

Authors of the Week

V. Sackville West

THE first name of the wife of Harold Nicolson, the biographer, is Victoria. Knole of the Sackvilles is famous in England, and it was at Knole Castle—which has a room for every day in the year, and a staircase for every week—that the poet and novelist was born in the spring of 1892. "Vita" was a member of the aristocracy from the beginning. But that didn't satisfy her, and she wrote surreptitiously for years. With her husband, who has been in the diplomatic service, she has traveled widely—Persia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Morocco. Mrs. Nicolson's best friend is Virginia Woolf, and she figures in the latter's "Orlando." They are members of what has been called "the Bloomsbury Group," as was the late

Lytton Strachey. Besides her novels and other prose works, V. Sackville West is a poet whose long Virgilian poem of the English countryside, "The Land," won the Hawthornden Prize in 1927. She and her husband and their two sons live in Kent.

"Pepita," by V. Sackville-West, is reviewed on page 7.

Emil Ludwig

Ludwig's father was Hermann Cohn, noted ophthalmologist of Breslau University, and Ludwig was born in Breslau, in 1881. His father desired to hide his son's Jewish origin under the name he gave him, but Ludwig has always emphasized it. In his twenties he became a verse playwright, was also a lawyer and

merchant, and married Elga Wolff, a South African. They have two sons. Ludwig says he did not write a word of prose until he was thirty. His style was first affected by the prose of Bismarck in his letters. He became a journalist and was active as such during the World War, but journalism did not hold him and he turned to novels and biography. His "Napoleon" of 1924 (American edition 1927) made him famous, and he is now known chiefly as a biographer. He regards the historical novel as a very bad medium, false both to romance, on the one hand, and to history on the other. The Ludwigs have lived in Paris, Vienna, and on Lake Maggiore in Switzerland. He and his wife first came to the United States in 1928.

"Cleopatra," by Emil Ludwig, is reviewed on page 7.

Gertrude Stein

Miss Stein has caused as much hubbub in the literary world as James Joyce. People now think of her as rooted in France, but she was born sixty-five years ago in Allegheny, Pennsylvania. When she was one year old, her family took her to Vienna and Paris. Four years later they came back to their native land and settled down on the West coast; Gertrude Stein was brought up in Oakland and San Francisco. She came East to go to Radcliffe. She was ever an omnivorous reader. She relates that William Vaughn Moody, the poet and dramatist, was the first one to take notice of her writing. She was a favorite pupil in psychology of William James. After Radcliffe she went to Johns Hopkins and specialized in brain anatomy. She studied Elizabethan prose in London. She arrived in Paris in 1903 and her first book, "Three Lives," was published six years later. It took her two years to write "The Making of Americans" and twenty to get it published. One of her earliest Parisian friends was Picasso. Her home in Paris boasts many modern paintings.

"Everybody's Autobiography," by Gertrude Stein, is reviewed on page 11.

James M. Cain

Somehow one cannot imagine Mr. Cain ever writing editorials under Walter Lippmann—but this he did on the old New York World. Then he tried political dialogues in a weekly column and collected and published them in a book called "Our Government." Later he got a short story with the extraordinary title, "The Baby in the Icebox," into the *American Mercury*, and encouraged by this made the postman ring twice, the first time with an acceptance from Alfred A. Knopf of his well-known novel, the second when it reached Broadway as a play.

Mr. Cain was born in 1892 at Annapolis, Md. He was educated at Washington College in Maryland, his father being president of that institution. As a journalist he then worked on the *Baltimore American* and the *Baltimore Sun*, and Henry Mencken, that old Baltimorean, took him under his wing after the war. During the war Cain was in the A. E. F. and then for a while taught journalism in Annapolis. Lately he has been in Hollywood.

"Serenade," by James M. Cain, is reviewed on page 5.

