

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

THE DIARY OF A PROVINCIAL LADY. By E. M. Delafield. Harpers.

DISRAELI. By André Maurois. Appleton-Century.

EASTER SUN. By Peter Neagoe. Coward-McCann.

An Omnibus Reply

E. T. of Philadelphia, Pa., who is a great admirer of the earlier writings of James Lane Allen of THE KENTUCKY CARDINAL and THE CHOIR INVISIBLE fame, writes in saying she would like to have made clear what happened to that writer in his later years that he so disappointed the hopes of his readers. Whatever there was in his life that influenced his work I'm sure she will find discussed or implied in a volume which appeared early last year entitled JAMES LANE ALLEN AND THE GENTEEL TRADITION (University of North Carolina Press) in which the author, Mr. G. C. Knight, presents not only a biography but a facet of literary history. The book is an interesting one which will repay the reading quite aside from the light it throws on E. T.'s special problem. From E. L. F. in distant Bananera, Guatemala, comes the request for the title of a book on horses, "ordinary horses, not particularly blooded stock. Something on the general care of horses; saddle horses are the kind we are interested in." It's particularly with them (as its title indicates) that William G. L. Taylor's THE SADDLE HORSE: HIS CARE, TRAINING AND RIDING (Holt) deals. Next comes an inquiry from P. R. of Sinking Spring, Pa., who wants to know of an American history which a small boy of seven who lives in Washington and is interested in what it symbolizes for the nation might read. That's something of a poser, for apparently the historians and writers of history hardly expect a lad of his tender years to be interested in the annals of his country. For its beginnings and earliest period, however, he might go to the pictorial account of its discovery and establishment to be found in Randolph G. Adams's THE GATEWAY TO AMERICAN HISTORY (Little, Brown), in which the text is a gloss on the pictures, and if he's a precocious youth he'll probably be interested in Elsie Singmaster's THE BOOK OF THE UNITED STATES (Doubleday, Doran), even if it is intended for children a few years his elders. Regarding the question of H. S. B. of Wellsboro, Pa., as to the exact title of a book about the Brownings, "something like TWO ON PARNASSUS," all I can suggest is that possibly the volume she has in mind is a semi-juvenile volume entitled TWO POETS, A DOG, AND A BOY (Lippincott), by Frances Teresa Russell. At least the book has the word "two" in

the title and the poets to whom it refers are the Brownings. I'm at a loss for an answer to another inquiry, that of P. M. W. of Rock Hill, S. C., about poets whose verse may be regarded as illustrative of the contemporary treatment of the sonnet, such poets, according to P. M. W.'s request, to postdate Jesse Stuart. Since the work of that Southern sonneteer came out, there has, of course, been much verse in the sonnet form published, but it is scattered here and there in the volumes of poets whose reputation was made before Mr. Stuart's name had been heard, or in collections of sonnets too trivial in importance to be worthy of mention. I sought the help of my colleague, Mr. Benét, in regard to P. M. W.'s inquiry, but his far-reaching knowledge of contemporary verse could furnish nothing in answer to it. As to P. M. W.'s request for titles of critical volumes on contemporary poetry I refer him to Mr. Benét's own FIFTY POETS (Dodd, Mead) and, since I can never omit mention of it when the subject of modern poetry comes up, to John Livingston Lowes's CONVENTION AND REVOLT IN POETRY (Houghton Mifflin). P. M. W. has done me a good turn by writing for he has furnished a reference for H. J. J. who in the issue of December 14 asked for a book on match tricks. P. M. W. recently found a volume entitled MATCH STICK MAKING, published by Johnson Smith & Company of Racine, Wis., and sold for fifteen cents.

Proust in Italian

In response to the inquiry made some time ago by H. R. F. of Baltimore, Md., as to an Italian translation of Proust, Mr. Samuel Putnam writes me:

I know that my friend, Aldo Capasso, has translated some portions of Proust, but how much, or how much he has published, I cannot say. Also, there were some passages in *Il Convegno* of Milan of some years ago; but my files, unfortunately, are in France. The Florentine review, *Solaria*, may also have carried excerpts.

