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I have been a slave of the clock, of my job, my mind chained to the mere business of getting ahead. And at what a cost! At the cost of all leisure, of all the things I wanted most to do. I look back at the fugitive years, amazed at how much I have missed, at how little I have gained in all that is fundamental. But now—I am taking Time to Live.

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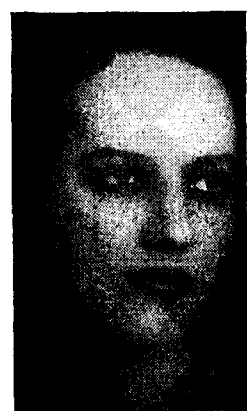
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The Reader's Guide

Conducted by MAY LAMBERTON BECKER

Inquiries in regard to the choice of books should be addressed to MRS. BECKER, c/o The Saturday Review. As for reasons of space ninety percent of the inquiries cannot be answered in print, a stamped and addressed envelope should be enclosed for reply.

J. F. C., Catonsville, Md., asks for "a work on economics, preferably with a distinctly liberal viewpoint, which would stress the current problems such as the banking-monetary question, tariff theories, overproduction, the consumer-producer relation, public utility problems, corporation practice and its effect on trade. You can find all these discussed in such an excellent work as Ely's 'Outlines of Economics,' but submerged in a mass of material which I judge to be of secondary importance."

THE book required seems to me to be Broadus Mitchell's "Preface to Economics." It was published this year by Holt, and though a larger work than the title might indicate, is not too bulky for this reader's purposes. It is a book for the times.

M. P. S., Cambridge, Mass., says that last summer's trip to Greenland opened the eyes of her boys to the scientific side of life about them, and as they are to spend the summer on an island in Maine, a book is indicated that would introduce the "beach critters," simple, but one that would help a parent to brush up his biology.

"Seashore Life," by Alfred Mayer (Lippincott), is a small book about animal and plant life, reliable but less comprehensive than the large and widely-known "The Sea Beach at Ebb Tide," by Augusta Arnold (Century), which is elaborately illustrated. Between the two is an excellent book to make a young person feel at home with crabs, lobsters, and their kin. "Dwellers of Sea and Shore," by William Crowder (Macmillan), one of a nature series introducing their subjects.

H. E., Columbus, O., who asked for memoirs of diplomats, wishes also novels of diplomatic life. These are not so easy to come by, and at present I know of but one in print in this country that takes place altogether in diplomatic circles, "The Secret Envoy," a Washington, D. C., story by Maude Parker (Bobbs-Merrill). The heroine of "Peking Picnic," by Ann Bridge (Little, Brown), was married to an Orientalist attached to the British Legation. Other diplomatic novels will be welcomed.

THE Doubleday, Doran Book Shops in Broad Street Station, Philadelphia, have been asked for a book neither they nor I recognize, and if a reader of this department does so, please reply to the inquirer directly, to save time: A young married couple start on a trip around the world and stop off at the Canary Islands where their child is born; they stay six weeks and go on with the six-weeks-old baby. It was probably put out some two years ago.

WALTER KLINEFELTER, Glen Rock, Pa., announces the imminent appearance of a privately printed book that I am delighted to welcome. A good while ago Harry L. Smith, the distinguished librettist, wrote for a magazine long gone out of existence a story called "How Sherlock Holmes Solved the Mystery of Edwin Drood." I remember shouting for it in this column, considering it to be the best brief treatment of the best detective story in existence, and a masterly piece of double parody; the close, when Holmes has settled the case, dismissed Watson, and dug himself in for a happy evening alone—and as the sure means to happiness reaches for "Drood" to read it over again, is the one untouchable touch of Droodism. Now Mr. Klinefelter, who has already printed a lovely pamphlet about Pennsylvania Dutch cookery, restores this gem to the reading world. By permission of Lady Conan Doyle, a first edition of not more than 250 copies is offered at a modest price.

H. H. W., New York, asks for a book on Voodoo, to follow William Seabrook's "Voodos and Obeahs," by Joseph J. Williams, S. J. (Dial), follows "The Magic Island" so firmly that it steps, not without intention, all over its heels. The author has spent many years in research and six in Jamaica, and this book—of which there have been three printings since it appeared in December, 1932, is a well-motivated and carefully conducted scientific study of phases of West India witchcraft. It differentiates the origin and intentions of Myalism and Obeah, now often intermingled.

