# 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.

#### PARTY GAMES FOR GROWN-UPS

A. J., H., of Meadowlands, Pa., would like a book covering modern party games for grown-ups.

E will probably be interested in learning, if he has not already noticed the announcement, that Doubleday, Doran & Co. are just launching a department to be devoted entirely to entertainment. It will be under the direction of Jerome S. Meyer, whose MEN-TAL WHOOPEE and MIND YOUR P'S AND Q'S (both Simon & Schuster) are books of exactly the sort A. J. H. wants. This new department, to be known as Heyday House, will publish puzzles, games, and some books of humor. Many of the publications will be designed especially for parties, where guests compete against time and one another. Among the books that he can fall back on now are PARTY GAMES FOR ALL OCCASIONS (Lippincott), by Bernard Stanley, WHAT SHALL WE DO NOW? (Stokes), by D. F. Fisher and others, GOOD TIMES FOR ALL (French), by N. B. Lamkin, and WHAT'LL WE DO NOW? (Simon & Schuster), by E. Longstreth and L. T. Holton. And, of course, there's always THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF GAMES (Dutton), edited by E. Lasker, to which to refer.

Events are too rapid for the processes of magazine publication. I haven't even been able to get the foregoing paragraph into print before a letter reaches me from Mr. Jerome S. Meyer announcing the issuance of the first of the Heyday books, IT'S ABOUT TIME, and a postcard arrives from its author, Gerald L. Kaufman, bringing his greetings and the statement that "It's about Time for a book about time." Mr. Meyer says, that in addition to this volume, Heyday House has three other selections on the Spring list, BRING-ING SHERLOCK HOME, a detective game for competitive playing; MAY I LEAVE THE ROOM?, a new twist in party fun where the guests entertain one another by performing stunts in magic, and NAMING QUINTUPLETS, a question and answer book.

#### On Humor

F. de B. W., of Montreal, Canada, would like a volume on the writing of humor. "Not too cut and dried and not too textbookish. A survey of humor in its varied forms, showing the why and how of humorous situations, statements, and narratives."

If F. de B. W. will possess his soul in patience a few days longer he will be able to get the very book he wants, for on March twentieth Dodd, Mead & Co. are to publish Stephen Leacock's WHY LAUGH-THE THEORY AND TECHNIQUE OF HUMOR. Mr. Leacock, as everyone knows who has read him in his happiest light vein, is no mean humorist himself. Indeed his gaiety sits as lightly on him as his economics does soberly when he chooses to be the college professor instead of the literary man. His book seems to promise delightful reading. I've been dipping into the galley proofs which came to my desk the other day and find fascinating stuff in them. Mr. Leacock begins frivolously enough with the crudest sort of jokesthe sort that set school children to giggling or fill the untutored adult mind with glee-but ends on a deep note of seriousness by envisioning the universe as ending "with one vast, silent, unappreciated joke." Horace Walpole's "the world

reading could be culled from this book, with enough variety and enough that is entertaining as well as informative to hold the attention of a youthful audience.

#### BIRDS OF THE SOUTHWEST

R. P. F., of Tucson, Arizona, wishes the names of some illustrated books which will help her identify the birds of her section of her country. She remembers that some time ago I mentioned several volumes of the sort but cannot recall their titles.

The books to which she refers did not deal specifically with her corner of the United States, but nevertheless would be helpful to her. They were Anna B. Comstock's handbook of nature study (Ithaca, N. Y., Comstock Publishing Co.), a compendium dealing not alone with birds, but with insects, flowers, etc.; two volumes in the Pocket Nature Library issued by Doubleday, Doran, one covering water birds and the other birds of prey, and the more comprehensive BIRDS IN NATURE, by Neltje Blanchan, in the Nature Library published by Nelson Doubleday. Elliott Koues's KEY TO NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS (Page: \$15) covers every known species of living and fossil bird to be found on the American continent north of Mexico, including those of Greenland. The particular book, however, which treats of R. P. F's section is field book of birds of the SOUTHWESTERN UNITED STATES (Houghton Mifflin), by L. E. Wyman and E. F. Burnell. It won't be of any use to her for her special purposes, but nevertheless R. P. F. may be interested to know that a little book has just appeared, unique among works on birds, I believe, in presenting a method of recognizing the birds of the Northeastern United States by their calls without the use of musical notes. It is by Aretas A. Saunders, and is called BIRD songs (Appleton-Century). I have it on the authority of Mr. Canby, in whom a good naturalist was lost when he took to literature, that it is an excellent book.

