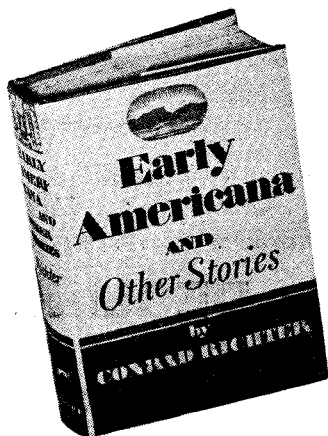


BORZOI

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of which I have printed 2000 copies. Richter is a writer who will *Count* and my belief is that copies of the first edition of this, his first book, are going to be cherished and sought after in the years to come.

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*Alma Knight*

BOOKS



## He Came Back Alive!

**H**E WENT into Germany to get the bold, barefaced facts about the ruthless struggle going on even now between the Nazis and their secret enemies. Here it is—one of the most sensational stories of our times! \$2. (LIPPINCOTT)



## A Painter's Career

OIL PAINT AND GREASE PAINT. By Dame Laura Knight. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1936. \$5.

Reviewed by WILLIAM ROSE BENÉT

**"D**AME LAURA KNIGHT" sounds eminent and dignified and as though this painter's career had developed in conventional and comfortable circumstances. Such is far from the case as one discovers the moment one dips into this unusually vital and vivid autobiography. Dame Laura's girlhood—her mother was a painter, and the child was precocious in the art—was full of poverty, unconventionality, and struggle. Hers is the story of an unusually brave combat against odds, though her mother's burning ambition for her, the optimism of the Derbyshire family against which the tide of fortune had turned, an inheritance of robust health, and a great natural talent mitigated somewhat the grinding poverty and the early intimate knowledge of death.

There were mementoes of grandeur, after the Grandmother had followed the loved sister and mother and Little Grandma; and "Sissie" and the author were left alone—

We had asked to be allowed to retain enough furniture for our use, and some particular pieces of china—the "Worcester" vases and the enormous Crown Derby jar that Grandma used to fill with dried rose-leaves from Uncle's garden . . . a relic of the days when Grandma thought nothing of spending a hundred pounds or more on a piece of china.

Yet "We lived for several years mostly on porridge and tea and bread and butter—the only way of saving." Harold Knight, her future husband, was a strong bulwark in these days of poverty, but after going to Paris to study he returned ill and destitute.

Staithes, on the Yorkshire Coast, next had a "tremendous influence on work, life, and power of endurance. It was there

I found myself and what I might do." Characterizations of the fisher-folk of Danish descent are fascinatingly given, and of the whole life of the fishing-village, not to mention life on the heights by Roxby.

After marriage the Knights lived for a while on Danby Moor, and the description of their journey up to London when they were both "hung" at the Royal Academy again particularizes the battle against odds. But how robustly and enthusiastically they sustained the artist's life. They went to Holland, then returned to the moor and Staithes. There were other visits to Holland, with which country they became very familiar; there was a productive visit to Cornwall. Significant now was Dame Laura's watching Genée dance at the Empire in London and Pavlova at the Palace. Then:

It was after I painted my big picture of Dolly that we first saw the Russian Ballet, which created a furore in London. I feel sorry for anyone who did not see Diaghileff's first seasons.

She painted a big picture from her notes of Nijinski and Karsavina in "Pavillon d'Armide." She was to do more with the ballet and become the famous artist of the circus. Her high point of success came during the Great War. In 1919 after the Armistice the Knights went to London, Dame Laura to work backstage at Diaghileff's Ballet. Here, she says, "everything was glorious to paint." The anecdotes of these years, of W. H. Davies the poet, of Birmingham Repertory, of her visit to America, of Idjowski, Diaghileff, Pavlova, Czechoslovakia, painting darkies in Baltimore, election, the Academy, the Olympia circus, and so on, fill most of the rest of the book. Such celebrities as Ellen Terry and William Orpen and Bernard Shaw appear in it. Always the narrative is richly pictorial.

Dame Laura Knight avers that her book is merely that of "just a hard-working woman, who longs to pierce the mystery of form and color." But it is actually far more than that. It is the life story of a great-hearted human being and an enthusiastic artist.

