



# RICO

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**CAMEL-BELLS OF BAGHDAD** BY JANET MILLER. The author of "Jungles Preferred" describes a fascinating pilgrimage to the city of the Arabian Nights and to Persia. (\$3.00)

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## The New Books

### Fiction

**CALM YOURSELF!** By Edward Hope. Bobbs-Merrill. 1934. \$2.

If Edward Hope were to be fatally injured by a taxi-cab tomorrow (which we devoutly trust will not be the case), his last moments would be cheered by the reflection that at least he was leaving the world a better place than he found it. There is considerable dissension as to just what the NRA, the AAA, and the rest of the alphabet soup have done towards alleviating the depression, but as to Mr. Hope's contribution there is no doubt whatever. "Calm Yourself!" exclaims Mr. Hope in soothing accents, and depression, for an hour or two at least, simply ceases to exist. All of which is merely to assert that this American Wodehouse has again rung the bell with his uproarious story of young Mr. Preston Patton, who had the bright idea of starting Confidential Services, Inc., as a means of relieving his own particular depression. In three hundred hilarious pages Mr. Patton manages, in the exercise of his chosen profession, to acquire successively a secretary, a baby, a proposal, a fiancée, and finally a job. Thanks very much, Mr. Hope!

S. W.

**THE MONKEY'S TAIL.** By Rebecca Scarlett. Scribners. 1934. \$2.50.

This seems to be a first novel, and apparently Miss Scarlett was afraid she would never write another so she put in everything that was on her mind. A good deal of it is, in itself, interesting; but it merely overloads a story that was not built to carry any extra weight. The history of Sandra Ladd of Dammerskill, who was ruined by the rector in the barn after her true love threw her over, seems to have been intended only to carry Sandra's philosophy of earth-kinship and "body-thinking"; but the story failed to enthrall this reviewer, since Sandra got all the breaks, and the philosophy merely left him convinced that Sandra's function in life was to get ruined in the barn. But there are some shrewd comments, some truly observed minor characters; Miss Scarlett can probably turn out a much better book when she has learned the art—all too well known to most veteran writers—of spreading her material thinner.

E. D.

### International

**THE HERITAGE OF FREEDOM.** By James T. Shotwell. Scribners. 1934. \$1.75.

The problems of world peace that form the central theme of this volume are examined in a spirit of practical idealism, which is, apparently, a characteristic of many contemporary scholars in the field of social relationships. Professor Shotwell finds a possible application to international organization of the tradition of federal government that has developed on this continent; he succinctly exposes his conviction that the United States should actively assume its responsibilities as a great power and should participate more regularly and more fully than at present in conferences with other nations.

The elements of the American desire for isolation are easily traced to the tenets of the founders of the Republic and to the conditions of frontier existence, which have only recently disappeared; but these have been amply sufficient, since the turn of the century, to maintain the continued control of our foreign relations by the Senate. As a consequence, it has some-

times been awkward to negotiate adequately without securing in advance a close coöperation between this legislative body and the State Department. It is the opinion of the author that such coöperation is the prerequisite to a reasonable diplomacy, in times when the features of world affairs can alter considerably from one day to the next.

Though he would like to see the United States in the League, Professor Shotwell is quite conscious of the reasons and emotions which will continue to keep us outside this parliament of nations. As a compromise, he favors an optional application, in treaties, of economic and military sanctions against any aggressive power; this might abolish the paradoxical fact that the Kellogg Pact, which states our opposition to war, has not been implemented by measures that would ensure closer relations with the rest of the world, without which, in time of crisis, it would probably be unwise to act. The legal objections to such a proposal, however, are almost as great as the practical difficulties raised by the Bryan arbitration treaties, which the author criticizes thoroughly.

There is much encouragement, despite our self-sufficient attitude, in the schooling which we are acquiring, as evidenced by the many societies and classes for the study of foreign affairs and customs that have grown up since the war. Such an interest, it is implied, is necessary to the formation of the purposeful public opinion which should, theoretically, underlie official action in a democracy; and it is on this opinion that Professor Shotwell relies to reap the full international benefits of our liberal inheritance.

R. G.

### Miscellaneous

**THE NATIONAL CHARACTER.** By Arthur Bryant. Longmans, Green. 1934. \$2.

Mr. Bryant has gathered into a conveniently slim book a series of talks on the general subject of the English character that he gave over the radio last autumn for the British Broadcasting Company. There are doubtless disadvantages in having the radio a semi-government monopoly, as it is in England, rather than a free-for-all advertising medium, as it is here; but the quality of this volume is evidence that there are also distinct advantages in the English system, for in tone, content, and literary style these addresses are infinitely superior to anything that comes over an American network. Possibly many who listened to them only did so because no alternative program was offered to them; but perhaps even that was not a bad idea!

