

# The New Books

## Fiction

**RED MACAW.** By Phoebe Haggard. Scribners. 1934. \$2.

Of only mediocre value as a novel, this book has the sort of interest you can sometimes find in the *National Geographic Magazine*. It is the history of the first hundred years of an estate in the Brazilian interior, tied together by the biography of a century-old macaw whose broken wing kept her in the vicinity of the house; and of a negro slave, Philomena, who lived almost as long as her feathered friend, and died with her.

In 1800, when the cousins José and Joao Fernandez brought a cargo of slaves from the Guinea Coast and chopped themselves a plantation out of the jungle of Minas Geraes, there was no check on the rights of the master; he could kill a slave or kill his wife without question. The early chapters are a tale of horror—vicious and superfluous human bestiality superimposed on the cruelty of the jungle. By the end of the century manners had moderated, great plantations were no longer profitable, and the slaves were free, without knowing what to do with their freedom. Apparently without intention, the book conforms in some respects to the canons of the proletarian novel; there is less interest in any individual than in an oppressed class—its sufferings, its pathetic submission, its tenacious survival. But the real protagonist is the atmosphere of the tropical jungle—merciless and murderous, but counteracted by the tropical fertility and vitality not only of animals and vegetation, but of the maltreated negroes. A strange and sometimes awkward book, but worth reading.

E. D.

**ALL THE SKELETONS IN ALL THE CLOSETS.** By Keith Fowler. Macaulay. 1934. \$2.50.

In a New York 1934 version of one of civilization's oldest rackets, three callous rascals issue a blackmailing sheet called *The Social Arbiter*. Hundreds of dollars were extracted from struggling bankers and merchants in return for ludicrous adulation (with pictures) in the pages of the magazine. But the thousands came from the climbers who were trying to force their way into the Four Hundred, and could afford no unfavorable publicity. Ultimately a group of the victims got together and gave the district attorney enough evidence to send two of the rascals to jail; the third was too stupid, the law decided, to be worth bothering with. At any rate, *The Social Arbiter* was done for, and a great many small souls rested more quietly.

This unedifying narrative is a compendium of petty blackmailing tricks, a study of methodology in the half world of ratty confidence men. Mr. Fowler knows his cheap crooks; he delivers their talk and their manners to us with little or no regard for our possible sensibilities. There

is an air of verisimilitude about the book so long as it deals with anti-social activities, but when Mr. Fowler introduces his good citizens—Tom O'Malley and his daughter Pat, Mrs. Ramage, and Jimmy Calvert—the feeling of truth is absent. These people who are morally estimable are stuffed with literary sawdust and tend to annoy us. That is a fault in Mr. Fowler's work; it is not, surely, intentional. But the fact remains that most of the bad people are good characters, and though we are jolted by their speech and actions, they themselves are usually enjoyable.

Thus, "All the Skeletons in All the Closets" is an uneven story, sometimes dully conventional, sometimes entertainingly raw and brutal. At its best, it depicts low tricks played on stupid people; and when it rolls most shamelessly in the gutter it has the most vitality.

R. B.

**NIGHT SHIFT.** By Richard Blaker. Appleton-Century. 1934. \$2.

Richard Blaker always has a plot better than the average, and characters far more out of the ordinary run than the characters of most novels; but plot and characters never satisfy him. He must get behind them, probe into the tangle of motives, interactions, causations; every one of his novels is a metaphysical research. In "Night Shift" he glorifies extrovert mechanics, men concerned with tangible things and not with analysis, relations, explanations—which he contemptuously calls "a sort of yapping and blinking and choking and sneezing in the dust raised by one's heels." Yet in every page he shows himself as a man incurably interested in relations and only indifferently concerned with tangibles.

But readers with no taste for metaphysics will find an excellent story in "Night Shift," and with it a picture of life in a suburban London garage operated on a twenty-four hour basis which is almost as carefully exact as if it had been done by Sinclair Lewis. Winter, the day foreman, despising the human race and given to snooping into what did not concern him, was always delighted when he found evidence that his worst suspicions were justified; and he presently found such evidence about the lovely Mrs. Hudson, one of the garage's customers. But Hales, the night foreman, adored Mrs. Hudson with an inarticulate and altruistic devotion—and Hales at the moment was a nervous wreck, worn down by the sufferings of his wife who was dying with cancer; distinctly not a man to trifle with, as Winter did with his repeated malicious jibes at Mrs. Hudson. Out of this record of a neurasthenic's distorted reaction to his environment there leaps a tragedy, as sudden and unforeseen as some of those you read about in the newspapers; and into the situation created by the tragedy steps the owner of the garage, a god from

the machine who saves the situation by an act perfectly in character. Read it simply as a story and you will get your money's worth; but it was not simply as a story that Richard Blaker conceived it.