## The Criminal Record

The Saturday Review's Guide to Detective Fiction

Title and Author	Crime, Place, Sleuth	Summing Up	Verdict
THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES A. Conan Doyle (Doubleday, Doran: \$2.75.)	1323 pages of novelettes and short stories that age cannot wither, etc. Christopher Morley does the introduction.	A basic book for every detective story reader, a bedside book de luxe, and a magnificent door-stop—or weapon.	Necessity
THE CAMP-MEETING MURDERS Vance Randolph and Nancy Clemens (Vanguard: \$2.)	Evangelistic faker slain with silver bullet in Ozark pulpit. Spinster editress and smart reporter spot the killer.	Pleasantly garrulous mixture of mountaineer superstitions, village gossip, sly humor, and rule-of-thumb detecting.	Passable
THE CASE OF THE STUTTERING BISHOP Erle Stanley Gardner (Morrow: \$2.)	A murdered grandpa, a rightful and a wrongful heiress, a vanishing cleric, and Perry Mason doing his customary stuff.	For the first time in his nine cases Mr. Mason relies on sudden intuition to solve puzzling crime. Otherwise it's jake.	Ol' reliable

# The New Books

## Biography

**FOR DEAR LIFE.** By Belinda Jelliffe. Scribners. 1936. \$2.75.

Mrs. Jelliffe has poured out her heart to us. This autobiographical narrative of her girlhood is at once a confession and a case history. More than that, it is an imaginative reanimation of her past. Painful experiences, such as remain buried in the average memory, emerge in her book with melodramatic clarity. Conversations are recalled in profusion. Remembered faces appear in closeups so vivid as to be almost startling. Mrs. Jelliffe has a truly phenomenal power of recollection. There is a fascinating pertinence in the fact that she is married to the very psychiatrist to whom, as she tells in her book, she appealed for help at the climax of her turbulent youth.

Belinda Dan, as she calls herself, was a woman tempestuously planned. Born

into the most primitive surroundings to a tragically silent mother and a "tornado sort" of father on a North Carolina farm where the charm of quilting parties and candy pulls could not relieve degrading poverty, it is not difficult to understand why this sensitive, self-willed child was filled with discontent. As she grew older and her family shifted fruitlessly from place to place, this discontent became a passion to better herself, a "lust" for education. Desperately, recklessly, Belinda pursued her dream—running away from home, begging and fighting and slaving her way through a peculiar but inspiring school, a weird year at an obscure college, and finally, after incredible vicissitudes, through nurse's training in New York. Always she was defensively conscious that "with human beings one had constantly to be on the alert lest they annihilate you."

But it would have been difficult to an-

nihilate Belinda Dan. Whatever wind blew, she hung on "for dear life." If she was swamped, she invariably righted herself and tried another tack. Her luck was as great as her misfortunes. Apparently she was a magnet for fantastic personalities. Murderers, blackmailers, eccentrics, philanthropists, and millionaires would hardly fill her quota. The remarkable thing is that she has romanticized hospital work without tampering with the probabilities.

Mrs. Jelliffe is clearly out to make a sensation. She has plucked up great fistfuls of experience from her past and dangles them triumphantly in the air for all to view. She is confident that she will pique our curiosity and she does—enormously.

D. K.

## Fiction

**WAKE AND REMEMBER.** By James Gray. Macmillan. 1936. \$2.50.

Mr. Gray's novel has hardly the intention of light comedy, to be sure; but its author makes the most of a neat talent (Continued on next page)

## THE *Biggest* BOOK NEWS OF THE YEAR!

# An American DOCTOR'S

# Odyssey

Adventures in 45 Countries

By VICTOR HEISER, M. D.

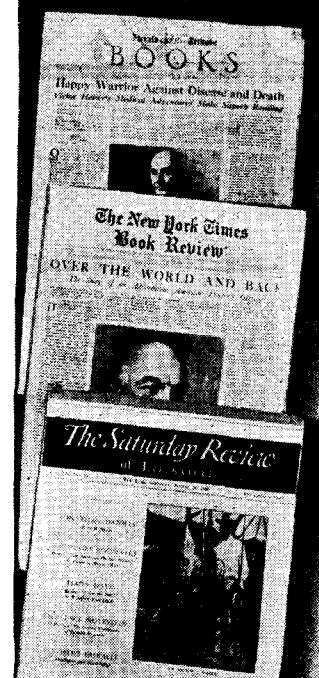
No other autobiography in years has been greeted with more overwhelming enthusiasm by public and press alike than this exciting record of "the private physician to the world." For more than thirty years Dr. Heiser was a veritable Ulysses in modern preventive medicine—the contact man between millions of unfortunates and the best in medical science. On publication, the enthralling story of his fight against wholesale disease was accorded instant acclaim. The N. Y. Times, Herald Tribune, Saturday Review of Literature and Boston Transcript all gave it front page reviews, the tenor of which is indicated by, "One wants to rush to an international broadcasting station to shout, READ IT!" (N Y Herald Tribune.) At all bookstores \$3.50

68th to 78th Thousand

September Selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club.



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