#### PRINTING IN GERMANY

J. D. B., of Dallas, Texas, most engagingly wonders whether I will bother with a mere school girl. She is writing a term theme on the history of printing in Germany and wants help on the subject. If she can get hold of John Clyde Os-

wald's HISTORY OF PRINTING (Appleton-Century), she will find a full account of its development in Germany from earliest times to the present there. If she needs merely a synopsis she will find Merritt Way Haynes's STUDENT'S HISTORY OF PRINT-ING (McGraw-Hill) a useful reference work.

#### Esthetics

G. G., of New York City, is on the hunt for a work on esthetics which will be neither too philosophical nor too banal. He outlines the sort of book he wants by translating a paragraph from Alfred Heussner's DIE PHILOSOPHISCHEN WELTAN-SCHAUUNGEN UND IMRE HAUPTVERTRETER.

If I gather his desire correctly from this paragraph the book he needs is Frank Jewett Mather's concerning beauty, which the Princeton University Press has just this minute published. Mr. Mather, who is professor of art, critic of art, and writer on matters artistic and literary, possesses clarity, grace, and charm. This book is in substance a series of lectures which he delivered, and, though the work of a scholar, is couched in language which brings it into the range of the layman's understanding. G. G. can gather an idea of the method it follows from a synopsis of the last chapter, entitled On Taste and the Varieties of Beauty, which takes up such subjects as truthfulness of art and of life; the comic and allied branches; collective taste; shifts in taste; laboratory esthetics; the sublime; the delectable; the characteristic. It contains a brief selected bibliography, and makes special acknowledgment in the preface to another work which G. G. should read, John Dewey's ART AS EXPERIENCE (Minton, Balch).

# THE THE CURTAIN FALLS by Joseph Verner Reed

# Exhilarating

"I don't know when I've had such a good time...lt's one of the liveliest, brightest, most exhilarating yarns about the theatre in years."—Harry Hansen, N.Y. World Telegram

### Nothing like it

"Although I suppose I have read several thousand books on the theatre, I don't believe I have ever read one quite like this."—John Mason Brown, N. Y. Post

### Wisely amusing

"—Fascinating ... as wisely amusing a book as was ever written about the New York stage."—Percy Hammond, N. Y. Herald Tribune

2nd printing, \$2.75, illustrated

# Entertainment

"You'll find far more entertainment here than in many a current Times Square show."—N. Y. Times Book Review

# Entrancing

"An electrically entrancing chronicle... He (Mr. Reed) is most certainly a born Boswell."— John Chamberlain, N. Y. Times

# Devilishly frank

"Devilishly daring too. Gossip that is diverting, pen pictures that are revealing... An honest and same book about Broadway."—Robert Garland, N. Y. World Telegram

Harcourt, Brace & Company

# A New Book by EZRA POUND MAKE IT NEW

An anthology of Ezra Pound's criticism from 1912 to the present time on a variety of subjects ranging from the Troubadours and Elizabethan classicists to modern French poetry and Henry James. This is perhaps Mr. Pound's best critical document. It includes a wealth of quotation as well as much incisive comment which frequently goes well beyond literature into the social and political forces that have affected the course and content of the literary stream. \$3.75

# A CAPTAIN DEPARTED By A. W. SMITH

"A British soldier's lively record of his years . . . animated by the spirit of adventure and rich in humor."— N. Y. Times. "The spirit of the book, its astonishingly vivid style, page after page of fresh, vigorous prose that is like nothing else I can think of. It is a book of our time to the last syllable. Something that ought not to be missed."—Herschel Brickell, N. Y. Post. \$2.50

is a comedy to those that think" in another version. In the course of the discussion that thus ranges from primitive merriment to cosmic predicament he introduces example after example to illustrate his thesis, discusses the great humorists like Dickens and Mark Twain, and, to paraphrase, analyzes where is humor bred, or in the heart or in the head. F. de B. W. ought to find the book to his liking.

A DIVERSION FROM MUSIC

B. N., of Ogden, Utah, is looking for something that might be read at a children's musical recital as a means of varying the program. It is to be read by an adult but should appeal to children.

