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## 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 clientèle; 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. Advertisements must be received ten days in advance of publication. Address Personal Dept., Saturday Review, 25 West 45th Street, New York City.

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WIDOW in need wishes kind person of means to assist her by buying her diamond ring for five hundred dollars. Please write first. Box 253-A.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS, 21 January, places Doctor Rosenbach, fourth; and Christopher Morley, fifth; in a list of great men who have accomplished great things in literature. My idea is slightly different. First, A Ghost-Writer; second, Doctor Rosenbach; third, "Edmund Spenser"; fourth, "William Shake-speare"; fifth, Christopher Morley .- George Frisbee.

YOUNG WOMAN WRITER, as yet little published, wants to leave her secretarial po-sition in Wall Street for any job on any publication. Capable reviewer, interviewer, satirist. College degree; additional study of professional writing. Inquiries welcomed. Box 242-A.

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SOMEWHERE on the College Highway

## The Clearing House

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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.

#### A LITERARY REFERENCE SHELF

What would you recommend as the tools of the trade [writes J. S. K., of Pittsburgh, Pa.] for one contemplating a fling at a literary work? By this I mean what would you recommend in the way of word books, handy general reference material, etc.? My stock at present consists of a Webster's DICTIONARY, Fowler's ENCLISH USAGE, and a Roget's THESAURUS (Mawson: 1924).

. K., on his own recognizance as the lawyers would say, already has three • of the indispensable tools of the trade. But to the Webster dictionary, for good measure and because wandering through its definitions is an entertaining performance, I'd add the CONCISE OXFORD DICTIONARY (Oxford University Press) without which life would lose one of its most trusted implements for me. If J. S. K. will turn to the page in this issue to which Amabel Williams-Ellis (who, incidentally, is a sister of John Strachey and a brilliant and delightful person in her own right) contributes directions for playing the game of "Wump" which she and her family in England have devised, he will discover a use for the CONCISE OXFORD DICTIONARY never dreamed of in the plans of its authors. However, I must not dally over games but hasten on to reference books in their proper uses. Crowell publishes A DIC-TIONARY OF FOREIGN TERMS, by C. O. Sylvester-Mawson, which is useful to have on the shelves in addition to the general dictionaries, while at its side might stand some good style book, such a one, for instance, as that issued by the University of Chicago Press, and a book on grammar by Jespersen or George Philip Krapp. These which I have so far mentioned, are the guidebooks, as it were, to correct writing. Now, for the reference books to which almost anyone working in the literary field must at one time or another have recourse. There is a brace of indispensable volumes in Brewer's READER'S HANDBOOK (Lippincott) and his DICTIONARY OF PHRASE AND FABLE (Lippincott), the first of which supplies brief but lucid accounts of such names as are used in allusion and reference, whether by poets or prose writers, of the plots of popular drama, the story of epic poems, and the outline of well-known tales, and the second of which presents the "derivation, source, or origin of common phrases, allusions, and words that have a tale to tell." Brand's OBSERVA-TIONS ON POPULAR ANTIQUITIES (Alternus), a book crammed full of curious information concerning the origin of vulgar customs, ceremonies, and superstitions, is a worthy third to add to the Brewer volumes. If J. S. K. has a few moments to spare for this book some day he might sit down and read its entry under "Ghosts," to pick a subject almost at random, just to see how entertaining a reference book can be. Every reference shelf should, of course, contain Bulfinch's MYTHOLOGY (Modern Library Giant combining the age of fable and the AGE OF CHIVALRY and THE LEGENDS OF CHARLEMAGNE all three in one volume), and would be infinitely the richer for Smith's dictionary of greek and roman ANTIQUITIES (American Book Co.) and the same scholar's COMPREHENSIVE DICTIONARY OF THE BIBLE (an abridgment from a larger work, published in this country by Appleton-Century). The Bible and Shake-speare, it should go without saying, ought to be on every literary reference shelf. and there, too, should be those admirable reference works, Bartlett's FAMILIAR QUO-TATIONS (Little, Brown), and Burton E. Stevenson's recently issued HOME BOOK OF QUOTATIONS (Dodd, Mead), to whose over seventy thousand quotations Mr. Stevenson's publishers tell me the author is already planning to send out a supplement. Mr. Stevenson's HOME BOOK OF VERSE (Holt), to my mind the best single-volume anthology of poetry available, should be on the shelf as a matter of course. In my own library I flank it with Palgrave's GOLDEN TREASURY (to be had in various editions, among others the Everyman) and THE OXFORD BOOK OF ENGLISH VERSE (Oxford University Press), none of which I could do without. Louis Untermeyer's MODERN AMERICAN POETRY AND MODERN BRITISH PO-ETRY (Harcourt, Brace) ought to keep the foregoing company, and to their number might well be added Mark Van Doren's ANTHOLOGY OF WORLD POETRY (Boni). I don't know on what scale J. S. K. intends to build his reference library, but if he can summon the funds even for the cheaper editions of the Cambridge histories of English and American literature (Macmillan), he will add to his collection reference works of the first magnitude. The original editions contain excellent and comprehensive bibliographies of which the cheaper have been bereft. If something less expensive must be substituted for the English set, J. S. K. can fall back on Garnett and Gosse's ENGLISH LITERATURE (Macmillan). AMERICAN AND BRITISH LITERATURE SINCE 1890 (Appleton-Century), by Carl and Mark Van Doren, and John Macy's THE STORY OF THE WORLD'S LITERATURE (Liveright), a highly condensed but valuable survey for reference purposes, are excellent books to add. Finally, of course, every reference library should contain a good cyclopedia, either the BRITANNICA, I should say, or the NEW INTERNATIONAL EN-CYCLOPEDIA (Funk & Wagnalls). The former is the great work of the sort in the English language, but the latter is to my mind in many ways more useful for general purposes. And now that I've run my reference library up to the point where I'm advocating additions at the cost of a set of the Britannica I'll bring it back within the possibilities of any purse with a volume than which I would rather dispense with almost any other in my own collection-THE WORLD ALMANAC (New York World-Telegram). What has it got to do with literature? Try to find a list of Pulitzer or Nobel prizewinners from the beginning to the present, or a necrology of last year's authors, and you'll soon see.