I should think the best thing for H. R. F. to do would be to write to Dr. Aldo Capasso, Piazza del Consolato 3, Altare, Savona, Italy; or to Dr. Ferdinando Garibaldi, 7, Salita Fieschina, Genoa, Italy. Dr. Garibaldi may be addressed in English. My name may be used in either case. Any information so obtained would be direct and authentic.

Help Wanted

H. H. C. of Narragansett, R. I., writes:

Can you help me find out who wrote a short story which I think was called "The Yellow Room"? It was an account told in the first person of a woman confined in a pleasant upper room of a country house. Its merit lay in the increasing horror of the reader as he realizes from the woman's diary that she is growing mad. I would also like to know in what collection of stories I read it.

The New Books

(Continued from preceding page)

wardly set down. It reads often like a translation. The analysis of the use of movement in the mass of the early church is penetrating but it remains a disconnected section of the book. Beginning with the court celebrations and pageants of the Renaissance, Mr. Kirstein finds the first seeds of ballet and from here on the writing becomes eloquent.

There is a clear succession in the descent of ballet from the 16th century to the present and, unlike man, the dance can and does inherit the acquired characteristics of its ancestors. Notwithstanding the immense amount of informative detail in Mr. Kirstein's book the continuous line of development from 1550 to the present is sustained. Ballet emerges as a form embodying a glorious accumulation of wisdom of choreographers, musicians, painters, as well as dancers. When we see a ballet in 1935 in the light of such a tradition we cannot lightly pass it over as artificial.

An alluring part of the book is the one hundred and twenty-three pictures in the appendix. They are well selected, but unfortunately miserably reproduced. The notes to the pictures are printed separately so that one has to keep turning over and back. Pictures of dancing speak more eloquently than words, and a history of dancing consisting entirely of annotated pictures would make a nice companion to this volume.

E. G.

Philosophy

PRIMITIVES AND THE SUPERNATURAL. By Lucien Levy-Bruhl. Dutton. 1935. \$5.

Professor Levy-Bruhl of Paris has made peculiarly his own a chapter in the early history of mankind—so prehistoric and alien to our perspective that we see its philosophy as anthropology. His problem is to discover and interpret the primitive archaic mind. He cannot excavate and display his findings in museum cases; the psychic tale of motives, beliefs, and customs that attaches to such surviving witnesses of the ages of stone and metal, is gone. The ideology and mores of living fossils—primitives in cultural status—interviewed by anthropologists is the available substitute for reconstructing the early stages of mind in the making.

The complexion of the primitive world

(Continued on page 22)

SOLUTION OF LAST WEEK'S DOUBLE-CROSTIC (No. 93)

JOHN DRYDEN—

"THE ART OF POETRY"

Choose a just style; be grave without restraint. . . .
More pleased we are to see a river lead
His gentle streams along a flowery mead,
Than from high banks to hear loud torrents roar,
With foamy waters on a muddy shore.

The Compleat Collector

FINE PRINTING: CONDUCTED BY CARL PURINGTON ROLLINS

*In alternate weeks this Department is devoted to Rare Books
and is conducted by John T. Winterich*

Two Fine Books

JOURNAL UP THE STRAITS. October 11, 1856-May 5, 1857. By Herman Melville. Edited with foreword by Raymond Weaver. New York: The Colophon. 1935.

AN unpublished work of Herman Melville's is an event of some importance, for Melville has come to have a definite place in American literature since the publication in 1921 of "Herman Melville—Mariner and Mystic," by Raymond Weaver. In the complete works of Melville, published by Constable, Mr. Weaver had included all of the writings save a short journal of a trip to California in 1860, one of a trip to England in 1849-50, published in Mr. Weaver's biography, and a third, of Melville's trip into the Near East in 1856-7, which is now published as "Journal Up the Straits." This last journal has baffled all who had seen it, because of the near impossibility of deciphering the involved handwriting. After many years of careful and painstaking labor Mr. Weaver has finally been able to transcribe it into intelligible form.