Lucy G. Lillie's THE STORY OF MUSIC AND MUSICIANS (Harpers) contains anecdotes of famous composers, the story of the composition of favorite classics, and an account of the origins of different musical forms. I should think that with a little adroitness an interesting half hour's THE ALPHABET AND WRITING

Mr. Erward Delavan Perry has again put me in his debt by adding to my recent suggestions to J. F. B. of Louisville, Ky., the title of "a singularly valuable and accurate little book by B. L. Ullman of the University of Chicago: "This is ANCIENT WRITING AND ITS INFLUENCE (Longmans, Green), one of the series entitled Our Debt to Greece and Rome." YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS, New Haven, Conn.

## A lively and stimulating new volume

# **By DESMOND MACCARTHY**

These essays from the well-known English writer, formerly editor of *Life and Letters* and now dramatic critic of the British Broadcasting Company, range from Montaigne to Eating, from Versailles to Crowd Psychology, and include many charming thumbnail sketches. \$2.50

# EXPERIENCE

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, New York

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# **Double-Crostics:** Number 51

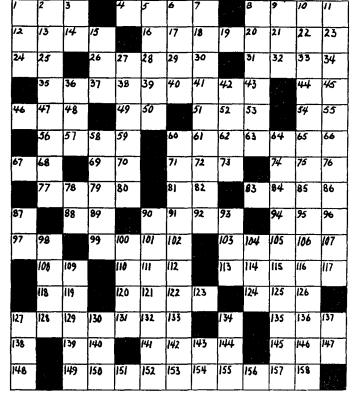
#### By ELIZABETH S. KINGSLEY

#### DIRECTIONS

To solve this puzzle, you must guess twenty-two words, the definitions of which are given in the column headed DEFINI-TIONS. 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.

of the diagram.	
DEFINITIONS	WORDS
I. 51-21-1-45-82-98-57-36-111-153- 102. Father of Jehu.	
11. 73-42-136-59-66-52-3. Book by D. H. Lawrence.	
III. 83-32-139-54-99-112-148. Fig- ure of speech.	
IV. 124-79-18-47-108-43-89-147. Of doubtful propriety.	
V. 31-100-65-131-97-39-6-106-87- 145-156. Lord Mayor of London.	
VI. 30-12-137-86-68-142-152. Do- main of the elves (Norse myth.)	
VII. 19-41-157-72-109-138-55. Poem by Meredith.	
VIII. 135-146-120-84-129-14. Bru- tus's page in "Julius Caesar."	
IX. 125-61-77-26-130-85. Not cele-	
brated in verse. X. 75-140-10-113-53. Very stylish	
or smart (slang). XI. 92-16-8-80-69-50-94. Female branch of family.	
XII. 155-25-11-46-71-96-93. A	
firth. XIII. 126 - 24 - 15 - 101 - 122 - 58 - 5 - 110 -	
144. To make requital. XIV. 29-2-9-38. Excursion, jour-	
ney. XV. 34-105-4-70-88-151-60-17-141.	
To disable, cripple. XVI. 107-62-91-23-115-33-103-143-	
119. Tending to summon forth. XVII. 49-114-35-63-22-78. Charac-	
ter in "Twelfth Night." XVIII. 123-13-154-40. A peniten-	
tial period. XIX. 76-116-81-56-121-64-95-27.	
Entire compass of tones (mus.). XX. 158 - 20 - 149 - 48 - 128 - 117 - 7.	
Pleasing or sweet sounds. XXI. 67 - 74 - 28 - 44 - 133. Not the	
clergy. XXII. 104 - 37 - 127 - 134 - 118-90-150-	
132. A Dickens character.	

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.



#### SOLUTION OF LAST WEEK'S DOUBLE-CROSTIC (NUMBER 50)

#### JOHN RUSKIN--- "FORS CLAVIGERA"

Just think what a horrible condition of life it is that any man of vulgar wit, who knows English grammar, can get, for a couple of sheets of chatter in a magazine, two-thirds of what Milton got altogether for "Paradise Lost."