E. D.

**BROKEN MUSIC.** By Morna MacTaggart. Dutton. 1934. \$2.50.

Miss MacTaggart's story is a likable, sensitive, sincere, and thoroughgoing picture of a marriage between a nice, middle-class English girl and a young German of corresponding background. The Marvells lived in their own house in the country—Mr. Marvell having brought his family down to Somerset when he felt able to retire from his job in the City. The Eckharts lived in a comfortable flat in one of the German university towns, with a river flowing just underneath the windows. Emily was like any number of other well-brought-up English girls, fond of the country, already engaged to a nice boy of her own sort, although not wildly excited about it, when along came Kurt, with his Doctor's thesis on Wordsworth, sympathetically taking a summer bicycle trip through the English countryside. The engagement was broken, Emily and Kurt were married, and went back to Germany, where he was going to teach English literature in the university.

That was before the war. The novel follows them into middle-age—first readjustments; the coming of the two children; the war, to which Kurt had to go, and all that it brought in suffering, strain, and divided loyalties; and even goes on (for Miss MacTaggart is nothing if not thorough) into the lives and loves of the second generation, with their son married to a German girl and settled in New York and the daughter back in England, married to a young London newspaperman.

Although "Broken Music" has the flow, variety, and humor of a very readable novel, and quite stands on its own feet as such, it suggests at times those records of personal experience, of homesteader's wives, women rice-planters, and the like, occasionally published in the *Atlantic Monthly*. The domestic detail is so affectionately and plausibly painted in, that is to say, that one has the feeling of following something more than a fictional record. The reader wouldn't be surprised to hear that Joyce, Emily's novelist-sister, who enters the narrative from time to time, bore some relation in life to Miss MacTaggart herself.

A. R.

**A STORM IS RISING.** By George Dyer. Houghton Mifflin. 1934. \$2.

Nothing is harder to find than a good novel of action, in which there is excitement without outrage to the laws of probability or rhetoric; but such a find is "A Storm Is Rising." It describes a terrifyingly plausible attempt at a Communist revolution, to be made by paralyzing four or five of the principal cities and holding them as hostages against the rest of the country. In New York, for instance, a handful of men are to destroy the public services, smash the means of getting off the island, blow up most of Wall Street as the whiff of grapeshot that shows they mean business, and then wait for the hamstrung giant to come to terms. The entire conspiracy (if one grants the author his base of operations, a castle fortified by the eccentricity of a dead millionaire, which seems more appropriate to Mr. Dornford Yates's Austria than to Pennsylvania) is altogether too probable, and the means by which it is frustrated are probable also. The conspirators accidentally arouse the suspicion of a group of young people, their neighbors, whom Mr. Dyer has managed to make gallant and humorous without making them as offensively rollicking about saving their country as such characters sometimes are; and by the narrowest possible margin they prevent the coup d'état at the end of 1931.

For this book is original in being laid not in the immediate future, but the immediate past; and the reader feels an extra shiver when it is explained how near he came to destruction, and never knew it. It may be objected to the novel that the specific suspense might begin earlier; the communists spend rather a long time in being sinister in a general way before they reveal the extent of our danger; but no one could wish more suspense than he gets before the book ends. As the White King very justly said, there are better things than hay, but there is nothing like it; and though there are better kinds of literature, every one has times when nothing takes the place of a book of this kind; and of this kind, this is a first-rate piece of work.

B. D.

**BROTHERS AND LOVERS.** By John Hampson. Farrar & Rinehart. 1934. \$2.50.

Mr. Hampson's American publishers, not unreasonably wanting to change his English title of "Strip Jack Naked," were rather unhappy in their choice of a substitute; especially as it moves them to hail him as "the heir-apparent of D. H. Lawrence in English letters." This is the story of Ted Borlay, working in his father's store in an English midland city, and pathologically devoted to his older brother Alf. Alf's intended marriage sets him spiritually adrift; but when Alf is killed in an accident, leaving a pregnant fiancée, Ted steps into the breach and marries her, and through the responsibilities and joys of matrimony eventually sets himself psychologically on his own feet. It is a pleasant little story, told in the main with an effective simplicity; but if Mr. Hampson is the heir, apparent or otherwise, of D. H. Lawrence, this reviewer is the greatest secretary of the Treasury since Alexander Hamilton.

