

The New Books

Belles Lettres

THE ART OF HAPPINESS. By Henry Dwight Sedgwick. Bobbs-Merrill. 1933. \$2.

Mr. Sedgwick, who is perhaps best known for his colorful biographies of such figures of history as Henry of Navarre, Cortes, Lafayette, the Black Prince, as well as a study of the life of Alfred de Musset, has given us a very gentle and persuasive study of Epicurus and his way of life. In a way very different from Anatole France's thoughtful excursion into the "Garden of Epicurus" he has taken us back to the fourth century B.C. and shown us not the selfish, pleasure-loving figure as commonly conceived, but rather a wise-counselling sage amid his delightful surroundings, one for whom he has a deep sympathy and a rather adequate understanding.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Sedgwick has given us such a readable book that there is danger of being carried away by its suave style to the neglect of some of its underlying assumptions. It is assumed by him that the Epicurean is egoistic and is at least honest about admitting it. Be that as it may, egoism is not always synonymous with Epicureanism, not all egoists are possessed of Epicurean charm! Nor, on the other hand, are all non-Epicureans as hypocritical about their little store of altruism as he would have us think. Furthermore, he has not made adequate refutation of the time-honored argument against hedonism that it does not produce real nobility of character; in other words, there is no roll-call of heroes among the hedonists. Indeed, he admits, that "if all the world were to become Epicurean, courageous heroism would cease."

E. D.

Fiction

LIFE IN THE UNITED STATES. By various authors. Scribner's. 1933. \$2.50.

Here is a book not undeserving of its somewhat expansive title. Of late Scribner's Magazine has been publishing short sketches submitted for a prize offered for "the best article representing a first-hand experience or observation of American life," hoping by "appealing directly to those who were not professional writers to discover a more wholesome and contented picture of life than the work of the foremost writers suggested." Twenty-seven contributions out of 4,500 offered were bought, and are here presented; and an amazingly good lot they are.

It must be observed, however, that a great many of them (including the prize winner, Frances Woodward Prentice's "Oklahoma Race Riot") are the work of professional writers; and while no doubt they are based on first-hand experience or observation most of them have been worked over into the form of fiction. This type of fictional sketch, deriving from Gorki and Chekhov, was first popularized in this country by the Mercury; but if Mencken planted, Dashiell and Perkins watered, and may congratulate themselves on the increase. For whether these twenty-seven narratives are fact or fiction, they are all good reading; and they do present a varied and in many respects a novel picture of American life.

Not that they could be called particu-

larly contented, except by contrast with Faulkner and the like; and their wholesomeness is mostly that of truth rather than of any tendency toward optimism. The prize story and two or three others deal with the race problem; Ruth Crawford's "The Jersey Devil Came" treats of technological unemployment; Connie McCrae's "Five Kids from the East Side" sprouts from a more permanent type of poverty, and Sarah-Elizabeth Rodger's "Florida Interlude" pictures the disastrous boom in Miami.

Along with that, however, you have the pure comedy of Owen Francis's "The Ladies Call on Mr. Pussick," the more sophisticated comedy of Rion Bercovici's "A Radical Childhood," and an old-fashioned American pioneer story in Mary Hesse Hartwick's second-prize contribution, "Hills of Home." And even if you have just risen from an epicure's dinner, you won't be able to read Edward Hilt's "Drummer's Rest" without a watering of the mouth.

E. D.

VULNERABLE. By Dale Collins. Bobbs-Merrill. 1933. \$1.50.

This book does not, as might be supposed, add to the current congestion of revelations on the inner workings of "Contract Bridge." The fateful and ruthless cards, on the other hand, are collectively pictured as constituting the major villain of a story of the high seas, in that a card game of one kind or another is directly responsible for each of a long series of catastrophes on shipboard, ranging from unrequited love to the extermination of a "Bridge" partner guilty of excessive criticism.

The novelty of the theme does not compensate for a bewildering crudeness of style, and an exaggerated plot, which achieves increasing action, but is without the benefit of any logical development.

GOD'S TENTH. By Doreen Wallace. Harper. 1933. \$2.

