

# The Clearing House

CONDUCTED BY AMY LOVEMAN

*Inquiries, accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope, should be directed to Miss Loveman, in care of The Saturday Review.*

A BALANCED RATION FOR  
A WEEK'S READING  
MY SHADOW AS I PASS. By Sybil  
Bolitho. Viking.  
POOR SPLENDID WINGS. By  
Frances Winwar. Little, Brown.  
COLLECTED POEMS. By Robert  
Frost. Holt.

### A Reading List for the Young

M. E. M. of Philadelphia, Pa., is struggling to make a not impossible list of modern literature (say from 1900) for a group of young people. She wants it to "have breadth as well as depth of vision, and asks for about twenty-five titles in various fields which would give these young folk a modern background for present-day reading."

I'M drawing up a list in rather hit or miss fashion, I am afraid, since I can't from M. E. M.'s letter gauge the age of her readers with any certainty. I take it for granted that they are ready for completely adult if perhaps not sophisticated reading, and have selected books that would seem in a way to reflect the temper and drift of contemporary society. I have

included among them works written outside America as well a greater number, perhaps, of home origin. The titles represent merely one selection that in no way pretends to be better than a number of others that might be made. Since nothing is more revealing of the background and outlook of a period than the autobiography which springs from it, I start with a group of volumes which, as it happens, reflect the experiences of foreigners who have either become Americans or lived in America—Michael Pupin's FROM IMMIGRANT TO INVENTOR (Scribners), Mary Antin's THE PROMISED LAND (Houghton Mifflin), and Etsu Sugimoto's A DAUGHTER OF THE SAMURAI (Doubleday, Doran). These, it seems to me, are interesting not only as life stories but in the light they cast on an alien society as it appeared to intelligent observers. To this group, as representing a reverse process, that is, the appearance his own land wore to one who had long been separated from it, might be added Louis Adamic's THE NATIVE'S RETURN (Harpers). Biography of another sort is represented by two books which should find eager readers among the young, Lawrence's REVOLT IN THE DESERT (Doubleday, Doran) and Paul de Kruif's MICROBE HUNTERS (Harcourt, Brace). Passing from biography to fiction there is a list of novels all of which have a common base, varied though they are, in that they are indicative of the temper of society and the forces which at their various times of appearance were holding front place in public interest. These include H. G. Wells's MR. BRITLING SEES IT THROUGH (Macmillan), Galsworthy's THE FORSYTE SAGA (Scribners), Booth Tarkington's ALICE ADAMS (Doubleday, Doran), Du Bose Heyward's PORGY (Doubleday,

Doran), Sinclair Lewis's BABBITT (Harcourt, Brace) and his just issued IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE (Doubleday, Doran), a book which it seems to me it would be well if every young American could read, Thomas Boyd's ROLL RIVER (Putnams), Robert Nathan's ONE MORE SPRING (Knopf), Edna Ferber's so BIG (Doubleday, Doran), Ellen Glasgow's THE SHELTERED LIFE (Doubleday, Doran) and BARREN GROUND, Willa Cather's MY ANTONIA (Houghton Mifflin), and Louis Bromfield's THE FARM (Harpers). This, as I said before, is but a single selection from the books of the last twenty years from which other groups might be chosen, but I think it represents reading which in itself should be interesting and which reflects much of the background of thought and feeling of recent years. There's one book which if read by youth might serve as a spring-board to determined action, and that is Vera Brittain's TESTAMENT OF YOUTH (Macmillan), a chronicle of the war years which more forcefully and movingly than a dozen prepared peace pleas makes cause against battle. To the foregoing books it would be well, too, to add Louis Untermeyer's MODERN AMERICAN POETRY and MODERN ENGLISH POETRY (Harcourt, Brace), for in the verse of contemporary times as much as in its prose resides the spirit of peoples. And Mr. Untermeyer, skilled anthologist that he is, has here skimmed the cream from recent poetical achievement.

### Story Parade

This particular issue of *The Saturday Review* which devotes considerable space to juvenile literature seems the fitting one in which to make mention of a new monthly to be edited for children. *Story Parade*, as it is to be called, is to contain stories of contemporary life both in this country and in foreign lands, reprints from foreign literature as well as from English, verse, illustrations, plays, book reviews, and writings by children themselves. An advisory board has been established, and the magazine, installed at 70 Fifth Avenue, is to issue its first number on the fifteenth of December.

### Among the Most Striking Books of the Year

## THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SCENE

As Depicted by  
STANLEY ARTHURS  
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A fine book in every sense of the word, presenting 54 reproductions (24 in full color) of the best of the work of this well-known painter, and a portrait of the artist by N. C. Wyeth, with a dramatic story behind each scene written for the volume by an authority.