E. D.

## Miscellaneous

**CRIMINAL LAW IN ACTION.** By John Barker Waite. Sears. 1934.

We live in an era in which established institutions and procedures are subject to constant questioning. It is no longer enough that something has been, it must meet the requirements of a new appraisal. "Criminal Law in Action" is an intelligent exposition of our present methods of procedure which are supposed to control crime. Mr. Waite has treated the subject in a scientific, yet popular, manner.

This book touches upon most of the shortcomings and problems of the criminal law. It discusses the lack of any clear-cut philosophy regarding the theory on which our criminal law proceeds.

Innumerable technicalities of the law are pointed out. The fetishes of judicial form and procedure are discussed. In a chapter entitled "The Law: Safeguards,"

(Continued on next page)



## Sent to a Madhouse Each Time He Fell in Love!

His intentions were honorable but his technique of courtship was as insanely conceived as his attempts to reform the world. This curious little Scotsman, author of the great Concordance to the Bible, is the ever amusing subject of a fascinating biography by Edith Olivier.

VIKING PRESS. \$2.50

## ALEXANDER the Corrector

The Eccentric Life of Alexander Cruden



What an  
awful jam  
the Law can make  
of marriage..

Read the gay new novel by the author of  
THE WATER GIPSIES—A. P. HERBERT'S  
**HOLY DEADLOCK**

D. D.

**DIVORCE LAWS WERE ALWAYS  
FUNNY, BUT IT TOOK  
A. P. HERBERT TO  
MAKE THEM A RIOT  
"HOLY DEADLOCK"**

by the author of THE WATER GIPSIES

D. D.

**PAUL ENGLE'S  
AMERICAN SONG  
IS THE SURPRISE  
BEST-SELLER IN  
POETRY...4th PTG.**



D. D.

## Over the Counter

The Saturday Review's Guide to Romance and Adventure

Trade Mark	Label	Contents	Flavor
CONSIGNED TO DAVY JONES George H. Grant (Little, Brown: \$2.)	Sea Yarn	Captain Grant has placed the fiction tag on his story of adventures aboard a collier out of Cardiff when war declaration diverted his course across the Atlantic. After attempted mutiny, a submarine got her.	Obvious
BLUE PLATE SPECIAL Damon Runyon (Stokes: \$2.)	Short Stories	More about Broadway's humorously human guys and dolls, written as a mug would write them.	B'way & 42nd
THE HARVESTING Irving Bacheller (Stokes: \$2.)	Romance	The story of the young man who assumed responsibility for his old man's crime. "North Country" setting.	Oke
THE RED TIGER Don Skene (Appleton-Century: \$2.)	Farce	The <i>Herald-Tribune</i> sports writer spins one about the large but timid young man whom boxing's sharpest-shooting manager built into a heavyweight champ. It's funny.	Cauliflower
NEXT YEAR'S ROSE Diana Patrick (Dutton: \$2.)	Romance	Cinderella makes the grade.	Ladies only
SINISTER EDEN Brian Cotterell (Lippincott: \$2.)	Romantic Adventure	The hard-boiled skipper, his crack-pot mother, the kidnapped gal, treasure, murder, and hurricanes all in a South Sea palm-tree set.	Hashish