Here is a book with a double interest, and this reviewer enjoyed it chiefly as a commentary on the news. English agriculture seems to be as badly off as American agriculture, with one added burden that makes its plight even worse—the tithe system that lays on a single industry the support of the national Church, as well as of shrewd investors who bought tithe rights in times past. Protests against this state of things have lately broken into the cable dispatches, and "God's Tenth" shows you why; the auction at which Laura Harden's neighbors gather to make sure that there shall be no serious bids for her stock sold off to cover the tithe she could not and would not pay reads like the story of a foreclosure sale in Iowa. But English law has another recourse apparently unknown in this country; and the English are a peaceful lot, who only hope meekly that injustice may be corrected after all its present victims are dead.

As a propagandist editorial "God's Tenth" is highly effective; as a novel it is very ably done, but whether you will find it good reading depends on your taste. Laura, a London intellectual of the familiar type whose appreciations and aspirations outrun its capacity, was teaching in the English equivalent of a township high

(Continued on next page)

THE \$20,000 PRIZE NOVEL

“Amplify justifies the award.” —Edward Weeks, Atlantic Monthly

NO SECOND SPRING

By JANET BEITH

“A notable prize novel.” —Amy Loveman, The Saturday Review

“A very convincing and beautiful picture.” —N. Y. Herald Tribune

“An exquisite piece of work.” —Gertrude Atherton

“A charming love story . . . Important.” —Heywood Brown

“A distinctive contribution to fiction.” —North American Review

“Will stir the reader to the depths.” —Virginia Kirkus, Ladies Home Journal

STOKES \$2.50

Sigrid Undset



author of Kristin Lavransdatter, and Nobel Prize winner, writes a novel of modern marriage, dealing with the problem of a woman who is burdened with a worthless husband. Divorce is not the solution. What is? Read this warmly human story. It is neither historical in scene nor religious in implication, but thoroughly of today, complete in itself, and another monument to Mme. Undset.

IDA ELISABETH

432 pages \$2.50

ALFRED · A · KNOPF PUBLISHER · N · Y ·

The Criminal Record			
The Saturday Review's Guide to Detective Fiction			
Title and Author	Crime, Place, and Sleuth	Summing Up	Verdict
THE CURTAIN OF STORM Joseph Gollomb (Macmillan: \$2.)	Galt (the Goldfish) psychologist - detective follows perturbed lady through storm-swept Times Square to gruesome murder on East Side.	Whether it was murder, mayhem or what isn't too plain, but the gaudy language and highfalutin' proceedings are swell.	Exotic
THE WOMAN WITH TWO SMILES Maurice Leblanc (Macaulay: \$2.)	Eternally re-appearing master crook Arsène Lupin here solves 15-year old "murder," saves jewels and lovely girl.	"Double exposure" affair of two girls is bad enough, but explanation of aged killing is just too much.	Pooh!
DRURY LANE'S LAST CASE Barnaby Ross (Viking: \$2.)	Theft of rare book from N. Y. museum leads from 1933 to 1599, involves Drury Lane, Inspector Thumm and pretty daughter.	Baffling clues buried in intellectual atmosphere of scholars and librarians. Guaranteed to mystify Drury Lane fans to bitter end.	Read it

13 AT DINNER

The new mystery story

by Agatha Christie

author of  
The Murder of Roger Ackroyd  
The Mystery of the Blue Train  
Peril at End House

DODD, MEAD \$2.00





## FREE—A Guide to GOOD READING for YOUR CHILDREN

An illustrated descriptive list of new books for boys and girls, classified by ages to make selection easy and insure your children having the best in reading, will be sent anywhere FREE upon request by Frederick A. Stokes Company, publishers of good books for children for over 50 years. Brief descriptions of a few new titles follow:

### Coming October 19th DOCTOR DOLITTLE'S RETURN

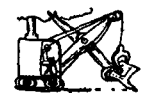


By **Hugh Lofting**  
Every child will be delighted to know that Doctor Dolittle is back again. The beloved Doctor has just ridden in from the moon, and has a wonderful story to tell. All ages \$2.00

