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Eugene O'Neill

SEVEN volumes have now appeared of the "Wilderness Edition" of Eugene O'Neill's plays, published by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, of the twelve which are projected. The typographic design of the books is by Mr. Elmer Adler, and the printing has been done by the Scribner Press.

Granting that actable plays ought never to be read and that the other kind ought not to be written, the fact remains that the work of so distinguished a playwright as Mr. O'Neill should be preserved in permanent form. The present set is in large octavo format, stoutly bound in red cloth, with excellent photogravure frontispieces. The type is a large, easily read Baskerville, with the details of the printing well carried out.

Such plays as these require more than ordinary skill in the arrangement of the dialogue and the stage directions; clarity has been attained by a few simple devices which do not obstruct the reading. The fundamental fault with the format of the edition seems to me to be that the plays have been spread over too much paper. A smaller type, a more concise setting, and a smaller paper size would have made a better book, even if the series as a whole were not so impressive. With first-class workmanship, such as these books evince, one could afford to condense them into smaller form. The title-pages are designed with an interlaced border design, with the inner panel printed in a gray background with the letters in white—effective and not usual.

A New "Green Mansions"

W. H. Hudson's masterpiece has been given a setting which is hardly likely to be bettered in this new edition published by the Limited Editions Club. In many respects it is the sort of book which is seldom attempted by American publishers, partly perhaps because of the expense—but more likely, I believe, because of a lack of imagination.

It is in format a large, tall octavo, rather thin than thick: on the whole a good book to handle. The text has been set in "Centaur" type, that graceful example of Mr. Rogers's skill as a type designer, well leaded and delicately—perhaps a bit too delicately—printed. Great distinction is given to it by Mr. Wilson's pictures in color. It may be objected that lithographed color pictures are not in the true tradition of a type printed book, but they are good pictures, well printed, and fit into the

scheme of the book extraordinarily well, perhaps just because of that delicacy of the type printing to which I have just taken mild exception. They are not so much illustrations for the scenes of the story as decorative panels by a man who apparently knows the jungle. In short the book, while it violates one of the precepts of a well-knit whole, achieves success by the delicacy and skill of the component parts. It is one of the choicest of recent issues from the Limited Editions Club.

Noble Numbers

From the Oxford University Press comes the first issue in a new series, The Hesperides Series, being "The Poems of Robert Herrick" in two volumes. The second issue will be Mrs. Gaskell's "Cranford." The volumes have been designed by Mr. Bruce Rogers and printed at the Oxford University Press, and are good value at \$2.50 per volume.

In shape the volumes are small octavo, with that suitability of proportions which is difficult to achieve but pleasant to contemplate. The binding is a smooth brown cloth, with gilt tops, and a sprinkling of Hesperidean apples. The problem of a small page and small type is never too easy to solve: in this case the type is the round, full Baskerville, making for a good looking as well as an easy reading page. The volumes are disarmingly simple and straightforward in appearance, reminding one of those charming books of the nineties or of some of the Pickering volumes, but with a bit more of sophistication.

Letters of Western Authors

The Book Club of California, which last year sent out to its members a series of views of California mining towns, is this year issuing a series of "Letters of Western Authors," each with a descriptive text by a contemporary Western writer. So far letters from George Sterling and Bret Harte have been printed in facsimile, with descriptive comment printed on the enclosing folder. These very agreeable souvenirs will be treasured by their recipients.

John Donne

The Peter Pauper Press has just published in its series of two dollar books "The Love Poems of John Donne," as a somewhat extravagantly tall octavo. But, as I have said before, these Peter Pauper Press books are worth having, and this seems to me to be the best of the series except for the first—the Constitution of the United States.

The Criminal Record

The Saturday Review's Guide to Detective Fiction

Title and Author	Crime, Place, Sleuth	Summing Up	Verdict
THE SMILING CORPSE <i>A Coupla Guys</i> (Farrar and Rinehart: \$2.)	Death of critic in N. Y. apt. solved by harness bull while literati and mystery sharks cavort gaily.	Besides being capital take-off on methods of major mystery mongers it is also a grand yarn.	Hand-some spoofing
THE MAN IN BUTTON BOOTS <i>Anthony Gilbert</i> (Holt: \$2.)	Murder of millionaire with huge diamond pits Latymer (English) and Dupuy (French) against each other with amazing result.	Slow motion all the way through, but story is engrossing, Monte Carlo background lively, and end a gasp.	It'll hold you
DEATH OF AN AIRMAN <i>C. St. John Sprigg</i> (Crime Club: \$2.)	Expert pilot's unexplainable crash reveals murder and dope-running plot which keep two 'tecs jumping.	Fascination of aviation stuff (extra well done) takes curse off an ending which is way up in stratosphere.	Extra-readable
THE RIDDLE OF THE FLORENTINE FOLIO <i>E. S. Liddon</i> (Crime Club: \$2.)	Deaths of rich Southern spinster, aged negress, and young scapegrace deftly solved by fluffy female detective.	Gathers momentum slowly, but entrance of voodoo motif and slam-bang finale make up for lost time.	Middlin'
PROFILE OF A MURDER <i>Rufus King</i> (Harcourt, Brace: \$2.)	Strangling of wealthy woman at Andirondack estate brings Lieut. Valcour hot-foot.	Designedly transparent as mystery but suspense keeps up to concert pitch all the way.	Good

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BACHELOR, 39, "holocaustically craving"—to all the ladies and gentlemen, who sent him these lovely 53 letters and to those, to whom he could not reply yet,—but he will!—most grateful and cordial greetings, and a toast! Dearest friends—long live Romance and blessed be the Review! Box 276-A.