# Double-Crostics: Number 21

By ELIZABETH S. KINGSLEY

## DIRECTIONS

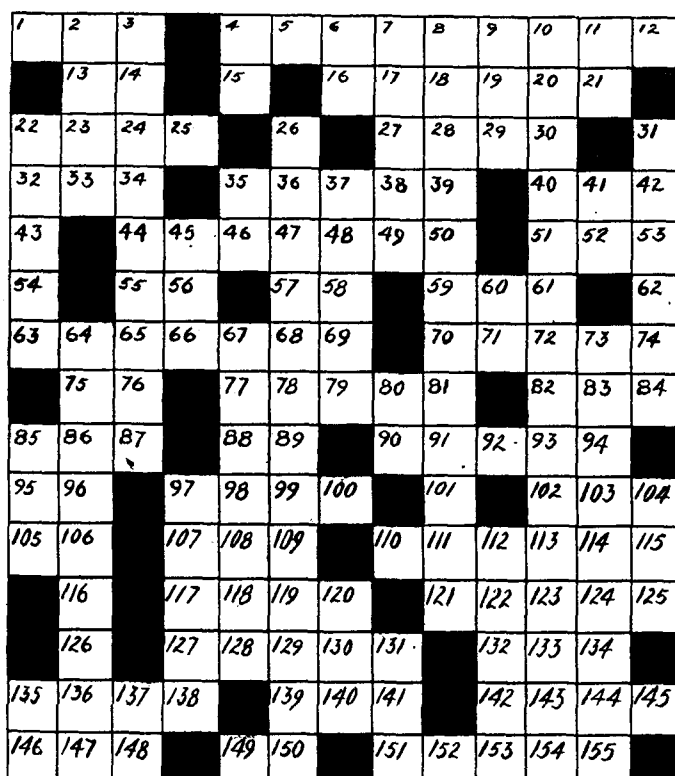
To solve this puzzle, you must guess twenty-four words, the definitions of which are given in the column headed DEFINITIONS. The letters in each word to be guessed are numbered (these numbers appear at the beginning of each definition) and you are thereby able to tell how many letters are in the required word. When you have guessed a word each letter is to be written in the correspondingly numbered square on the puzzle diagram. When the squares are all filled in you will find (by reading from left to right) a quotation from a famous author. Reading up and

down the letters mean nothing. The black squares indicate ends of words; therefore words do not necessarily end at the right side of the diagram.

Either before (preferably) or after placing the letters in their squares you should write the words you have guessed on the blank lines which appear to the right in the column headed WORDS. There is a dash for each letter. The initial letters of this list of words spell the name of the author and the title of the piece from which the quotation has been taken. Unless otherwise indicated, the author is English or American.

- DEFINITIONS**
- I. 25-52-39-9-92. Mathematical relation.
  - II. 111-4-71-97-151-50. Mythological and operatic heroine.
  - III. 51-155-38-10-116-140-15-74-33. French woman musician (1861-).
  - IV. 138-23-62. Fiery, passionate, violent.
  - V. 90-112-45-21. Habitat of a famous English swan.
  - VI. 147-123-5-59-30-19. Immovably fixed.
  - VII. 109-24-31. Inexpert athletic performer (colloq.).
  - VIII. 22-113-128. Ripe fruit of the wild rose.
  - IX. 75-58-150-117-64-34-141. Without formality or preparation.
  - X. 29-7-63-87-48. Composer; hero of novel by Franz Werfel.
  - XI. 134-129-36-110. A rank of the British peerage.
  - XII. 148-55-40-105. Two-masted boat with jigger aft.
  - XIII. 3-103-130-135-139-68-121-78-70-144-49-61. Russian composer.
  - XIV. 43-126-83-13-1-136-132. Fish of species Hippoglossus.
  - XV. 37-102-98-145-133-20-154. Any adjective expressing quality.
  - XVI. 142-120-77-27-88-12-94-84. Satanic nickname.
  - XVII. 146-106-149-53-17-6-96-108-42. Compensation.
  - XVIII. 56-124-118-81-54. A crowd in motion.
  - XIX. 127-79-153-137-8-57-99-104. Fyifot, gammadion.
  - XX. 131-14-73-41-119-32-89-100-46. Animated, exhilarated.
  - XXI. 65-80-85-152-114-44-69-143-125-18. Six states in two words.
  - XXII. 115-67-16-60. To issue forth copiously.
  - XXIII. 11-66-2-28-91-47-86. Tranquil, of even temper.
  - XXIV. 72-107-35-101-95-93-82-76-26-122. Disreputable tatterdemalion.

## WORDS



## SOLUTION OF LAST WEEK'S DOUBLE-CROSTIC (NUMBER 20)

GEORGE HERBERT—"VIRTUE"

Only a sweet and virtuous soul  
Like seasoned timber, never gives;  
But though the whole world turn to coal  
Then chiefly lives.

## The New Books

(Continued from preceding page)

the tendency to lean backwards in order to protect the innocent is well developed. The roles played by police, lawyers, judges, and press are discussed at some length. In the last analysis, however, this examination of the criminal law seems to lay the blame squarely upon the public for many of our present difficulties with criminals. If it is any function of the criminal law to deter it must rely, as is well pointed out, on a good deal more than the threat of punishment. Fear of death alone has never deterred people. Hosts of people have gone to their deaths without hesitation in order to further causes in which they believed. In order to discourage crime the penalties already fixed need not be made more heavy, but we must surround the punishment with public scorn. "To the extent that the public respects criminals, any deterrent effect of punishment is nullified."