The publishers of *The Colophon* set out to print the journal several years ago, but the difficulties of the MS hand used by Melville have delayed the publication until now. But typographically the work is well worth waiting for—and to Melville enthusiasts the glimpses it gives of the writer's troubled years will compensate for the synopated diary form of the text. The book has been designed by Mr. Bruce Rogers, and produced by Mr. Elmer Adler of the Pynson Printers. It is a small octavo, bound in attractive marbled cloth, with a title label. The type is Baskerville, amply leaded as it should be. The chapter heads are set in a large, flowing script. In all essentials of fine book making the volume is admirable. There is a photogravure frontispiece of Melville, from a photograph taken at Pittsfield probably in the '60s and now in possession of his granddaughter, Mrs. Eleanor Melville Metcalfe, and there is also a facsimile page of Melville's difficult MS.

LIFE AMONG THE INDIANS, or: The Captivity of the Oatman Girls Among the Apache and Mohave Indians. By R. B. Stratton. San Francisco: Grabhorn Press. 1935.

This volume collects into one book the varied history of the unfortunate adventures of a family of pioneers who went West in the '50s, and suffered capture, massacre, and privation among the Indians into whose hands they lucklessly fell. It is a macabre story, of a kind too familiar in the history of Western migration.

The Grabhorn Press has given it the usual studied care which it bestows on all of its volumes, though the touches of gaiety in the typography hardly comport

with the gruesomeness of the tale. But as printing the volume is an expert performance.

There is a preface by Lindley Bynum, the prefaces to the editions of 1857 are reprinted, and there are some appropriately conceived and skilfully executed wood engravings by Mallette Dean. The printing is in two colors throughout. This is the second issue in the "Rare Americana" series of the Grabhorn Press, and fully sustains the high quality of these books.

Publications of Interest

POSTERS AND THE CONSTITUTION.

The "Enoch Pratt Free Library Poetry Broadides" is a series of fifty well known poems, set in large type and printed with decorations on large sheets of different colors of paper, suitable for wall decorations. Published for the public schools of Baltimore, these have been reprinted to the extent of nearly thirteen thousand sets. The effective typography was done under the eye of Norman T. A. Munder. The Constitution of the United States and the Declaration of Independence have been reproduced in facsimile, with introductions by J. Franklin Jameson and John C. Fitzpatrick of the Library of Congress, where the book is for sale. Mr. Munder is also responsible for these two items, bound together with a spiral binding which I am sure the "founding fathers" never dreamed of. The handwriting of the immortal documents is not very inspiring.

THE DANCER'S QUEST.

Essays on the esthetics of the Contemporary Dance, by Elizabeth Selden, have been printed in handsome style by the University of California Press. Open, well proportioned type pages are illustrated by rhythm-diagrams (Matisse could learn something here) in red. Thirty-two photogravure reproductions of photographs supplement the text. And there is a full index. I call this a first-class piece of bookmaking. It has style, it is sound in all details, there is no attempt at luxury, and the format is sympathetic with the subject. At the published price of \$6 it is a model of what a trade book can be.

"RARE" BOOKS.

Christopher Morley's essay under the above title has been put into a brochure by the Booklet Press, in rarefied typography.

GIOVANNI NAPOLITANO.

Merle Armitage, whose work has had attention in this column as a designer of striking books, now writes of the above artist, and E. Weyhe publishes a paper covered book with reproductions of fifteen more or less crazy "arrangements" of the artist. But the book represents the best of present day advertising typography applied to book work.

IRELAND THROUGH TUDOR EYES

By
EDWARD M. HINTON

The writings of 18 literary adventurers who took part in the subjugation of Ireland from 1558 to 1616 including: Hooker, Campion, Stanihurst, Churchyard, Bryskett, Googe, Derricke, Spenser, Raleigh, Payne, Baxter, Rych, Bodley, Harington, Markham, Prickett, Moryson and Davies.

End-paper maps, 5 illus. 111 pages, \$2.00

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