WRITER economic and social developments wishes visiting contact with woman 30 to 40, preferably college or newspaper trained. Attractive appearance necessary, but objective is intellectual exchange in social visiting. Give experience, name matters most interested. Address Box 322-A.

HOUSE wanted by writer, prepared to buy small home with modern conveniences for cash if bargain offers, in small community offering literary and artistic associates, within 300 miles of New York City, preferably in New England. Box 323-A.

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EDUCATED young couple as companions for elderly couple this summer. Small salary plus expenses. Box 326-A.

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Double-Crostics: Number 53

By ELIZABETH S. KINGSLEY

DIRECTIONS

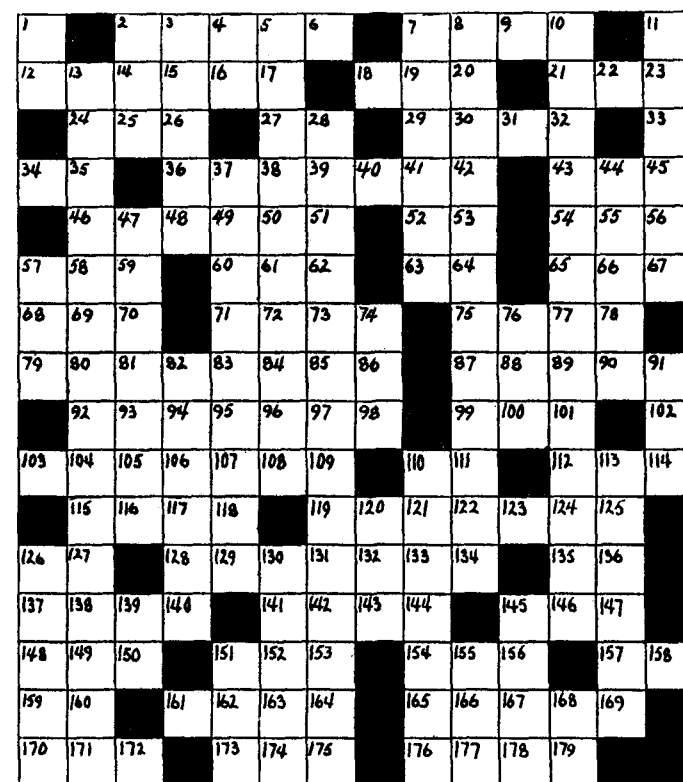
To solve this puzzle, you must guess thirty words, the definitions of which are given in the column headed DEFINITIONS. The letters in each word to be guessed are numbered (these numbers appear at the beginning of each definition) and you are thereby able to tell how many letters are in the required 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.

DEFINITIONS

- I. 137-9-78-19-62-114. Fuss, confusion.
- II. 61-101-173-14-147. Character in "Adam Bede."
- III. 110-168-121-105-84. Site of the topless towers.
- IV. 37-103-134-126-1-156-54. Kind of pottage Jacob gave Esau.
- V. 167-66-89-124-140-145-108. Dip, plunge into.
- VI. 117-18-136-36-12-144. Symbol of immortality.
- VII. 60-35-151-141-118-3-96-104. Last utterance.
- VIII. 22-119-106-138-82. Book by Dostolevsky.
- IX. 59-175-45. Condensed moisture.
- X. 123-139-38-7. Corner, secluded retreat.
- XI. 16-155-127-174-48-143. Hebrew God.
- XII. 98-63-178. Hebrew for day in Feast days.
- XIII. 77-125-92-4-64-52-17. One who earnestly entreats.
- XIV. 99-10-146-23-164-149-120-153. Surrounded with wrappings.
- XV. 73-162-129-51-28-172. Cheap and gaudy.
- XVI. 95-13-33-177-81-100. Something badly made over.
- XVII. 44-135-152-163-102-94-24. Passenger vehicle.
- XVIII. 79-112-90-46. Exclamation of disgust.
- XIX. 15-30-2-57-142-71. Loud laugh.
- XX. 131-5-116-171. Pseudonym of English essayist.
- XXI. 169-83-32-50-53-41-91-176-69-128. Similarities.
- XXII. 154-159-67-122-40-166-97-21. Came to rest.
- XXIII. 8-93-39-130. Bird-call; memorandum.
- XXIV. 6-148-170-43. Euphemism for "damn."
- XXV. 65-29-179-85-49-88-113. Sweetheart. (colloq.)
- XXVI. 132-75-34-111-27-160-42. Doubly.
- XXVII. 20-70-56-158-109. Bordered.
- XXVIII. 150-72-87-26-68-55-161-76. Somewhat small.
- XXIX. 31-47-11-115-133-165-86. Illegal.
- XXX. 80-157-74-25-107-58. For a short time.

WORDS

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.



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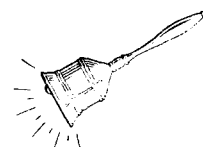
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