#### THE ALPHABET

J. F. B., of Louisville, Ky., wants the title of a book, not too technical, that gives the history of our alphabet; also one that tells about the runes our ancestors used.

Clodd's STORY OF THE ALPHABET (Appleton-Century) traces the development of writing from picture writing to phonetic symbols, placing special emphasis on primitive methods and forms. A short and attractive presentation of the history of writing and the formation of alphabet is contained in a pamphlet issued two years ago by American Council on Education called THE STORY OF WRITING. As to the runes more specifically J. F. B. might try THE RIDDLE OF THE RUNES, by A. G. Brodeur (University of California Press). He will also find a scholarly article on the latter in the ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA.

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# Over the Counter

The Saturday Review's Guide to Current Attractions

Trade Mark	Label	Contents	Flavor
ROMANY Lady Eleanor Smith (Bobbs-Merrill: \$2.50.)	Novel	Story of the gypsy girl who, profit- ably dancing away sorrow for dead lover, snares desirable Britisher into happy marriage. Lover pulls an Enoch Arden—Tumult!	Harmless
SHABBY TIGER Howard Spring (Covici-Friede: \$2.50.)	Novel	Young artist of family finds him- self caught in the dizzy swirl of Manchester's bohemian radical group. The lure is attractive. Strike battle forms climactic big scene.	Blend
THE HORNET'S NEST Helen Ashton (Macmillan: \$2.50.)	Novel	Bungled operation on Mrs. More- land's appendix boils the pot among medical men and associates in small community. By author of "Dr. Serocold."	First Rate