*Published in two beautiful editions by the University of Pennsylvania Press, with an Introduction by A. Felix Du Pont. For further information write to the Committee on Publication, The American Historical Scene, N. W. Corner 10th and Orange Streets, Wilmington, Delaware.*

## The Criminal Record

The Saturday Review's Guide to Detective Fiction

Title and Author	Crime, Place, Sleuth	Summing Up	Verdict
DEATH ON THE BRIDGE Royce Howes (Crime Club: \$2.)	Tramp steamer, modern hell-ship, suffers sanguinary losses of various officers—and then up pops a G-man.	Multitudinous seas are so encarnadined that gore almost swamps the story. There's "pungent" love-interest.	Blutwurst
THE SCARECROW RIDES Russell Thorndyke (Dial Press: \$2.)	Dr. Syn, pirate turned clergyman, helps honest Romney Marsh smugglers and thwarts numerous villains in tale of 1770's.	Follows not unfamiliar pattern (vide J. Farnol) but has movement, romance, gawdy verbiage, and unremitting action.	Good of its kind
THE BAT FLYS LOW Sax Rohmer (Crime Club: \$2.)	Secret of marvellous light known only to ancient Egyptian leads American to adventures in Nile valley—and cataclysm at home.	Incredible made plausible in expert Rohmeresque with much spooky Egyptian stuff and customary super-lovely gals.	Guaranteed thriller



Alexander Woolcott broadcasts:

"I can't imagine anyone who wouldn't enjoy

## Life With Father

By CLARENCE DAY

An incomparable family portrait which is  
unique in American letters." \$2.00

## The Longest Years

By SIGRID UNSET

*Author of "Kristin Lavransdatter"*

A new novel, moving and beautifully written,  
based on Mrs. Undset's own childhood. \$2.50

## Seeds of Tomorrow

By MIKHAIL SHOLOKHOV

A new novel by the brilliant author of *And Quiet  
Flows the Don*. "An unforgettable and wonderful  
picture of the present-day Cossacks, with their  
muddled heads, their childishness, their loyalties  
tragically torn between the New World and their  
ancient Don."—A. G. Macdonnell. 404 pages.  
\$2.50

## Africa Dances

By GEOFFREY GORER

A fascinating travel book about West African  
Negroes. *Carl Van Vechten* says: "Anyone who  
reads the first page will read the whole book."  
With 62 illustrations. \$3.50

## Selected Poems

By ROBERT NATHAN

The distinguished author of *One More Spring* and  
*Road of Ages* is a fine and sensitive poet. Here he  
has gathered the best of his poems, including  
twenty-four sonnets—and the result is a volume  
many readers will treasure. \$2.00

## The Seven Arms

By L. A. G. STRONG

*Ellen Glasgow* writes: "I read it with interest and  
admiration. I am, indeed, inclined to regard L. A.  
G. Strong as the most interesting of the younger  
British novelists. I like him because he has the  
courage to be a poet in an age of prose." \$2.50

## The Essays of Michel de Montaigne

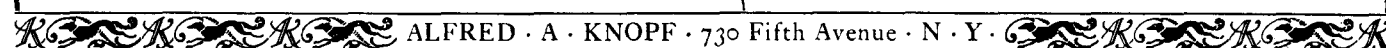
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WILLA CATHER'S

## Lucy Gayheart

"This book is not in her early or later 'man-  
ner'; it is not ironic and it is not religious.  
It is simply a beautiful work of art."—Wil-  
liam Lyon Phelps. \$2.00



# BOOKS CHILDREN DESERVE

## TO READ . . .

**RED SKY** by Theodore Acland Harper. Jacket and end papers by Arthur Zaidenberg. A story of Cosacks and their World War adventures. High school age. \$2.

**MISTER PENNY** written and illustrated by Marie Hall Ets. A funny little man and his funny animals. Age: 3-7. \$1.

**THE GOOD MASTER** written and illustrated by Kate Seredy. A boy and girl on the plains of Hungary. Age: 8-12. \$2

**CHILDREN OF THE NORTH-LIGHTS** written and illustrated by Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire. Lovely, colorful picture book for children, age: 4-8. \$2.

**LITTLE ONES** by Dorothy Kunhardt. Illustrated by Kurt Wiese. Here are baby animals delightfully described and characterized. Age: 5-8. \$2.

**NIP AND TUCK** by George M. Dyott. With photos by the author. A famous explorer tells how he brought two bear cubs home. Age: 7-11. \$1.25.

**IN CALICO AND CRINOLINE** by Eleanor M. Sickels. Illus. by Ilse Bischoff. About great women. High school age. \$2.50.

**BLINKY** by Agnes Akin Atkinson. With photos by Spencer R. Atkinson. Biography of a lovable ringtail. Age: 6-10. \$1.50.

**MISTER TIDY PAWS** by Frances Clarke Sayers. Illustrated by Zhenya Gay. About a cat who dances with the fairies. Age: 7-11. \$1.50.

**CHILDREN OF THE HAND-CRAFTS** by Carolyn Sherwin Bailey. Illus. by Grace Paull. About early America. Age: 8-12. \$2.

**YOUNG WALTER SCOTT** by Elizabeth Janet Gray. Jacket and end papers by Kate Seredy. A real boy who became immortal. High school age. \$2.