Mr. Waite ends his conclusions with the following remark: "The people of this country, if they hope for improvement, must throw off the delusion that administration of the criminal law can be bettered through tinkering with the law, and must devote their thought and effort en-

thusiastically to the task of improving the attitude of the law's administrators." If we add to this the task of improving the attitude of the public toward the criminal, that is of treating him with contempt, we have laid some basis for a practical program to improve the conditions of crime existing in the country today.

W. J. H.

**POINTS IN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY VERSE.** By Iolo A. Williams. Bowker. 1934. \$5.

The latest unit in the Bibliographia Series covers a field in which there was much spade-work to be done. The acreage was assigned to one who was not only superlatively well acquainted with it but who brought to the tillage the proper tools and a proved skill in their use. Mr. Williams is an expert bibliographical technician, and he has an enduring enthusiasm for his special subject—that enthusiasm, indeed, caused eighteenth century verse to bulk rather too large in his "Elements of Book-Collecting" seven years ago.

Apart from the great names of the period—Burns, Collins, Goldsmith, Gray, Johnson, Pope, Swift—eighteenth century British prosody offers little to appeal to the American collector, and to this extent

it is unfortunate that the first unit in the Bibliographia Series to appear under a conjoint London-New York sponsorship should devote so many pages to resolving the puzzles of James Bramston's "Art of Politicks" and Samuel Boyce's "Poems on Several Occasions." But as a study in diligent application to a special and moderately abstruse subject, Mr. Williams's monograph is wholly admirable—a delightful textbook in the art of performing surpassingly well a task into which an alert and sympathetic book-collector has put his mind and his heart. There is no "last word" in bibliography, but in his particular field Mr. Williams has said it until someone offers a later.

Parallel opportunities await collector-investigators on this side of the Atlantic, and to these Mr. Williams's study is recommended without reservation as a model. For example, the battalion of nonentities (not all of them nonentities) who throng the pages of Poe's "Literati," some to receive extravagant adulation, others to be slain by a pen-thrust, and most of them, whatever they got, now lying in a common grave of oblivion, eminently merit just such definitive bibliographical treatment as Mr. Williams has employed in the comparable instances of, say, Joseph Trapp and Sir Charles Hanbury Williams.

J. T. W.

## Latest Books Received

### BIOGRAPHY

*A Life of Menasseh Ben Israel.* C. Roth. Jewish Publication Society. *The Life and Mind of Emily Dickinson.* G. Taggart. Knopf. \$2.50 net. *Renoir.* A. Vollard. Knopf. \$2.50 net.

### FOREIGN

*Napoléon III.* P. Guérin. Paris: Payot.

### HISTORY

*A History of American Foreign Policy.* J. H. Latane. Revised D. W. Vanhouse. Doubleday. \$4. *A History of Russian Literature.* Prince D. S. Mirsky. Knopf. \$2.50 net.

### TRAVEL

*Travels in the Congo.* A. Gide. Knopf. \$2.50.

### RELIGION

*We See Jesus.* W. P. Merrill. Harpers. \$1.

### MISCELLANEOUS

*The Profit in Writing.* L. D'Orsay. Los Angeles: Parker, Stone & Baird. *All's Fair.* Capt. H. Landau. Putnam. \$3. *Wasn't the Depression Terrible?* O. Soglow and D. G. Plotkin. Covici. \$2. *Your Child Is Normal.* G. Adams. Covici. \$2. *Veterans on the March.* J. Douglas. New York: Workers' Library. \$1.25. *The Spastic Child.* M. K. Fischel. St. Louis: Mosby. *A Thesaurus of Slang.* Compiled H. N. Rose. Macmillan. \$1.75. *First Aid Afield.* P. W. Gartner. Macmillan. \$1.25.