K. M. S., New Britain, Conn., asks for a list of books on Chicago, "the city, its dining places, and all that," also books on herb gardens. The latest book for intending visitors to the Century of Progress is "All about Chicago," by J. M. and Ruth Ashenhurst (Houghton Mifflin), a little book about the city past and present, with a chapter on the Exposition long enough and explicit enough to permit a visitor to plan his time to advantage before arrival. For little children there is an amusing guide to the children's part of the great show, "The Magic City," by Dorothy Aldis (Minton, Balch) in which a boy and a girl are escorted around the "enchanted island" and to the features in which children will be especially interested. As there is in every city a children's hidden city to which a separate guidebook could be written, it is no more than fair that the temporary metropolis on the Lake should have a guide to this district. For restaurants "and all that," try "Dining in Chicago," by John Drury (Day), and the same author's "Chicago in Seven Days" (McBride). There is a brilliant and amusing wall map of Chicago, by Chapman and Turzak, in five colors not counting local, published by Houghton Mifflin.

A list of books A list of books on Chicago in general should include at least a few other new arrivals, of which the largest is the box of four novelettes under the title "Old Chicago," by Mary Hastings Bradley (Appleton), the latest set to continue the series inaugurated by Edith Wharton's "Old New York." "Chicago's Great Century," by Henry Justin Smith (Consolidated Publishers), is a rapidly moving story of the city's history; it is especially interesting to follow his con-

trast of the two great Fairs. Everything that Mr. Smith writes about Chicago lives and breathes, but his "Deadlines" (Harcourt, Brace), a set of sketches of newspaper personalities, is already one of the classics of journalism. And "The Opera Murders," by Kirby Williams (Scribner), calls attention to the number of violent deaths possible to sopranos on the stage by mysteriously killing three in Chicago by like methods in a detective story.

As for the second question, "Gardening with Herbs," by Helen Morgenthau Fox (Macmillan), is the latest of the herb books, a large, comprehensive and inspiring manual, lovely to look at. "The Magic of Herbs," by Mrs. Lyell (Harcourt, Brace), is now out of print, but we have "The Fragrant Path," by Louise Beebe (Macmillan), which is all about sweet-scented flowers and leaves and is good for the old herbalists, and "The Scented Garden," by E. S. Rohde (Hale). These cost less than four dollars apiece and are freely illustrated. Your true amateur of gardening always manages somehow to buy books in his special field, like Durtal in J. K. Huysman's "The Oblate," who said to Mme. Bavoil, "The fact is, having a garden, I thought it would be wise to buy all sorts of horticultural dictionaries old and new; and thanks to the colored plates, I managed to identify each plant by name." This, by the way, is a curiously interesting novel. Dutton publishes it.

And K. V. V., Scarsdale, N. Y., says:

If Mr. Ben Douglas of Trevlac, Indiana, really wants to know about alkinet, an old "Gerard's Herbal," under the head of "bugloss," will tell him that "no good gentlewoman in the land that would do good should be without a store of bugloss ointment." JOHN OF ARDEN says, "The gentlewomen of France do paint their faces with it, using the roots." The color did not last long. The recipe for ointment sounds pretty bad, earth worms being one of the other ingredients. In Elizabethan days alkanet grew plentifully in 'the drie ditchbanks about Piccadilla' (Piccadilly). This is a slight digression from your department, but bypaths are often very pleasant.

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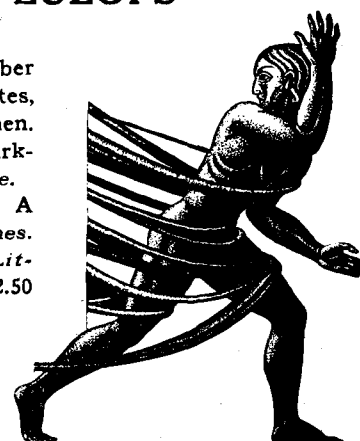
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News from the States