### The New Books

#### (Continued from page 556)

a very vague wonder that this is all that life offers, which never rises to a specific questioning of God or society; a very vague discontent; and tempering this, a very vague resignation. A single major character who thoroughly if mistakenly enjoyed life, or a single major character who was violently and rebelliously unhappy, might have deepened the emotional key of all the rest. But there is a kind of psychical anemia that pervades the suburb and, for all its sympathy, infects the book. Miss Iles, though she undoubtedly feels the most sincere and tender pity for all the poor little people in the world, tempers it, like her characters, by a resignation which is neither truly religious nor philosophical, but merely the British disposition to make the best of things. She does not show the despair, the anger, or the faith, one or another of which is necessary to make valuable work out of material so wanting in vitality. But she may well reach one of these; and even without them, her sympathy and workmanship make her a novelist of real promise.

### B. D.

#### THE POACHER. By H. E. Bates. Macmillan. 1935. \$2.

Mr. Bates is a young English writer whose short stories have evoked a measure of enthusiasm from American readers, chiefly because of their remarkably dimensioned characterizations. Here he has brought this talent into full play: "The Poacher," the story of a man's unflagging but futile struggle against a shifting civilization and a selfishly ambitious family, contains a gallery of characters that are memorable because of the hairline precision with which the author has put them on paper. Luke Bishop, whom we see first as a youth approaching maturity, is the central figure in this group, all of whom influence him and most of whom do harm to his soul. There is the swaggering, picaresque father, whom he has followed on midnight forays into the game preserves since childhood; there is the old aunt, who loves Luke as she hates his parents: his wife, Lily, before her marriage a passionate, sentimental girl, steeped in the romanticism of "The Bride of Lammermoor," but changing afterwards into a shrewd, scolding woman with desires for her children that Luke cannot comprehend. The children are girls, to Luke's

bitter disappointment, and as he sees them growing up, becoming more like their mother with each day's passing, he resigns himself to the drudgery of his twenty-acre farm, finding pleasure only in the occasional furtive snaring of a marauding hare, and in imparting his knowledge of the forests to his small grandson. At sixty-odd, he is sent to prison for a crime he did not commit, and upon his release finds the family gone away, his farm sold, and for him, nowhere to go.

Mr. Bates has told this story well. He is at all times a competent craftsman, and occasionally, as in the account of Luke's terrified flight through a snowstorm, believing himself to be sought for murder, his prose rises to something approaching eloquence. Aside from a few minor flaws, for instance the somewhat unwieldy opening chapter, "The Poacher" is a firstrate job of writing, and is by all odds his best work to date. L. B.

#### SUMMER LEAVES. By Denis Mackail. Doubleday, Doran. 1934. \$2.

Mr. Denis Mackail writes gracefully, with sensitive perception and with that delightful air of gentlemanly playfulness which is exclusively English. Unfortunately, apart from the manner of writing it, there is little to commend in this novel. The story is trivial. There are some nice people in a pleasant English setting: there is an entertaining old peeress "who looks like an exceptionally handsome tortoise": there are "Noodles," the girl, and "Snubs," the boy-both attractive but inconsequential: there are two comic suitors who seem rather to impede than contribute to the action: there are some aristocratic and intelligent relatives. The characters however, though agreeably drawn, are incomplete and one-sided. As a story, "Summer Leaves" is about the equivalent of a good first act of a play-pretty decor, amusing characters deftly introduced, and little or no plot. It is far less interesting than Mr. Mackail's earlier books, "Peninsula Place" and, of course, "The Square Circle."

ing thing to do. Miss McGinley is clever and cool and "hep" to most of life, but she has a personality of her own that transpires to the reader. From her initial "Song from New Rochelle" (and she can sing both urban and suburban) to her final real poem, "No Antidote," she gives herself away in an individual manner. Helen Hokinson, who knows so well how all our female relations look, has drawn nice pictures for some of this verse. She also does a very real kitten up a tree.

Miss McGinley knows all about Oliver Ames, too, and men may well tremble at her discernment. Occasionally she carves a positive classic, thus:

Relations are errors that Nature makes. Your spouse you can put on the shelf.

But your friends, dear friends, are the quaint mistakes

You always commit yourself.

Some of her best ballads have an infectious rhythm, and always her rhyming is good. For a Westerner, born in Oregon, brought up in Colorado, sent to school in Utah, she is singularly metropolitan. She says she is yet going to publish a book of serious verse just as soon as some "publisher loses his mind." I hope she does, because the samples of it that she has managed to sneak in here aren't bad at all. Meanwhile, you certainly ought to have "On the Contrary" around the house. When things go wrong you can cheer yourself up considerably by dipping into it. W. R. B.