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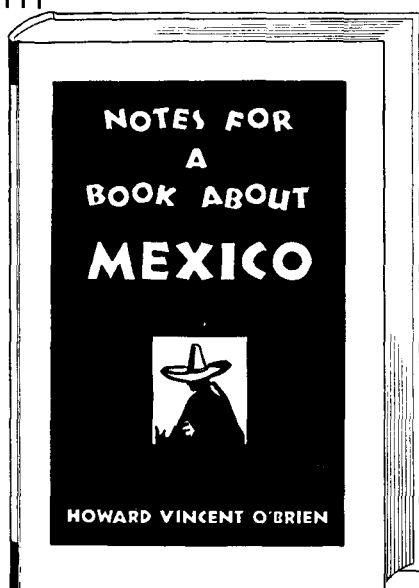
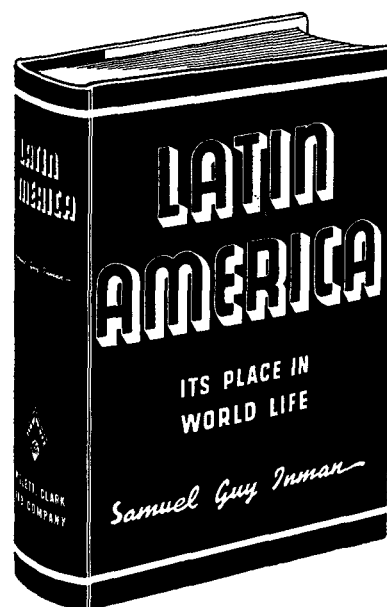
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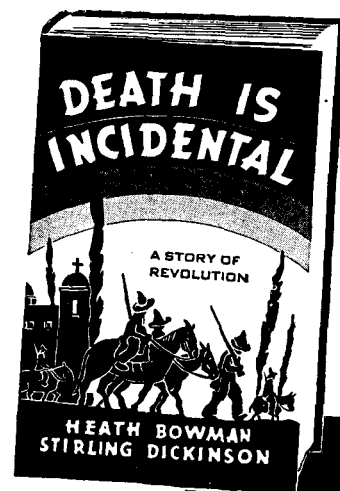
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The New Books

(Continued from page 54)

House days. As climax Miss Benét provides a charming account of the Montem Day celebrations at Eton, where according to her the poet did not have such a bad time of it after all. The story as a whole is deftly treated and is commendably accurate in detail as well as generally free from romantic distortions. Without sacrificing expressiveness, the author has been able to keep her style simple; a book such as this should lead any young person who finds the figure of Shelley a sympathetic one to read more

about his life, and to look into his poems. Other readers, less well disposed to the poet, may at least gain from the book a good knowledge of English country and school life as it was during the early years of the last century. T. P., JR.

Music

MUSIC SINCE 1900. By Nicolas Slonimsky. Norton. 1937. \$4.75.

It is a pleasure to come upon a volume that was so well worth doing and that has been done so well. The author is a composer, a pianist, a conductor, a linguist, widely-traveled in the countries of

the world and in the countries of the mind. His work is a natural outgrowth of intellectual curiosity and practical experience. Upon the encyclopedic treatment of historical detail it brings to bear a passion for accuracy, a gift for the selection of significant events, a conciseness of language and—*mirabile lectu!*—an unobtrusive wit.

The central feature of the survey is the descriptive chronology, which lists, year by year (under day and month) the principal musical events of the twentieth century. Events of special importance are provided with annotations culled from contemporary sources. A documentary division includes illustrative accounts, from authoritative sources, of such pertinent matters as Gregorian chant, music under the regulations of the U.S.S.R., the problems of the twelve-tone scale and unorthodox tonalities, modernism in general. Among these figures personal communications from George Bernard Shaw and Arnold Schoenberg, as well as a highly informative dialogue upon atonality, with the late Alban Berg as chief locutor. The biographical list of twentieth century composers includes more than two thousand names. As a final proof of the author's pursuit of exactness, there are tables in which the standard encyclopedias of music are corrected for a disconcerting number of errors.

"Music Since 1900" properly takes its place at once as a landmark of the new American musical scholarship. There is good reason, indeed, for dispensing with the adjective of nationality. The compendium, unusually readable for such work, will be indispensable as a reference book.

I. G.

Poetry

ON MY WAY, Poems. By Marion Canby. Houghton Mifflin. 1937. \$2.50.

When myopic eyes are wakeful in the night the shadow-pictures which they see have a fantasy unknown to more distant focus. There is something of this quality to the poems in "On My Way" which "turn to explore the personal brain and fettered heart." The best among the hundred or more poems of the collection display a rhythmic fancy which flashes in bright, fresh phrases. The poorest among them keep the essence of imagery, somewhat consciously expressed, and frequently lost in adjectival obscurity.

The sequence of arrangement attempts to picture the growth of an emotional self. From "Pensive Mind" ("gratefully loving this cool spirit-living") the ego passes "Personal Hill" ("Why am I not in the orchard of my neighbor?") and reaches savage tones in the love lyrics. Among these, "First Gust" is reminiscent of the fateful passion of a Black Widow spider. Small bits of wisdom, as in "Not Consistent," and the passive pain of poems on death like "Sins On My Soul" reward the reader. The long "Poem in Vindication of Life" ending the volume, falls short of its conception but derives poetic authenticity from such lines as:

*Hunger and pain nipped at his heels like dogs
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I. R. A. C.