### THE PLAY-BOOK OF WORDS

By **Prescott Lecky**  
An entirely new idea. Pictures to make children think about words. Recommended by leading educators. Ages 6-10 \$1.50

### A STEAM SHOVEL FOR ME



By **Vera Edlstat**  
"Alive from cover to cover. Thoroughly original. A unique and fascinating book for little children."—*Anne Carroll Moore*. Ages 6-11 \$1.50

### DADDY'S ADVENTURE with THE ANIMALS

By **Helen Fuller Orton**  
Daddy goes fishing and brings home a bag full of animal adventures. By the author of *The Treasure in the Little Trunk*. Ages 5-8 \$1.00

### THE MYSTERY OF BLACK PEARL ISLAND

By **Gunby Hadath**. A grand yarn of sea adventure by the author of *Mystery Cross*. Ages 12-16 \$1.75

**GAY SOEURETTE**  
By **Ada Claire Darby**. A pioneer story of old Louisiana. Ages 8-12 \$1.75

**PICTURE TALES from the FRENCH**  
By **Simone Chamoud**. Genuine French folk-tales. Ages 7-10 \$1.25

**JAPANESE HOLIDAY PICTURES**  
By **Chiyo-no Sugimoto**. Folk-tales in a modern story. Ages 8-12 \$1.50

**CARD GAMES FOR CHILDREN**  
By **Vernon Quinn**. 50 favorite games in the only book of its kind. Ages 8-14 \$1.00

**WHAT O'CLOCK TALES**  
By **Laurence Housman**. Stories of magical plot and adventure. Ages 8-12 \$2.00

**THE MYSTERY CLUB**  
By **Elinor Whitney**. A mystery story as thrilling as life itself can be. Ages 12-16 \$1.75

Send this coupon today for the FREE helpful guide to good books for children.

FREDERICK A. STOKES CO.,  
443 Fourth Avenue, New York  
Please send me FREE your new illustrated catalogue of good books for boys and girls. S. R.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

## The Children's Bookshelf

By KATHERINE ULRICH

**"CHIP: MY LIFE AND TIMES,"** (Harcourt, Brace: \$1.75) is the tale, as overheard by Louis Untermyer, of a robust, hard-living chipmonk whose early adventures start in a gilded cage among the "savages." (The writer in a P.S. confesses that it was he who imprisoned chip in the canary's deserted castle.) Chip escapes, and escapes again and again from perilous predicaments which are the natural lot of a chipmonk endowed with real dash and courage. Furthermore he is the first chipmonk fortunate enough to have had the skilful Mr. Untermyer "overhear" his story.

He should be justly proud of such an autobiography. It will delight younger children and grown-ups who read aloud will find it a pleasure. The book, amusingly illustrated by Vera Neville plus some sketches by the author, is unusually attractive in appearance and format.

Another book for younger children of exceptional quality is "The Handsome Donkey," by Mary Gould Davis (Harcourt: \$1.75). The plot has to do with Smug Baldassarre, an Italian donkey of fine appearance whose courageous saving of his master's life wins him the admiration and acclaim of the entire village including that of Teddy, an American born dachshund (and a particularly nice dog) who had previously found Baldassarre's pompous pride well nigh unbearable. The slender book, gaily pictured by Emma Brock, is outstanding because the story is told by a master of the story telling art, whose knowledge and appreciation of Italy warm every page. It is another good "read-aloud."

"Cinder," by Eleanor Youmans (Bobbs-Merrill: \$1), is a straightforward unpretentious account of a black and tan toy terrier's eventful experiences which include among others, a puppyhood runaway, an encounter with a flood, and a stage career. Cinder's story, as well as her belief in and devotion to her master, are frankly dramatized but the author never assumes that gushy, sentimental attitude too often found in books by humorless "dog lovers" which set the teeth of every dog respecter right on edge. That, alas, is the tone throughout of an un-from-runt-through-constant-bravery-and-loyalty-to-devoted-friends tale of a Scottie, "Mr. M. Tavish," told and drawn by Marion Bullard (Dutton: \$1).