The volume falls into two parts, the first consisting of two general chapters on "The English Characteristic" and "The English Culture"; the second, of seven chapters descriptive of as many traditional English types—the country gentleman, the parson, the yeoman farmer, the craftsman, the merchant, the adventurer, the housewife. Mr. Bryant is steeped in the history and literature of his country, and not the least attractive feature of these sketches is their discriminating use of quotation. There is in them no suspicion of jingoism, but a very evident love of the English scene and the English people, with all their faults and virtues. On the whole, Mr. Bryant's listeners were probably cheered to discover that they were not so bad as, in these days, they perhaps thought they were.

S. W.

## Over the Counter

The Saturday Review's Guide to Romance and Adventure

Trade Mark	Label	Contents	Flavor
THE TAVERN ROGUE Robert Gordon Anderson (Farrar & Rinehart: \$2.50.)	Period Novel	The tremendous adventures of a nobleman's illegitimate and accomplished son set Elizabeth's London on its ear. The gent is sort of an English Villon.	Good
GAMBLIN' MAN E. B. Mann (Morrow: \$2.)	Western	Billy the Kid in a story that explains his exploits.	Interesting
IMPERSONATION OF A LADY Maude Parker (Houghton Mifflin: \$2.)	Novel	Broadway star invades small-town society by marriage to one of local sons. Ensues polite war with local lorgnetted big-bosom.	Good
THE ELECTRIC TORCH Ethel M. Dell (Putnam: \$2.)	Romance	Ethel reverts to her Indian scene for a new feminine palpitator.	If you like



# 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.

## LIFE IN EXILE

E. W. of Las Vegas, Nevada, wrote in some considerable time ago for suggestions as to the sources of information on famous exiles. "I want to know something of the existences, aims, and purposes of either voluntary or involuntary exiles after the fact. Not only historical figures, but literary and outstanding ones in fiction, as *Manon Lescaut* and the *Chevalier Des Grieux*."

And E. W. goes on to say that her curiosity has been specially aroused as to one of the recent exiles—fugitive, I should rather term him—Samuel Insull. "I should like to creep into his mind and know his secret feelings."

THERE is, I imagine, the world of difference between the emotions of an Insull and the political prisoner or exile who has been banished through no volition of his own. Alas, the records of exile are being swollen hour by hour in these days of tragic political crises in Germany, as they were for years after the accession to power of the Soviet leaders and the assumption of the dictatorship in Italy by Mussolini. The German exiles have for the most part been silent as yet as to their experiences, though such a book as Ernst Toller's *I WAS A GERMAN* (Morrow) and Feuchtwanger's novel, *THE OPPERMANNS* (Viking) give an insight into the agony of mind incident on the banishment forced by the Nazi regime. Russia, of course, as the land which for so long a period enforced exile as a political expedient, has a large literature on the subject. A book, written by an American, which when it appeared a good many years ago was widely read in this country, gives a vivid picture of the Russian system, and might be a good volume to read by way of introduction to personal memoirs. This is George Kennan's *SIBERIA AND THE EXILE SYSTEM* (Century). One of the most important records of exile by a Russian of the old regime is Alexander Herzen's *MY EXILE IN SIBERIA* (London: Hurst & Blachett); another is the autobiography of Catherine Breshkovsky (Little, Brown), the Little Grandmother of the Russian Revolution, whose desperate illness was recently reported. Since the Revolution of 1917 there have, of course, been a large number of biographies and autobiographies by the victims of the overthrow—books such as *THE EDUCATION OF A PRINCESS* (Viking), by the Grand Duchess Marie, *A WORLD CAN END* (Smith & Haas), by Irina Skariatina, and the Grand Duke Alexander's *MEMOIRS* (Farrar & Rinehart). Another extremely interesting volume by an older revolutionary is Vladimir Zenzinov's *THE ROAD TO OBLIVION* (McBride), which takes on added quality from its ethnographic observations.