What the SATURDAY REVIEW most desires for this department is the pithy paragraph upon some significant matter, whether in relation to author's activities, book-selling 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 reports on poetry and painting from the state which has given birth to Herbert Hoover, Bruce Bliven of *The New Republic*, and that noted apiarist, Ruth Suckow. Her remarks on Grant Wood are just cryptic enough to stimulate our curiosity further. Will Mrs. Smith interview more of the friends of Mr. Wood who see "calves' livers and pigs' brains" lurking in the folds of his canvases? Doubtless she can find a whole packing house in Mr. Wood if she looks far enough:—

Grant Wood, Iowa painter, is holding a one man exhibit in a Chicago gallery this month. His work always attracts attention. Those ladies not caricatured in his D. A. R. and Iowa Gothic presentations profess to understand and admire his non-representative art, while strong men refuse to be "shushed" by apologetic wives. One such spoke of "calves' livers and pigs' brains" while looking at "Herbert Hoover's Birth Place" at a local gallery. Happily one man's meat may be fine art to the other members of his family. A most decorative interpretation of the hills around Cedar



Jacket Design by Grant Wood for the new edition of Vardis Fisher's "In Tragic Life" (Doubleday, Doran)

Anita Browne, founder and organizer of National Poetry Week, sends congratulations to the Iowa federation poetry chairman for being the first state chairman to set one day apart for honoring native poets. All Iowa Poetry Day was celebrated in Des Moines, May 27, with more than two hundred poets and writers of verse in attendance. KSO, the Des Moines Register radio station, broadcast poems by some of the best known Iowa poets outside of Des Moines, both afternoon and evening. Edwin Ford Piper contributed poems from "Barbed Wire and Other Poems." Janet Piper's *Saturday Review* of Literature poem of several weeks ago, "To My Son," was broadcast in a program completed by Don Farran, Gypsy poet of Hampton. Jay G. Sigmund of Cedar Rapids, Maude Ludington Cain, Marshalltown, James Hearst, Cedar Falls, Raymond Kresensky, Bellevue, Anthony F. Klinkner, Dubuque, Professor Clyde Tull and Jewell Bethueller Tull, Mt. Vernon, Mildred Fowler Field, Cedar Rapids, Sadie Seagrave, Oakdale, and Edward Rowan, president of the Little Galleries, Cedar Rapids. Des Moines poets were hosts, with the Register, KSO, Drake University, and the Iowa Press and Authors' Club co-operating. Forrest Spaulding, Des Moines Librarian, presided at the banquet, and Dr. D. W. Morehouse, president of Drake University and discoverer of Morehouse comet, presented the guests in the afternoon program. Tea was served by visiting poets and Faculty Dames in the Drake Lounge.

We were pleased to note that a poem by Arthur Davison Ficke, of Davenport and New York, had the place of honor in *The Saturday Review of Literature* at the beginning of National Poetry Week and that Janet Piper held that honor at the close of it. Mrs. Piper is the wife of Edwin Ford Piper, State University of Iowa, Iowa City. Paul Engle, Cedar Rapids, author of "Worn Earth," published in the Yale Series of Younger Poets, Co-editor with Harold Cooper of "West of the Great Waters," won the Century of Progress prize for his poem in *Harriet Monroe's* magazine, *Poetry*.

Rapids has been hung in the Jocelyn Museum in Omaha, and it is reported that Grant Wood has been secured to make the scenery for the Omaha presentation of a new play that portrays Brigham Young and his numerous wives during their residence in Council Bluffs, just across the river from Omaha.

MINNESOTA

A. Louis Orenstein, an assistant in the St. Paul Public Library, burrows through statistical data to reach some conclusions about reading habits in the years of the depression:

The tremendous, Bunyanesque leaps in book circulation shown by libraries throughout the country, due to increased leisure, enforced and otherwise, constitute a phenomenon worthy of interpretation.

For example, a comparison of circulation increases for the past five years in the central St. Paul Public Library reveals that the order of gains by class is as follows: fiction; magazines; sociology; music and the fine arts; language and literature; history; the industrial arts; the pure sciences; and biography. Several conclusions seem to be warranted by the findings. Recreational reading still remains the largest single class of reading. Most encouraging evidence is to be found in the great interest demonstrated in the fields of social and economic relationships, showing that people are seriously at-

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tempting to understand and grapple with present day problems. Finally, the trend toward increased reading in the cultural classes, such as literature, music, and the fine arts compares very favorably with that being done in the strictly vocational classes.

PERSONALS

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