

The Clearing House

Conducted by AMY LOVEMAN

Inquiries in regard to the choice of books should be addressed to Miss LOVEMAN, c/o *The Saturday Review*. A stamped and addressed envelope should be enclosed for reply.

IN PLACE OF TRESSES

UP from the South at the break of its new day spurted a virile and prolific literature as remote from the nostalgia and romanticism of the post-Civil War period as the rapidly unfolding industrial development of the section was from its earlier agrarianism. Gone were the ringletted maidens of George Cary Eggleston, the wide-porticoed mansions, the chivalrous and fire-eating colonels. In their place appeared the mountaineer, the mill hand, the plantation owner's descendant caught in the nexus of a new social order. The conflict between two traditions, the rich cultural material which all unbeknownst the Negro was contributing to American civilization, these suddenly began to engage the Southern writer's attention. A stream of fiction, poetry, criticism, shorn of the sentimentalism of an earlier era, began to pour from the Southern states. So rapid indeed was the development of Southern literature as to outpace the timeliness of books upon it. The reader who would discover its trend and personalities will find that he must turn at least in part to the magazines for light upon them. We have just culled from that invaluable directory to the ephemera of criticism, "The Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature," what seemed to us the most informative material on the subject for C. F. A. of *Sheffield, Ala.*, who has to prepare a club paper on Southern writers of the day. We feel a sort of proprietary interest in her paper, for we have a twelve hours' acquaintance with Sheffield, having once spent a night there en route to the neighboring Muscle Shoals. It is indelibly impressed upon our memory as a town which insistently rings bells as traffic signals, is brilliantly illuminated at night, and wears an air of constant rush because of its clanging trolleys. But that is neither here nor there. What's more to the point is that it's the home of T. S. Stribling, whose latest novel, "The Store," was awarded the Pulitzer Prize.

THE CRITICS LOOK AT SOUTHERN LITERATURE

By way of orienting herself, C. F. A. might consult, if it is available, and probably the local library has it, the *Wilson Bulletin* for April 30, 1930, which contains a list of present-day Southern writers arranged by states. She might follow that up with Donald Davidson's article in the *Bookman* of January, 1932, on the congress of Southern writers which met in Richmond shortly before that date, and supplement it with Josephine Pinckney's lively account of the same event in our own issue of November 7, 1931. There was a mighty talk fest, my countrymen, adjourned from public meeting to private house and from private house to public meeting. Mr. Davidson and Miss Pinckney were there not only as reporters but as participants, for the former is one of the ablest critics of the South, a member of the former *Fugitive* group of Vanderbilt University which gave that short-lived little magazine of poetry a national reputation, and the latter is a poet with a volume of graceful verse to her credit and one of the Charlestonians who have been enthusiastically cultivating the indigenous songs of their section. There's a booklet, by Addison Hibbard, entitled "The South in Contemporary Literature," issued by the University of North Carolina Press, which is probably just what C. F. A. needs, since it presents a program for women's clubs. The issue of the *Nation* for June 12, 1929, contained an article by G. W. Jacobs which under the caption, "Negro Authors Must Eat," presents information on the Negro in contemporary literature. Prentice-Hall issues a volume containing selections from Southern writers together with biographical sketches of them, edited by William T. Wynn, and called "Southern Literature," and there is a volume of "Southern Literary Studies" (University of North Carolina Press), by C. Alphonso Smith (biographer of O. Henry), edited by F. Stringfellow Barr. Though it does not bear directly upon her question we recommend to C. F. A. another book, "I'll Take My Stand" (Harpers), a symposium which cogently sets forth the points of view of a number of Southern writers.

