

Trade Winds

BY P. E. G. QUERCUS

WE hear amusing stories about the pre-publication adventures of Clyde Brion Davis's *The Anointed*, which is among our favorite novels of the summer. Mr. Davis, a Buffalo newspaper man, first sent the manuscript to a prominent literary agent, whose office rejected it. He then started sending it to publishers; the first one kept it several months, but turned it down finally; the second returned it—on the ground of its not having a sense of humor! The MS next went to Farrar & Rinehart, who made it a choice of *The Discoverers*; it was chosen by the *Book-of-the-Month Club* as a dual selection for August; and the rest, we hope, is a success story. *The Anointed* has a more engaging quality of humor than any American fiction Q. has come across since Ring Lardner; it has imagination and originality. Our clients are advised not to miss it.

The passage of the Tydings-Miller bill last week makes possible the maintenance of retail prices on books in interstate commerce. Forty-two states had already passed Fair Trade laws similar to the New York Feld-Crawford Act, under which most New York publishers have already availed themselves of the opportunity to check cut-throat price cutting on their new books. The Tydings-Miller Act, according to the *New York Times*, "removes the last barrier to almost country-wide application of the State fair trade laws, and authorities in the fields chiefly affected predicted . . . that many manufacturers of nationally branded merchandise who have delayed action on price maintenance contracts will now issue them."

Van Wyck Brooks's next book will be a sequel, *New England: Indian Summer, 1865-1915*. The Second National Conference on Educational Broadcasting will be held in Chicago November 29-December 1. Mr. Carl Milam, secretary of the American Library Association, is Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements. Ivan T. Sanderson, author of the September *Book-of-the-Month Club* selection, *Animal Treasure*, arrives in New York just before Labor Day. It seems that Mr. Sanderson, in addition to being a zoologist and a writer, is also a painter (he has done murals for several London night clubs) and a tap dancer. We hear from Clifford M. Blunk, Springfield, Ill., that in the reading room of the University of Illinois Library there is a sign reading "These books alphabetized according to biographees." And a variation on one of the oldest book boners was an order from a nationally known bookshop to a publisher for 5 copies of "Old Mark I Am."

Speaking of errata, Will Ransom of Buffalo writes us:

You are so consistently right in your gentle castigation of errors that your readers may be permitted a small chuckle when you slip on an obvious confusion of words. Granted that Yale should not spell "Department" that way, your three "stereopticons" are not quite the stereoscopes you had in mind.

The mistake was on Medium, not on

Old Q. It takes memory rather than a dictionary to distinguish a stereoscope from a stereopticon.

The official furore on the Bay State over *Massachusetts: A Guide to Its Places and People*, is giving this Federal Writers' Project volume the best free publicity of the current season. All we have heard about it from the publishers (Houghton Mifflin) is that a formal presentation, by Henry G. Alsberg, Director of the Federal Writers' Project, of a copy of the book to the Governor of Massachusetts took place

at the State House in Boston on Aug. 17. Farrar & Rinehart's milk-fed adv. mgr., Sumner Putnam (a bottle of, we understand, Golden Crest is passed around the office every afternoon at three) has been doing some interesting copy—possibly as a result of the diet. We particularly liked his P.W. spread on *Katrina* by Sally Salminen, the former domestic servant whose book won a Scandinavian prize of 50,000 marks.

Erratum

The editors regret that they inadvertently released last week, before publication of the book, the review of "The Life of Paul Gauguin," by Robert Burnett. The volume will be issued September 9.



HARPER & BROTHERS

ANNOUNCE

THE PUBLICATION OF THE

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