Everything else is laying eggs, procreating and dying and letting something else get on with it. But that damned hen!

That seems to solve the age-old query as to which came first, the hen or the egg.

Katherine van der Veer, of Scarsdale, takes occasion to send us the following verse on "Bed Books," which we are glad to print. She remarks, "There is not a modern book in the lot, but that doesn't mean that I don't read them, only that they aren't dependable bed books. Wasn't it H. M. Tomlinson who, hearing a lady say that almost any book would do for a bed book, replied 'that almost any woman would do for a wife'?"

BED BOOKS

A very motley company, they stand
Upon my shelf where I can reach my hand
To choose the friend whose mood may suit
my feeling

Till sleep lifts up the magic cup of healing.
There, Lady Clifford, vigorous and grim,
Brushes a silken shoulder by "Lord Jim,"
Cellini spins his entertaining yarns,
And Gösta Berling strides by Sweden's
tarns.

Sir Francis Bacon chats of fame and
flowers,
Warmed by the sun of "Kai Lung's Golden
Hours,"

Garrulous Walpole, in his letters, keeps
An endless gossip in the ear of Pepys.
Gissing and Amiel lean heads together,
While Keats sings on of wind and Autumn
weather,

And jovial Chaucer treads a daisied path
With fragrant Alisoun or Wife of Bath.
Then Don Quixote lifts a rusty lance,
And all the folk go whirling in a dance
Down roads that wind through unfamiliar
setting,
To the great gulf of darkness and for-
getting.

We feel the following is worth passing on to our readers. It is taken from "Trade Topics" in *Winston Imprint*, published by the John C. Winston Company, and describes a new kind of bouquiniste:

In walking around and around in the maze of streets in Boston, we chanced upon the famous old South Meeting House on Milk Street at Washington. And lo! To our surprise, there was an open-air bookstall in the small church courtyard on the corner. We entered through a grilled gateway and examined

the books that backed up to the church wall on two sides and those that backed up to the red brick wall on the other two sides. This bookyard, we were informed, was a recent addition to Goodspeed's Bookstore which was located in the basement of the Old South Meeting House.

Bookstalls have always had an unusual appeal to the booklover. (As a matter of fact, there are a number of highly successful open-air bookstalls in Philadelphia, too.) But a bookstall in a church courtyard—well, that is a combination one has to travel far to beat. There seems to be a certain dignity lent to the enterprise that could not be obtained in any other way.

Owners of bookstores might do well to remember this idea when looking for a new location. The rental of a centrally located church basement ought to be quite reasonable. At the same time it should furnish a new way for the church to raise money for the various church necessities and make the members feel that they were helping a splendid cause in furthering the sale of good books.

To all young folk who desire, in this year of grace (we hope!) to enter the publishing business, we recommend an article in the March issue of *Modern Youth: The Voice of the Younger Generation*, by Clifton Fadiman, the editor at Simon & Schuster's, and writer of much literary criticism. He starts by saying that our own Henry Seidel Canby must bear the responsibility for inducing him into the publishing business, and goes on to give a clear and practical outline of the qualifications necessary to gain and hold a job in the publishing field. Every year a number of young people visit our office seeking work in publishing houses, and we should like to be able to hand them all this article of Mr. Fadiman's before they even start talking!

We deeply regret the untimely death of Corinne Roosevelt Robinson. A courageous soul, an active mind, and a spirit unflinching in the zeal for literature and all good things, she leaves more friends and admirers behind her than is common in this self-seeking age.

Arthur W. Bell of Boston sends us first "a word charade suggested by your allusion to your natal date" (February 2nd):

My First, that surface of the Globe
Wherein My Last will root and probe.
The shadow of My Total's girth
Will drive this prophet back to earth.