CABELL, FAULKNER, AND OTHERS

And now for specific authors of whom we cannot pretend to mention more than a few of the most outstanding. Among

those are William Faulkner whose talent is as indubitable as his naturalism is brutal, Julia Peterkin—But we break off here to interject that we have had the good fortune to see in manuscript form a book which Robert Ballou is shortly to issue. It is a fascinating volume, combining Mrs. Peterkin's picturesque recital of the customs and manners of her plantation negroes with a series of remarkable photographs by Doris Ulmann. However, we ought not to indulge in such side discussions, but haste us back to business. There's Elizabeth Madox Roberts, whose "Time of Man," for all the sordidness of its tale, had so lovely a lyrical quality; Marist Chapman who, like Miss Roberts, writes of the mountaineers; Du Bose Heyward, Fielding Burke, Evelyn Scott, Thomas Wolfe, Stark Young, Jonathan Daniels. And, of course, of the older generation, there are those past masters and fellow Richmondiens, James Branch Cabell and Ellen Glasgow. We have merely scratched the surface of our subject, but dare not linger on it longer. If C. F. A. needs a more exhaustive list and will let us know, we'll draw one up and send it to her by mail.

SPANISH THRILLER AHOY!

By no transition at all we arrive at the request of H. A., of *Bristol, New Hampshire*, for a Spanish or Spanish-American book which might be regarded as a boy's thriller and which would incline a young American who already has a fairly good knowledge of the language, to read more Spanish. Since we've always believed that before he has reached the age of sixteen a child of any intelligence has passed the stage where juveniles should make appeal to him, we think that such a book as Ibañez's "Las Cuatro Jinetes del Apocalipsis"—the "Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse" we were all reading not so long ago—ought to provide him some happy hours. He might like, too, Luis de Oteyza's "Rio Revuelto," a tale of revolution and adventure in modern Spain, and La Gollados's classic story of adventure, "Fontana de Oro." And surely "Don Quixote" ought to meet his youthful fancy. Cervantes has something to offer to every one.

GROWTH OF THE SOCIAL ORDER

We confess ourselves somewhat puzzled as to just what M. D., of *Chicago*, wants when she asks for "material on service from individual to individual, from individual to community, and from community to community from the Greeks and Romans to our day." If, as we imagine, she means she wishes to get a bird's-eye view of social and sociological progress from early times to the present she will find a comprehensive account of the growth of the social order in "The Science of Society," by William Graham Sumner and Albert Galloway Keller, which was published originally in four volumes in 1927 and last year was condensed into "Man's Rough Road," by Mr. Keller (Yale University Press). Incidentally anyone reading it may be glad to know of a volume just issued by the same press which contains Mr. Keller's pen portrait of his friend and associate. M. D. will find further material of this sort in "Man and Civilization," by John Storck (Harcourt, Brace), an inquiry into the bases of contemporary life, in Sir George Newman's "Citizenship and the Survival of Civilization" (Oxford University Press), Donald C. Babcock's "Man and Social Achievement" and Joseph Kirk Folsom's "Culture and Social Progress" (both of the last published by Longmans, Green), and in "The Technique of Social Progress" by Hornell Hart (Holt). There are more—many more works on similar lines—if M. D. wants them. "We've got a little list," which we're keeping against the possibility of her requesting further names.

JAMES NORMAN HALL AGAIN

We have a self-styled gourmand amongst our readers. The particular tidbit which delights O. L. A., of *Lafayette, Ind.*, is the writings of James Norman Hall. Apropos of our recent note concerning Mr. Hall she writes us, "the last sketch in (Hall's) 'The Stream of Travel' (Houghton Mifflin) is 'Why I Live in Tahiti.'" While it does not state definitely why he went there, it does tell why he remains there, from which the former can be pretty well deduced. This sketch originally appeared in the *Atlantic Monthly* in 1925.

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CARL PURINGTON ROLLINS & JOHN T. WINTERICH

REFERENCE to the romantic possibilities inherent in the collecting of histories of units of the American Expeditionary Forces in this department last spring brought from Douglas MacKay of Winnipeg, Manitoba, a highly interesting commentary on Canadian battalion histories accompanied by a valuable detailed check-list. Mr. MacKay writes:

Having read your comments in the issue of April 22nd regarding the collecting of military unit histories, it occurs to me that you might find some interest in Canadian battalion histories.

The infantry battalions of the Canadian Expeditionary Corps were compact of eleven hundred men having intense local loyalties. During the course of the war, as many as six to eight thousand men frequently passed through the ranks of these units, yet so intense was the esprit de corps that irrespective of the unit in which a man had enlisted, it was to the battalion with which he had served in the line that he gave his personal loyalty.