**DOBRY** by Monica Shannon. Illustrated by A. Katchamkoff. The Newbery Medal winner. \$2.

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catalogue of Viking  
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BY WILLIAM ROSE BENÉT

THE present abundance of fiction for adults is a phenomenon of the age.

But a large army of writers is also producing juvenile fiction. The following rapid survey serves to illustrate its variety. The growing girl of today enlists the attention of many thoroughly competent writers and the boy of today has a wealth of stories from which to choose. For their smaller brothers and sisters there are many delightful books of all kinds, some of which are mentioned in this article.

### Attention, Young Ladies!

There are varied settings for the stories for girls of from ten to sixteen, the Kentucky hills, the Ozarks, Colorado, on the road with gypsies into Illinois, New Jersey, Czechoslovakia, and even Japan. To begin with: Christine Noble Govan, who is Mrs. Ben Lucien Burman. She has the recommendation of no less an adult author than Gladys Hasty Carroll, and her new book "Five at Ashfield" (Houghton Mifflin, \$2) will appeal to the young of both sexes. It tells what adventures four orphan children found on their Aunt's farm in the foothills of the Appalachians. There they discover a real home and friends, and happiness after a good many doubts and fears. The book becomes distinctly a "family" story. The illustrations are of a pleasant kind. Choice between two other Houghton Mifflin books will depend upon whether you are an Easterner or are more interested in the West. Of the two I myself found Theodora DuBois's story of lively young Diana Froster, at the Eastern boarding-school of Clumber Hall, both original, amusing, and distinctly up-to-date. It is called "Diana's Feathers" (\$2). Here is a girl in an American school whose mother is in England and who has spent her childhood in India. She possesses an effervescent imagination and the courage of her convictions. The contrasted girl who is enamoured of the Moving Pictures is a freshly-imagined, convincing character.

"Penny for Luck," by Florence Cranell Means, from the same publisher, is the story of Penny Adams who runs away from an orphanage, and finds with a family from Denver a delightful location in a deserted Colorado mining town. The large marginless illustrations to the book, by Paul Quinn, deserve special mention, as they are both ambitious and artistic. Penny is a child of nature, with both grit and wit. And Lona Allen of Kentucky is just such another—and also an orphan (orphans seem to be favorites this year!) is "Lona of Hollybush Creek" (Little, Brown, \$2). Genevieve Fox, Lona's creator, has given us other stories of the mountain girl, Sairy Ann Hall, who adopted Lona. Forrest Orr's illustrations seem to me to get the atmosphere of the

Kentucky mountains as does Miss Fox's narrative. Naturally in the stories both about Penny and about Lona you run into dialect. And a Kentucky mountain story wouldn't be a good one if some of the hill ballads didn't enter into it! The Ozark Mountains in Missouri are rather similar.

Alfred A. Knopf publishes Nancy Nance's account of eight girl scouts who camped there one summer ("Girl Scouts in the Ozarks": \$1.75). And in the chapter on Dewey's Cabin you run into a real mountain dance with such shouting from the "caller" as

*Up th' river an' round th' bend  
Right hands up an a-goin' ag'in!  
Pig in th' pen, an' a four rails high,  
Feed that pig or else he'll die!*

Yes, there is frolic on the mountain, a yarb-doctor, and, most exciting of all, a Spanish treasure cave. You also learn a lot about the "victuals" of that region. This is a good story for girls who are fond of the open.

I should select "Chiyo's Return" and "The House of Many Tongues" as the most important of the remaining books for girls. The former, because here is the daughter of that delightful Madame Etsu Sugimoto, author of "A Daughter of the Samurai," writing of her reacquaintance with her native land after an absence in America of ten school years. High school girls will gain from it a first-rate knowledge of just what Japan is like today. It is excellently illustrated by Bunji Tagawa (Doubleday, Doran, \$2). Naturally the daughter of so literary a mother writes well, and is unusually well qualified to act as an interpreter of Japan to the country in which she was educated. Her name, by the way, is Chiyono Sugimoto Kiyooka. Fjeril Hess has before this written of Prague. His new book, "The House of Many Tongues" (Macmillan, \$2) tells of how young American Lynn Garrow takes on important responsibilities in Czechoslovakia, and finally an active part in the building of a great student centre. You met Lynn before, if you read "The Mounted Falcon." Active and intelligent girls who wish to enlarge their horizons, and be of real use in the large but closely-knit world of today, will find real inspiration in this story. It is placed just subsequent to the late World War and, on Lynn's part, is a fine example of self-reliance.

Chesley Kahmann certainly knows American gypsies, and his "Tara, Daughter of the Gypsies" (Smith & Haas, \$2) is illustrated by a genuine artist, F. Luis Mora. Travel with the gypsies, young ladies, and see quite a slice of the United States through their eyes! Or, if you prefer a sure-fire girls' book with a nice clipper-ship-era mystery in it, though in

(Continued on page 24)