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The Inner Sanctum, advance copies of this catalogue will be sent-without cost, obligation, or warning-to any readers of this column who make known their interest to the publishers, by writing to Dept. 32. This announcement for Spring, 1935 lists twenty Inner Sanctum books-exactly the same seasonal output which your correspondents have regularly maintained through all these hurrying years, in the face of booms, panics, technocracy, hu-manism, and all the other fevers and grandeurs of the noun-and-adjective traffic. To achieve this tranquil consistency and restraint. The Inner Sanctum has found it necessary to practice the art of saying "No" in ten languages.

Of the twenty books to be issued between January and July, 1935, exactly five-or twenty-five per cent-are "firsts" by newly discovered authors-the best possible indication of what The Inner Sanctum means by the "open door" policy. (Kindly typewrite on only one side of the page and enclose return postage.)

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in the new *Inner Sanctum* catalogues. (If catalogues come, can Spring be far behind?)



Since The Inner Sanctum last appeared in this place, your correspondents have issued four books. Two of them, The Victor Book of The Symphony and Memory of Love have become outstanding best-sellers, with the other two, The Complete Wine Book and The Cross Word Puzzle Best. Scient Thiswe

Book, Series Thirty: three, not far behind. The After ten years of intrepid and somewhat reckless research it has dawned on The Inner Sanctum that the long-dreamed-of successor to the cross word puzzle is the cross word puzzle. THE SHAPE OF THINGS ALREADY HERE: Monday, Feb. 11 marked the publication of a book which authoritatively and excitingly discloses the practice, as well as the theory, of the leisure class—the specie multi-millionaire anatomized in all his glory and degradation: Farewell to Fifth Avenue, by COR-NELIUS VANDERBILT, JR. Three days later. on St. Valentine's Day (appropriately



#### By WILLIAM ROSE BENÉT

HEY'RE now making a talkie of "The Devil Is a Woman," and at the same time Doubleday, Doran announces a new novel called "Satan Was a Man." What is one to think? . . . Louis Fischer, author of a standard two-volume work on the Soviet's foreign relations, is now giving lectures here and reading proof of his book, "Soviet Journey," which Smith & Haas are publishing toward the end of March. Mr. Fischer is an American. . . . A memoir, one of the tracts of the Society for Pure English, has been published by the Oxford University Press, concerning H. W. Fowler, one of the two famous brothers who wrote "The King's English" and compiled "The Concise Oxford Dictionary," as well as translating Lucian. An interesting anecdote is that in the late Great War both brothers concealed their real ages on enlisting. One was fifty-eight, the other forty-six. At the front they were returned to the base as too old to fight, and put to such tasks as dish-washing, coal-heaving, etc. At length they determined to ask for either active service or a discharge. They drew up a document, as privates in the Army, pleading the "definite public utility" of their work for the Oxford University Press. ... William Cary Duncan, who has now done right by Madame Jumel in an extremely interesting biography that Stokes has just published, wrote for years the librettos of comic operas. George M. Cohan composed the music for many of them. In 1929 Mr. Duncan went to Hollywood, but he didn't even stay a full year. He now lives on the old family place in North Brookfield, Mass., where he has a commercial appleorchard and raises Irish setters. He is a director of the American Kennel Club. . . . Vincent Sheean wrote most of his "Personal History" on Lago Maggiore. He got flu in the wet weather there. Then the water system of his cottage broke down. Meanwhile it was raining dismally. "It rains like this for months," a village maiden told him cheerfully. His bedroom was inundated by the floods. . . . Well, anyway, the book got written!

Roger Burlingame, the novelist, has a farm in Connecticut called "The Borogroves." But shouldn't it be "Borogoves"? I understand that the "r" slipped into a later American edition of Carroll's classic. Anyway, Mr. Burlingame has now celebrated the arrival at his place of ten Airedale pups by naming them Beamish Boy, Snickersnee, Brillig, Jub-Jub, Tum-Tum, Tulgy, Frabjous, Mimsy, Gimbel, and Jabberwock! . . . And "Goodbye, Mr. Chips" has now had 116,000 copies printed. Well, all I can say is—said he furiously!