And then these lines on a famous historical character, the interrupter of the immortal Coleridge:

THE MAN FROM PORLOCK

Man from Porlock, why did you
Cross the Road to Xanadu?
How came you to choose that day,
And "above an hour" stay?
What your message whose import
Must be weighed against the tort?
While you wagged your foolish tongue
Beauty in the balance hung:
Banked and smoldering fire divine,
Fanned to flame with anodyne,
Blazed from out a poet's soul,
Freed from all save dream control.
Caverns bottomless in man,
There the syntheses began;
Old, unhappy, far off things,
Steeped in deep imaginings,
Then commenced to seethe and boil,
Bursting forth in wild turmoil.
Yet we have, and thanks to you,
One bare mouthful of that brew.
Interruption won you fame;
No one even knows your name;
Man from Porlock, that is all;
Noted for an ill timed call.
"Would enhance my Five Foot Shelf,
Had you gone and chased yourself!"

We have read Shaw's little book (beautifully illustrated) about the adventures of a black girl in search of God. It seemed to rouse Mr. Alfred Noyes to much scorn, to judge by an article of his we read in Charles Hanson Towne's book page of the *New York American*. We cannot follow Mr. Noyes. Shaw sees only the obscurantist tendency in the human emotions, he does not see deeply into human love, but otherwise he has said some cogent things about taking a rational view of the Bible.

THE PHOENICIAN.



Has SINCLAIR LEWIS called the Turn?

You hear this on all sides—Has Sinclair Lewis turned the tide in the book business? There is able testimony from booksellers that something important happened with the publication of ANN VICKERS.

The book is bringing back old customers into bookstores, new ones too. Advance sales were a record for January. Re-orders are the best since 1926. ANN VICKERS is Best Seller No. 1 nationally—according to the *N. Y. Times*—and this in terms of 1929 sales.

Although we have issued seven large printings, it has proved difficult to keep ANN VICKERS available at all times in all bookshops. An 8th Large Printing—of 15,000 copies—is now ready at dealers. Future Mumbys, in their chronicles of publishing, will have to reckon with this, the most exciting news to the book publishing fraternity and to the business of Literature, in 1933.

Just read what they are saying—in England as well as in America—about "this tremendous Ann"—

THE LEER OF LIFE ITSELF

*The cream of the season's books.
Entertaining and in demand.
How many have YOU read?

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- ☐ THE NARROW CORNER by W. Somerset Maugham \$2.50
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- ☐ BELINDA GROVE by Helen Ashton \$2.50
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- ☐ A LONG TIME AGO by Margaret Kennedy \$2.00
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- ☐ WANTON MALLY by Booth Tarkington \$2.00
- ☐ FAMILY HISTORY by V. Sackville-West \$2.50
- ☐ THE BISHOP'S JAEGERs by Thorne Smith \$2.00
- ☐ BEFORE THE FACT by Francis Iles \$2.00
- ☐ THE WHITE COCKATOO by Mignon G. Eberhart \$2.00
- ☐ DESIGN FOR LIVING by Noel Coward \$1.50

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN

"Everywhere in ANN VICKERS men and women start up with the authentic frown or smile or leer of life itself," says the *Evening Standard* (London). "You thank God for permitting you to move in an atmosphere blown clear of æsthetic anæmia. Genius is written large on every page."

THE SAME HOT PASSION

"ANN VICKERS belongs with Main Street and Arrowsmith," writes Lewis Gannett. "It will shock some, stir more, bore a few (I pity them, with ice in their veins). But they will all read it with the same hot passion which only Sinclair Lewis can arouse. Dickens had this power. Who else?"

NOT THE STUFF THAT SAINTS ARE MADE OF

writes E. B. Osborn of Ann Vickers, in the *London Morning Post*. "But she is of the granite that kicks the world on its way to more enlightenment. . . Any author of our time might be proud of her!"

"Finest American novelist of our period," says Bernard De Voto, in the *Saturday Review*. "Quite the equal of Arrowsmith," says William Soskin. "Beautiful and terrible and compassionate and true," says Burton Rascoe.

The List at the left contains some of the finest reading of the season . . . many just published . . . available in bookshops, or from the publishers. . .

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN
Garden City, New York.