#### Science

important point is that the story in each is accurate, never dull, and often sprightly. To help out-and in no small waythere are many whimsical drawings over gay captions by Chichi Lasley. In addition, there are stereoscopic photographs (a stereoscope is supplied) which enable the reader to peer into the laboratory from his fireside.

That the fundamentals of physics can be covered so thoroughly and so interestingly is astonishing. At the same time, it must be confessed that the person of no previous physical knowledge must read carefully in order to grasp everything, but one suspects that the easier passages will be found so engaging that careful reading of the others will be small effort. To the reader who wants to know what physics is all about, or to know why a loud-speaker squawks, or the significance of Newton's apple, or why some persons go to such trouble to visit the stratosphere, this book can be recommended with enthusiasm.

J. S. M.

### **Brief Mention**

Those who are always complaining that no one knows who designs skyscrapers will find a good deal of interesting information summarized in Building to the Skies: The Romance of the Skyscraper (Studio Publications: \$4.50). \* \* \* Note a vivacious little biography of Don Juan of Austria, by Margaret Yeo (Sheed & Ward: \$2.50), also a life of the great anti-imperialist George Frisbie Hoar, by Frederick H. Gillett (Houghton Mifflin: \$3.50). \* \* \* A still more miscellaneous group of recent publications follow: A convenient Short History of Czechoslovakia, by Dr. Kamil Krofta (McBride: \$2), literary and biographical studies pleasantly written of the classical period in Citizens of Long Ago: Essays on Life and Letters in the Roman Empire, by Adeline Bell Hawes (Oxford University Press: \$2.50). Also Undercurrents of Influence in English Romantic Poetry, by Margaret Sherwood (Harvard University Press: \$3.50), a collection of essays containing new interpretations of the English romantic writers; Joel Barlow, one of the so-called Hartford wits, biographically and critically studied, in The Early Days of Joel Barlow: His Life and Works from 1754-1787, by Theodore Albert Zunder (Yale University Press \$2). Baylor University publishes Intimate Glimpses from Browning's Letter File: being a series of letters, some of them interesting and significant, written to Browning. Last in this miscellaneous collection are Godes Peace and the Queenes Moneys, by Norreys Jephson O'Conor (Harvard University Press), a description of a raid upon an Elizabethan house by Henry, Earl of Lincoln, and Oriental Brasses and Other Objects for Temple and Household Use, by Isabel Ingersoll Lockwood (Arthur H. Clark Co., Glendale, Calif.: \$7.50). The latter is a series of pictures with annotations of selected brasses from the Lockwood collection.

### Latest Books Received

#### EDUCATION

The Care of the Pupil. S. S. Drury. Har-vard Univ. Pr. Methods of Teaching the Fine Arts. Ed. W. S. Reusk. Univ. of North Caro-lina Pr. \$2.50.

#### FOREIGN

Hans Friedrich Blunet: Leben und Werk. C. Jenssen. Berlin: Buch- und Tiefdruck Ge-sellschaft.

#### INTERNATIONAL

Japan's Pacific Mandate. P. H. Clyde. Mac-millan. \$3. Internationalism and Disarma-ment. M. E. Wooley. Macmillan. \$1. millan

#### MISCELLANEOUS

#### **558**

L. C. T.

# Poetry

ON THE CONTRARY. By Phyllis Mc-Ginley. Doubleday, Doran. 1934. \$1.75.

If you read The New Yorker, you know the verse of Phyllis McGinley; and yet, at that, you can't quite appreciate how attractive it is all gathered together, supplemented by a few graver grace notes. We will not compare Miss McGinley to Mrs. Parker, which is the obvious and misleadFROM GALILEO TO COSMIC RAYS: A New Look at Physics. By Harvey Brace Lemon. University of Chicago Press. 1934. \$5.

This book is the outgrowth of a series of lectures begun four years ago at the University of Chicago as a course required of all undergraduate students of the physical sciences. Since the aim of Chicago's new curriculum is to educate rather than to force-feed facts, and since most of the incoming students have had no training in the field, a new kind of introductory text-book of physics was necessary; it had to be at once comprehensible, interesting, and accurate. Dr. Lemon has supplied that want and more, for he has also supplied the wants of the interested adult reader. The only thing conventional about his book is the division into five parts: I, Mechanics; II, Heat; III, Electricity and Magnetism; IV, Electricity and Matter; V. Waves and Radiation. But this is a small matter. The