. . The tenth annual session of the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference will be held under the auspices of Middlebury College during the last two weeks of August, 1935. It offers four fellowships to men or women nominated by book publishers or magazine editors. The fellowships will pay all regular charges—tuition, board, and lodging-during the period of the conference. The clans gather at the Bread Loaf Inn, a country hotel situated in the heart of the Green Mountains, twelve miles from Middlebury, Vermont. . . . Beth Brown, who has nine novels to her credit, believes in doing thorough research for them. To get material for "Lady Hobo" she crossed the continent five times in her own car, with only her dog, Hobo, along. She also been a lot of things rom checkroom girl, in a New York night club, to a crop-picker on a California fruit ranch. She joined a travelling carnival to write "Ballyhoo," and served in a burlesque show to write "Applause." She studied dancing in Paris to get the right ballet stuff in "Wedding Ring," and went to Reno (just to study) for "Man and Wife." That all makes me feel so effete that I am going to write a novel about a lama in Thibet who falls in love with a South African beauty, and write it all-by Gosh! -from the top of the Chrysler building. . . . Kenneth Roberts is in Italy, freezing to death in what he calls "the horrible Italian climate," and at work on another novel to add to the Chronicles of Arundel. ... Partisan Review, a Bi-Monthly of Revolutionary Literature, has come to my desk. It is published by the John Reed Club of New York. I read one story in it of morons on a ranch, and it was just about what I expected. . . . The fourth annual meeting of the Winter Institute of Literature at Coral Gables, Miami, Florida, is on. It began last Monday and will last until March 1st. Among the lecturers are Whit Burnett, editor of Story, Mary and Padraic Colum, Edward Davison, Robert Frost, William McFee, and Eunice Tietjens. . . . Albert Payson Terhune is spending the winter in his apartment on Riverside Drive, but he's left all his dogs at Sunnybank. . . . There are seven different awards listed by the College Poetry Society of America, and any collegians interested should address inquiries to Ann Winslow, Secretary, 2305 Fulton Street, Berkeley, California. . . . Charles J. Finger reports his magazine All's Well started on its twelfth year, and his audiences growing. . . . Thomas Wolfe's new "Of Time and the River," will be novel. published on March 8th. The first edition is already in the press. . . . In The Nautical Gazette recently Felix Riesenberg had an interesting criticism of the seamanship, or lack of it, that permitted Alan Villiers's ship, Joseph Conrad, to drift on the rocks off Owl's Head Park, Brooklyn, early in January.

## Trade Winds By P. E. G. QUERCUS

The Publishers' Weekly annual compilation of the year's book production figures always interests Q. 1934 ran true to form among U. S. publishers. Macmillan, as usual, was most prolific, with 483 titles; Oxford University Press next, 257; and Doubleday, third, 201. The next dozen were as follows:—Harpers, 195; Dutton, 174; Appleton-Century, 160; Houghton Mifflin, 149; Longmans Green, 146; Scribners, 144; Farrar and Rinehart, 128; Lippincott, 103; Harcourt, Brace, 99; Knopf, 98; Dodd, Mead, 97; Little, Brown, 86. Interesting to see that Simon & Schuster kept their number of titles down to 37.

CA. C. sends us the Midyear Exam paper in English 101 at the University of Buffalo. One of the questions was based on a recent item in the Personals of this paper, signed "Lusus Naturae." The Buffalo examiners asked their students to compare the temperament of the advertiser with that of Jonathan Swift.