This subject of the literature of exile is enormous, and I can do nothing but try to scratch the surface here. For I no sooner start on the Russian exiles than I remember that great number of dispossessed who swept out of France after the Huguenot persecutions, and again in the following century. And there is that greatest exile of them all, Napoleon, for whose last years of absence from his native land there are *THE CAPTIVITY OF NAPOLEON AT SAINT HELENA*, edited by Forsyth from the *LETTERS AND JOURNALS OF SIR HUDSON LOWE*, and O'Meara's *A VOICE FROM SAINT HELENA*, an account by the physician who denounced Lowe's severities to his prisoner, among a legion of other books to consult. Another French exile of much later time, but one with whose name the civilized world also rang for years, has presented his own story of his experiences and emotions, Captain Alfred Dreyfus in *FIVE YEARS OF MY LIFE*. I'm going now with a hop, skip, and a jump through the years and the countries regardless of chronology or order as a name happens to pop into my mind. There was Louis Kossuth, of course, who fled after the failure of the Hungarian Revolution, to Turkey, which backed by England and France, resisted all efforts at extradition on the part of Austria and Italy, and whence he went to England and America. He has left his own chronicle in *MEMOIRS OF MY EXILE* (Appleton). There was Victor Hugo, whose introduction to *PENDANT EXILE* contains a section entitled "Ce Que C'est que l'Exile." There's that picturesque figure at the turn of the eighteenth century, Captain Winterfield, who in *THE EXILE OF IRELAND* left what are probably fictitious

memoirs of "the life, voyages, travels, and wonderful adventures of Capt. Winterfield, who, after many successes and escapes in Europe and America with English forces, became a rebel chief in Ireland." There's Henry Anderson Bryden's *AN EXILED SCOT* (New Amsterdam Book Co.), being passages in the life of Ronald Cameron—his escape with Prince Charles in 1746, etc. And, oh heavens, there's all the Stuart literature! I can no more. As for fiction, of course, there's Scott with the Stuart exiles, and Edward Everett Hale's *A MAN WITHOUT A COUNTRY* (Altemus), to leap the centuries and the proprieties of literary history, and Richard Harding Davis's *THE EXILES AND OTHER STORIES* (Harpers), and for poetry Mrs. Norton's soldier of the Legion who lay dying in Algiers (though perhaps he wasn't an exile in the proper sense of the word) and Macaulay's "A Jacobite's Epitaph." Whatever else E. W. reads she ought to read that. It's in the *OXFORD BOOK OF ENGLISH VERSE* and so easily available. Nevertheless, on second thought, just because I never read it without a stirring of the pulses, I'm adding it here so that E. W. can't escape it. Perhaps it will make up for the haphazard and entirely superficial character of my paragraphs on exiles.

To my true king I offer'd free from stain  
Courage and faith; vain faith, and courage  
vain.

For him I threw lands, honors, wealth,  
away,  
And one dear hope, that was more prized  
than they.

For him I languish'd in a foreign clime,  
Gray-hair'd with sorrow in my manhood's  
prime;

Heard on Lavernia Scargill's whispering  
trees,

And pined by Arno for my lovelier Tees;  
Beheld each night my home in fever'd  
sleep,

Each morning started from the dream to  
weep;

Till God, who saw me tried too sorely, gave  
The resting-place I ask'd, an early grave.  
O thou, whom chance leads to this name-  
less stone,

From that proud country which was once  
mine own,

By those white cliffs I never more must  
see,

By that dear language which I spake like  
thee,

Forget all feuds, and shed one English tear  
O'er English dust. A broken heart lies here.

## A HISTORY OF LITERATURE

M. D. L. of New Hartford, N. Y. wants a readable, not too expensive, survey or history of English literature for "one of these modern college products who knows everything about economics and nothing about cultural subjects."

The work that comes to mind at once as most likely to fill the bill is Garnett and Gosse's *ENGLISH LITERATURE* (Macmillan), an illustrated record, which has been revised up to the year 1923. It's in four volumes, which is the one trouble in recommending it, for so extensive a survey is necessarily not inexpensive. What with the depression and all that fifteen dollars looks like a goodly sum even for a liberal education. If it's prohibitive, J. W. Cunliffe's *PICTURE STORY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE* (Appleton-Century), issued last year, might make a satisfactory substitute. The comment in this volume is much compressed, but the book has a wealth of highly interesting illustrations, and is extremely useful if not as good reading as the Garnett and Gosse.

## ENGLISH NAMES

N. E. McC. of Collegeville, Pa. asks for a handy guide to the pronunciation of English proper names. "I should like," he says, "to find an authoritative guide that will include only English names—such annoying words as *Whistlesley*, *Launceston*, *Magdalen*, *Leominster*. The pronouncing gazetteers appended to most dictionaries are entirely inadequate."

I don't know whether such a thing as a guide which includes only English names exists, but there's an excellent one which in addition to other names includes English. That's *THE INTERNATIONAL BOOK OF NAMES* (Crowell), by C. O. Sylvester Mawson. I looked into it to see whether N. E. McC.'s four puzzlers were included. They were all there with their pronunciations attached. A hundred per cent efficient on the first try!

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