Most of the overseas battalions had their origins in Canadian militia regiments, with the result that when the war was over there were in existence living organizations which gave continuity to the overseas battalions.

The official names of most of the militia regiments today carry some overseas battalion number, such as "The Governor General's Foot Guards" (perpetuating the 2nd Battalion C. E. F.) and "The Royal Highlanders of Canada" (perpetuating the 13th and 42nd Battalions). This structure enabled historical committees to be set up with reasonable hope of success in gathering together diaries, letters, etc. The Historical Section of the Department of National Defence, Ottawa, has been tirelessly patient in giving assistance to these battalion historians.

To date, fourteen histories of Canadian infantry battalions have appeared. There have been other chronicles of engineers, one of an artillery unit and two of hospital units. From the point of view of good history, some of the best of these chronicles have been published during the past three years, notably Colonel Topp's "History of the 42nd Battalion" (Royal Highlanders of Canada), 1931, Colonel Urquhart's "History of the 16th Battalion" (The Canadian Scottish) 1932, and Russenholz's "Six Thousand Canadian Men" (44th Battalion C. E. F.) 1932. Of course Hodder Williams' two volume history of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (1923) remains a model unit history even in British military-historical circles, where regimental histories are frequent and numerous. The histories issued just after the war are not for the most part good book-making, but what they lack in appearance, or in careful map making, they make up in gusto and vigorous, emotional quality.

Herewith a list of unit histories of Canada, including combatant and non-combatant services:

Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, 1914-1919. By Ralph Hodder Williams. Two volumes. Hodder & Stoughton, Toronto, Ont., 1923.

The 13th Battalion (Royal Highlanders of Canada), 1914-1919. By R. C. Fetherstonhaugh. Burtons, Limited, 597 St. Catherine St. W., Montreal, 1925.

The Royal Montreal Regiment, 14th Battalion, C. E. F., 1914-1925. By R. C. Fetherstonhaugh. Gazette Printing Co., Ltd., Montreal, 1927.

48th Highlanders of Canada (15th Battalion C. E. F.). By Kim Beattie. Southam Press, Toronto, 1932.

A History of the 16th Battalion. By Colonel Urquhart. Published by a Committee, Chairman: Colonel Cyrus Peck. Victoria, 1932.

24th Battalion, C. E. F. Victoria Rifles of Canada, 1914-1919. Edited and compiled by R. C. Fetherstonhaugh. Gazette Printing Co., Montreal, 1930.

Nova Scotia's Part in the War. (Contains history of 25th and 64th Battalions.) The Book Room, Halifax, 1920.

The 42nd Battalion C. E. F. Royal Highlanders of Canada in the Great War. By Lieut. Colonel C. B. Topp, D. S. O., M. C. Gazette Publishing Company, Montreal, 1931.

Six Thousand Canadian Men—A History of the 44th Battalion, 1914-1919. Edited by E. R. Russenholz. 44th Bat-

talion Association, Winnipeg, 1932.

History of the 72nd Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders of Canada. By Bernard McEvoy and Captain A. H. Findlay, M. C. Cowan and Brookhouse, Vancouver, B. C., 1920.

The 77th Canadian Infantry Battalion, C. E. F. War Publications Limited, Jackson Building, Ottawa, Ont., 1926.

The 85th Canadian Infantry Battalion, Nova Scotia Highlanders, in France and Flanders. By Lieut. Colonel Joseph Hayes, D. S. O. Royal Print & Litho, Ltd., Halifax, N. S. 1920.

102nd Canadian Infantry Battalion. "From B. C. to Baiseux." By L. McLeod Gould. Thomas R. Cussack Presses, Victoria, B. C., 1919.

History of the 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles Battalion. By Captain S. G. Bennett, M. C. Murray Printing Co., Toronto, 1926.

"Gun Fire. An Historical Narrative of the 4th Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery, in the Great War (1914-1918). Compiled by the 4th Brigade, C. F. A., Association. Greenway Press, Toronto, Ont., 1929.