"From the Jungle to the Zoo," by Charles Person (Stephen Day Press: \$1.50), is a true story about two jungle children, Janet Penseroso, the New York zoological Park's now six year old gorilla and her dear friend, Ellen Allegro, chimpanzee—how they came to the zoo and what their life there is. Dr. W. Reed Blair, Director of the Zoological Park, has read and endorsed the book. The many entertaining photographs of the girls are copyrighted by the New York Zoological Society.

"Animals All," by Harper Cory (Scribners: \$1.75), contains guaranty of interesting photographs of the most spectacular kinds of wild animals. The material is well organized. A short informative text tells about the different animal families, the differences and similarities of the numbers of each group, their habits, etc.

The pictures ably illustrate and amplify the text.

"Strange Animals," by Ralph and Fredrica De Solo (Scribners: \$1.50), is an introduction to some of the globe's most extraordinary animals. To quote the word of an authority: Dr. Raymond L. Ditmars says in a brief foreword to the book, "They [the authors] have pictured twenty-five animals that represent what are known as the five great classes of vertebrates, or backboneed animals. Thus this book with its pictures serves as a guide to the portals of the world of animal habits, and also gives a glimpse inside." Effective, full page drawings by Norman Bornhardt face each descriptive page.

Mothers who find it difficult to persuade their children to like junket, and children who like junket, and children who can't be beguiled into liking junket will all surely like "Junket Is Nice" by Dorothy Kunhardt (Harcourt, Brace: \$1.) Everyone in the world thronged to see the old man who liked junket engaged on his meal, and all of them guessed wrong the riddle he propounded as to what he was thinking about. Only the little boy on the velocipede knew, and he won the proper reward for his good sense. Miss Kunhardt has told her tale in merry wise, with gay and amusing illustrations to enforce her yarn.

## The New Books

(Continued from preceding page)

school when she met a semi-gentleman farmer whom she presently married, not because she loved him but because she thought that as his wife she would have leisure to write. Naturally she never did, nor does Miss Wallace pretend that what she wrote would have been worth anything. Indeed, she is under no illusions about her heroine, whose rotten temper is as frankly disclosed as her sexual frigidity. Laura was shrewish, Anthony was obtuse; and the result is three hundred pages of marital wrangling interrupted only by agrarian disaster.

Very well done, of course, if you care for that sort of thing. Laura was conscientious and industrious; disappointed in her own expectations, she did what had to be done, and became an excellent wife and mother. Very well painted is the slow growth of that peculiar married emotion that is certainly not love but is more stable and perhaps in some respects more satisfying. But though Laura was an admirable and valuable helpmeet, she was hell to live with, and it will need a reader of fortitude to live with her for three hundred pages.

E. D.

## Science

**SCIENTIFIC THEORY AND RELIGION.**  
By Ernest W. Barnes. Macmillan. 1933. \$4.

The Bishop of Birmingham is one of England's most challenging clergymen. A former mathematician at the University of Cambridge, he has taken advantage of the Gifford Lectures to bring his scientific knowledge and religious faith together. His straightforward manner appears at the very outset with 192 pages devoted to the theory of relativity in which mathematical proofs are included. This is followed by a longer section, written more in the manner of a university text than the popular style of contemporary scientists, on such subjects as The Electrical Theory of Matter, Heat and Light, and The Galac-

tic Universe. It appears, after the intoxicating theology from English physicists, that we must turn to an English theologian for some sober physics. The biological section is equally lengthy and precise. It is followed by a brief, sketchy chapter on the philosophical status of natural knowledge. Less than one-ninth of the book is devoted at the end to ethical and religious matters. This is the first treatise written by a theologian to exhibit the type of scientific knowledge necessary for the barest of attempts at intellectual leadership in our time. Unfortunately the book fails in its major purpose because the philosophical capacity necessary to make effective use of the science which is amassed, is lacking.

F. S. C. N.

## Latest Books Received

**BELLES LETTRES**  
*Pictured Story of English Literature.* J. W. Cunliffe. Appleton. \$5.

**BIOGRAPHY**  
*First to Go Back.* I. Skariatina. Bobb. \$2.75.  
*Sand Dollars.* K. B. Ripley. Harcourt. \$2.  
*Sarah Bernhardt.* G. G. Keller. Stokes. \$2.75.  
*Poor Splendid Wings.* F. Winwar. Little, Br. \$3.50.  
*Richard Harding Davis and His Day.* F. Downey. Scrib. \$3.  
*Memoirs of a Spy.* N. Snowden. Scrib. \$2.75.  
*Along This Way.* J. W. Johnson. Vik. \$3.50.