## The Criminal Record

The Saturday Review's Guide to Detective Fiction

Title and Author	Crime, Place, Sleuth	Summing Up	Verdict
<b>UNCONFESED</b> <i>Mary Hastings Bradley</i> (Appleton-Century: \$2.)	Shadows of marital squabble seen by Leila Seton, art expert and extra guest at house-party. Two murders follow.	Lady detective makes too many psychic bids to suit this realist, but atmosphere, action, and dialogue have much merit.	Readable
<b>DEATH OF A BANKER</b> <i>Anthony Wynne</i> (Lippincott: \$2.)	Banker on horseback stabbed as he rides to hounds with nobody near and plump Dr. Hailey is sadly puzzled.	Mixture of murder and international intrigue goes down surprisingly well, with finish overflowing with action.	Good
<b>DEATH IN THE QUARRY</b> <i>G. D. H. &amp; M. Cole</i> (Crime Club: \$2)	Works manager blown to death in quarry. Accident or murder? Superintendent Wilson fumbles to solution.	The Coles strike too leisurely a pace in this one, and interest flags before dénouement.	Middling

## INN·by·the·SEA

### PRIVATE BEACH

20 Miles East of Watch Hill, R. I.  
P. O. WAKEFIELD, R. I. RATES \$21 A WEEK UP  
See *Personals* this issue for full description

## 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). All advertisements must be consonant with the purposes and character of *The Saturday Review*. Rates: 7 cents per word, including signature. Count two additional words for Box and Number. Address Personal Dept., *Saturday Review*, 25 West 45th Street, New York City.

**YOUNG WOMAN**, attractive, versatile, broadly educated, is intelligently interested in theatre, literature, travel, sports, fertile ideas. Has zest for life, keen understanding of people. Would enjoy corresponding with single man of character, intelligence, 35-45, possessing similar tastes and constructive attitude toward life. Carolyn.

**TWENTY** amusing letters about bicycling through England this September for \$8.00. Marjory Hammond.

**SILVERMINE TAVERN AND GALLERIES, NORWALK, CONN.** Small, distinguished, different. Overlooking Silvermine River. Booklet on request. Tel. Norwalk 2300.

**WANTED**—Male secretary, for service in southern California. Duties, both literary and athletic, include: typing intelligently, taking dictation, bumming round, throwing medicine ball, putting up with a lot. Reward includes bed, board and diminutive wages. Place is rural, beautiful and dull. No violent prejudices permitted. Amiable nature, bookish leanings, sturdy carcass, low voice and high aspirations all gratefully respected. Opportunity, perhaps, for some young gent seeking a break. Please reply frankly and fully without preliminary correspondence. Box 905.

**FOR SALE**—Small, pedigree, country dogs. Pets boarded and trained. Ruth Clement, Hillsboro, N. H.

**IS THERE A WOMAN**, neither young nor old, who longs to spend autumn and winter on a Vermont farm at a very small expense? College woman with very active rural job at somewhat erratic hours wants someone to share housekeeping responsibilities. Companionship wanted rather than a boarder. A mountain on the farm; Bennington College six miles away. A mutual trial is invited. Box 894.

**LOVE OF SOLITUDE** is a priceless gift—but correspondence with like-minded people precludes the feeling of utter loneliness. CONTACTS connects you with the mentally isolated. Uncommon books loaned free. Send 3c stamp for prospectus. 11 E. CONTACTS, Box 91, Station D, New York City.

**COLLEGE** graduate studying design, September, New York, desires board exchange services evenings. Rosalind.

**STUDIO**—Some intelligent person is offered an opportunity to reasonably rent or share a well-lighted studio in central Manhattan, having large rooms, private elevator, and beautiful furnishings, including a Steinway concert grand. If adjectives had a real meaning any more, this would be a "perfect" studio for a successful artist, musician, or cultured individual. Box 898.

**YOUNG** man, 24, New Yorker, wishes connection in journalism, research, collaboration, library work, or bookshop—anywhere. Personable although extremely talented and capable. Box 900.

**YOUNG** man, 25, Ph. B. Chicago, J. D. Northwestern, entering Harvard September. Stenotypist, also typewrites one hundred words minute. Wishes part-time job Boston or vicinity. Have stenotype, also typewriter. Best of references. Box 899.

**WANTED**: Home for unusually bright and attractive orphan boy, 13. Jane M. Brown, Deposit, New York.

**MIDDLE-AGED** gentleman, member of two learned professions, writer, widely traveled, poised, accustomed to handling important matters, pliant in everything but conscience, healthy, adaptable, single, seeks opportunity. Box 903.

**FOR RENT**—Six room furnished cottage. Trees, birds, sunny windows, books. Public schools, Saint Mary's School for girls, and State College of North Carolina University within easy walking distance. 105 Harrison Avenue, Raleigh, North Carolina.