From the Rideau to the Rhine and Back. The 6th Field Co. and Battalion, Canadian Engineers, in the Great War. By Major K. Weatherbe, M. C. Hunter-Rose Co., Ltd., Toronto, Ont. 1928.

No. 3 Canadian General Hospital (McGill) 1914-1919. By R. C. Fetherstonhaugh. Gazette Printing Co. Montreal, P. Q., 1928.

Historical Records of Number 8 Canadian Field Ambulance 1915-1919. By Lieut. Colonel J. N. Gunn and Staff Sergt. E. E. Dutton. Ryerson Press, Toronto, Ont., 1920.

A Friend of Poe

FROM an obscure memoir of Captain Mayne Reid written by Reid's widow and published in London forty-three years ago Vincent Starrett has resurrected Reid's account of Edgar Allan Poe, based on an acquaintance that began in Philadelphia in 1843 and lasted two years. The extract, some two thousand words in extent, and accompanied by an introductory note by Mr. Starrett, has been adequately reprinted as a sixteen-page pamphlet at Ysleta, Texas, by Edwin B. Hill.

Reid's account of Poe is tantalizingly generalized. One watches Virginia Clemm, "a lady angelically beautiful in person and not less beautiful in spirit," as she "divested of their skins" a bottle of peaches, "the choicest gifts of Pomona," but one is vouchsafed no such specific glimpse of her husband. We are, to be sure, informed that when in his cups (and he was of that singularly unfortunate type to whom a single cup is enough) Poe would often lose his hat, but this characteristic is hardly the touchstone of genius.

The main value of Reid's recollection is its testimony to this very failing—not the losing of hats, but the easy submergence in alcohol. "I can speak truly of its not being habitual; only occasional, and drawn out by some accidental circumstance—now disappointment; now the concurrence of a social crowd, whose flattering friendship might lead to champagne." Reid knew Poe, in sum, as "a generous host, an affectionate son-in-law and husband; in short, a respectable gentleman." The defects in the portrait are Reid's own; his language, as Mr. Starrett says, is "typically florid and over-sentimentalized." But beneath the defects is a warm, loyal, honest admiration for the man and the genius.

J. T. W.

A Dartmouth Venture

THE Arts Press, founded this year by students of Dartmouth College, who do their own printing, designing, and distributing, has so far completed three out of its projected series of four booklets, called The Art Chapbooks, which sell for fifty cents the copy. The first Chapbook was an anthology of "Dartmouth Verse, 1922-1932"; the second, an "Apology for Book Collecting," by Herbert Faulkner West; the Scherzo movement of a long narrative poem by Ramon Guthrie, entitled "The Proud City." The fourth Chapbook, to be printed during May, will be a Symposium of opinion on the gigantic

series of frescoes now being painted in the Dartmouth College Library by Jose Clemente Orozco.

Alexander Laing is faculty adviser to the venture, which is edited by Kimball Flaccus. James Benson, a Junior, supervises the Press and does the printing.

J. T. W.

The New Books

(Continued from page 136)

FICTION

The Campanile Murders. W. Chambers. Apple. \$2. The Cannery Boat. Takaji Kobayashi. International. \$1.50. We Are the Living. E. Caldwell. Vik. \$2. Ordinary Families. E. A. Robertson. Doubleday. \$2.50. Tiger Juan. Ramon de Perez de Ayala. Macmill. \$2. The Outsider. S. Macdonald. Coward. \$2. Summer People. F. H. Lead. Dodd. \$2. The Quick and the Dead. G. Bullett. Knopf. \$2. The Forsyte Saga. J. Galsworthy. Scrib. \$3. To a God Unknown. J. Steinbeck. Ballou. \$2. Julian Grant Loses His Way. C. Houghton. Doubleday. \$2.50. Retrospect: An Omnibus of Aldous Huxley. Doubleday. \$2.50. The Smiths. J. A. Fairbanks. Houghton. \$2.50. Old-Fashioned Tales. Zona Gale. Apple. \$2.50. Leave the Salt Earth. R. W. Hatch. Covici. \$2.25.

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POETRY

Planet Descending. L. C. Prescott. Philadelphia: Poetry Publishers. \$1.75.

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