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Double-Crostics: No. 193

By ELIZABETH S. KINGSLEY

	1-X	2-E	3-K	4-G	5-O	6-S		7-O	8-D	9-B		10-E	11-L	12-T	13-N	14-C
15-G		16-M	17-A		18-F	19-U	20-X	21-Q		22-C	23-V	24-A	25-M	26-P		27-G
28-J	29-H	30-Y	31-M	32-W	33-T		34-B	35-W		36-U	37-X	38-I	39-R	40-Q	41-G	
42-V	43-O		44-D	45-S	46-C		47-B	48-V	49-G		50-R	51-X	52-N	53-Y	54-C	55-K
	56-B	57-V	58-J		59-P	60-R	61-N	62-G		63-D	64-B		65-X	66-K	67-L	68-D
69-C		70-A	71-B	72-E		73-N	74-J	75-Y	76-G	77-F		78-W	79-K	80-F	81-L	
82-I	83-Z	84-A	85-X	86-V		87-I	88-P	89-S		90-D	91-Q	92-W		93-A	94-G	95-H
96-Y	97-X	98-F	99-Q		100-U	101-W	102-O	103-V	104-L	105-Z		106-I	107-Z	108-L	109-C	
110-M	111-S		112-W	113-G	114-B		115-P	116-F	117-T	118-H	119-C	120-K		121-K	122-G	123-E
124-S		125-H	126-J	127-K	128-L	129-E	130-Z		131-S	132-V	133-M	134-Q		135-L	136-E	137-K
	138-U	139-L	140-R	141-D	142-Z		143-M	144-O		145-P	146-A	147-W	148-N		149-O	150-P
151-P		152-T	153-D	154-M		155-Z	156-M	157-V	158-Q	159-W		160-T	161-U	162-N	163-I	164-H
165-C		166-H	167-Z	168-P	169-X	170-N	171-J		172-F	173-M	174-K	175-S	176-R			

DIRECTIONS

To solve this puzzle, you must guess twenty-six 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 under the dashes in the column headed WORDS. There is a dash for each letter in the required word. The key letters in the squares are for convenience, indicating to which word in the definitions each letter in the diagram belongs. When you have guessed a word, fill it in on the dashes; then write each letter 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.

When the column headed WORDS is filled in, the initial letters spell the name of the author and the title of the piece from which the quotation has been taken. Authority for spelling and definitions is Webster's New International Dictionary.

The solution of last week's Double-Crostic will be found on page 34 of this issue.

DEFINITIONS

- Romance by Beckford (1786).
- Scandinavian heaven of Frey.
- Rattles.
- Old Testament "Wisdom" literature (collectively).
- Head of Bulgarian Church.
- Thrown slowly.
- Quality of being petty.
- So by nature.
- Retreats.
- English poet (1840-1921).
- Former Danish duchy in Prussian province.
- A Queen of Judah.
- Hero of the "Return of the Native."
- Rainy weather saint.
- Timely warning (comp.).
- Pollen containers in flowers.
- Aramean deity worshiped at Damascus. (Bib.).
- Instruments of actions or ends.
- Roved on the wing.
- Emporiums.
- Poetic for "over there."
- Composer of "Pacific 231."
- Character in "Wuthering Heights."
- Captured.
- Encircle.
- Taunted.

WORDS

84	24	70	146	17	93			
56	114	64	71	9	34	47		
165	46	22	54	119	69	109	14	
141	63	153	8	68	44	90		
72	2	123	129	10	136			
80	98	18	172	116	77			
76	94	27	15	113	4	49	122	41
164	29	166	125	118	95			
82	38	106	163	87				
58	74	100	171	28	126			
120	3	66	121	137	55	127	79	174
67	135	11	108	81	139	128	104	
154	173	110	16	133	25	31	156	143
162	73	52	148	170	13	61		
7	102	5	144	43	149			
150	26	145	115	88	168	59		
158	91	40	99	134	21			
60	151	140	39	176	50			
111	45	175	6	131	89	124		
160	117	12	33	152				
161	19	138	36					
132	42	57	48	23	103	157	86	
159	112	101	35	92	32	147	78	
51	20	37	1	65	169	85	97	
75	30	53	96					
107	155	167	105	142	83	130		