**JUVENILE**  
*The Boys' Book of Newsreel Hunters.* I. Crump. Dodd. \$2.  
*Stone Knife Boy.* A. S. Malkus. Harcourt. \$2.  
*Hangman's Holiday.* D. L. Sayers. Harcourt. \$2.  
*Lincoln Plays.* Selected A. P. Sanford. Dodd. \$2.50.  
*Seldom and the Golden Cheese.* J. Schrank. Dodd. Mead. \$2.  
*The Young People's Story of Architecture.* E. H. Butterfield. Dodd. \$3.  
*Uncle Sam's Government at Washington.* G. L. Knapp. Dodd. \$2.  
*The Handsome Donkey.* M. G. Davis. \$1.75.  
*Chip: My Life and Times.* L. Untermyer. Harcourt. \$1.75.  
*The Train Book.* W. C. Pryor. Harcourt. \$1.  
*Mr. Gold and Her Neighborhood House.* L. M. Weber. Little, Br. \$2.  
*Man's Long Climb.* M. Lansing. Little, Br. \$1.75.  
*The Friendly Shepherdess.* B. Spofford. Little, Br. \$1.25.  
*The Half Deck.* G. H. Grant. Little, Br. \$2.  
*Hills of Gold.* K. Grey. Little, Br. \$2.  
*Children's History of Israel.* I. Kishor. New York: Jordan Pub. Co. 3 vols. *Naturecraft Creatures.* J. W. Lippincott and G. J. Roberts. Lippin. \$1.50.

**POETRY**  
*The Dark Hills Under.* S. Barker. Yale Univ. Pr. \$2.  
*Let Us Dream.* D. Blending. Dodd. \$2.

"I was afraid of love,

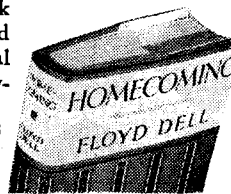
and fell into it, and learned its joys and its griefs; I took a long time finding out what I was like, what I wanted out of life, and how to get it; I was poor, lucky, despairing, happy; I hated and loved the world I lived in; I had joy in my work, and in my thoughts; and life became more interesting, larger, and deeper, with every year that passed; out of all this it seemed to me that I had learned something. That is the life I intend to write about—the life of the one human being that I know best."—from the preface by

## FLOYD DELL

to his autobiography  
**HOMECOMING**

Here at last is the story behind the writing of *Mooncalf* and *Janet March* . . . not the story of a writer, but the full, rich outspoken story of a man. It is witty and moving and speaks wisely of love. A book full of faith and courage and a real philosophy of living.

Just published, \$3  
FARRAR & RINEHART



**TABLE OF CONTENTS**  
Fool's Paradise  
Child Stole  
Yellow Curls  
Egotism  
Elsie and Inza  
Money vs. Heroin  
Work and Play  
Ideas, Friendship and Love  
Being a Poet  
Spirits from the Vast  
Deep  
Hall and Farewell  
My Friend Fritz  
Cub Reporter  
Civic Efforts  
The Making of a Bohemian  
Anthology  
Idyll  
Premonitions  
Nineteen-Twelve  
Greenwich Village  
War as a Background  
Life at Thirty  
Alarums and Confusions  
Marriage  
'Felix Fay'  
Homecoming  
Paternity

Be sure to read ANTHONY ADVERSE

Here speaks the Maid of Manhattan,  
A. D. 1933.



Her illusions of the heart and disillusion of the head are recorded in these sprightly, gay and slightly sardonic verses. Like her first book, they have the pick-me-up quality of a cocktail blended of equal parts of *joie-de-vivre*, sophistication, and cynicism.

## OUT OF MY HEAD

By MARGARET FISHBACK, author of "I Feel Better Now"

\$2 DUTTON