<sup>LCF</sup>We often gain from catalogues of autographs twinges of comparative value. In a recent Goodspeed list of "Inexpensive Autographs" we find: —Edward Bok, 35c; Bruce Barton, 25c; Louis Bromfield, 50c; Cutcliffe Hyne, 75c; Dean Inge, 75c; Dionysius Lardner, 25c; Don Marquis, 75c; H. L. Mencken, 75c; G. J. Nathan, 50c.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Corra Harris, one of Georgia's outstanding personalities. She was a remarkable woman and her A Circuit Rider's Wife (1910) is well remembered. She liked to think of herself as an old-fashioned woman but her views were liberal beyond most of her generation. When she used to stay at the Hotel Seymour, 20 and more years ago, her callers had to go upstairs to her room to talk because in those days women did not smoke in the public lounge of a hotel. <sup>IF</sup>We always had a strong curiosity to see the book The Jessica Letters in which she collaborated with Paul Elmer More. We should have liked also to attend her course of lectures on Evil at Rollins College; wish some of her students would tell us about it.

The New Yorker remarks of A. P. Herbert's The House by the River, now epublished by Doubleday, that it's so good they wonder why they never heard of it. How old that makes Ancient Quercus feel: he well remembers typing down the whistle-cord for that book in a newspaper column he was writing in March 1921. A witty and admirable story; with one passage (p. 155) which most American readers will find incomprehensible. <sup>CF</sup>Quercus is mourning the separation of what he has always fondly believed to be two of the strangest bedfellows in the book business. Morgan's, Inc., Jewelry and Books, of Lansing, Michigan, has gone out of business. But the cloud has an appropriately silvered lining. The former manager, C. W. Ellison, is opening a shop early in March under his own name at No. 8 Strand Arcade in the same city, and he is again going to sell the SRL to his customers. Good going! Ben Abramson, of Argus Book Shop, Chicago, is grieved about the reviews of his favorite Ivor Trent. The sales of this book, he groans, "were conceived in anemia, born in pallor, and seem destined to die of unbelievable indifference."



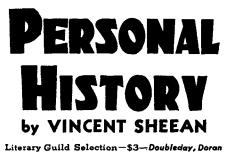
"I don't know how I can say half enough, just how fine I think Vincent Sheean's PERSONAL HIS-TORY. It is an exceptional book-the power to recreate the remembered scene and make history live and the directness of approach are extraordinary. What impressed me on finishing the book (and I read every word and wished there was more of it) was that a record of life, without change or artifice, had resulted in a work of art equal to some of the greater imaginative novels...

The scattered scenes and times and people are integrated by the singleness of purpose—the desire to understand, the search for truth, and the individual need to find relationship with the world make a unified whole out of a series of chaotic adventures. . . .

It is this high seriousness of purpose and the beauty and honesty of the book that set it so far apart—and above most other autobiographies.

other autobiographies. I felt very stronglymore personally than can be explained in a brief letter—the problem and struggle which Vincent Sheean has recordedand I hope, for the sake of readers themselvesthat the book will reach a wide public. I know already innumerable people I want to tell about it and to keep on telling them until 9 9 they read it.





## This one volume is, in reading enjoyment, worth at least three of the ordinary run of novels



on St. Valentine's Day (appropriately enough) The Inner Sanctum released another red-letter book, The Primrose Path, by the world's greatest stuffed-shirt deflater, murderer of the King's English and carpet-lack placer on the seats of the mighty, OCDEN NASH. Der (To be continued.) Der Which indicates why February is a short but exciting month for

Essandess.

#### For Double-Crostic Fans

WE have recently published a book of Double Crostics, edited by Elizabeth Kingsley.

The book contains Fifty Double Crostics that have never before appeared elsewhere. It is available at all booksellers or direct from SIMON & SCHUSTER, INC., 386 Fourth Avenue, New York City. Price....\$1.35 per copy. by Rebecca West

- of whom William Soskin writes: "I regard her as one of the most stimulating, irritating, acidulous and lovable of living novelists." \$2.50

#### DOUBLEDAY, DORAN

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