

The New Books

Belles-Lettres

RINGSIDE SEATS. By Katharine Fullerton Gerould. Dodd, Mead. 1937. \$2.50.

Mrs. Gerould is a quiet voice in these strident times. She has been an excellent craftsman in the field of fiction. She has been glanced at by the literary left as one possessed of a "prissy" detachment. This book of fifteen essays is no evidence of such a quality. One does not always agree with her—naturally—but she is capable of acute analysis. Her "The Man who Made Mulvaney" is far from saying the last word on Kipling, but she makes us see him as an artist. If she has, again, not said the last word on Southern literature and life, her points are well taken in "A Yankee Looks at Dixie." To one who still believes in fundamental Christianity, her "The Unsocial Christian" is perhaps the best thing in the book. She is burningly clear. "The Church is pure pragmatism: it invented itself in order to be successful."

Passing over the cultivated discussion of the terms "Ladies and Gentlemen," in which there is a good deal of humor, there is sane comment on marriage in "Romantic Divorce," and "The Personal Touch" properly indicts the American rage, not for "the information that really counts; we want the information that does not count and is none of our business." The most recent developments abroad have rather "dated" "Can Pacifists be Patriots?" in certain of its details. But for some supercilious critic who wrote of her in the past that she was too ultra-refined to "take the air," she has described in her title-essay the Battle of the Century—the best essay ever written by a woman upon prizefighting and the general public. Unquestionably this lady has her own prejudices. But she is also a fine sort of person and an astute ob-

server. And we think she possesses those elements of culture which, as she herself has pointed out, are as necessary as knowledge: "Equally important are natural sensitiveness and intellectual independence—I had nearly said, the dreaming heart." W. R. B.

Fiction

THE GREEN GRAPE. By Simone Ratel. Macmillan. 1937. \$2.50.

Though the teeth of the children may indeed be set on edge rather often in the course of Mme. Ratel's story, her picture of a French family torn by parental antagonism is not unduly gloomy in tone. Readers of the author's "House in the Hills" will recall the Durras clan and the situation: a tyrannical, yet thwarted and curiously pathetic father strives daily to break up the alliance of his more imaginative wife with the three children who adore her. "The Green Grape" provides an excellent, self-supporting sequel, telling of the family's progress to Paris, where harmony remains conspicuously absent. School life and extra-familial ties come to occupy the attention of the children, but again and again the father interferes with their pleasures, shatters their longed-for illusion of living in a normal household, and gradually rouses against himself really violent hatred, particularly in the mind of his son.

These episodes, recounted with many deft touches, leave the charming figure of Isabelle, the mother, somewhat in the background and the strongly feminist note of the earlier book is dropped. Later the author is primarily concerned with demonstrating the essential unity of the whole clan. When the slender thread of story culminates in the death of M. Durras, killed in the first weeks of the war,

(Continued on next page)

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The New Books

(Continued from preceding page)

all realize that in spite of appearances the tyrant, too, was one of them. From beyond the grave he dominates them as he never could in life.

Lest hasty judgments assume that this is merely another nice little book, let it be noted that these French adolescents are not prettified. Neither are their woes exaggerated to furnish material for a psychoanalytical sermon. Mme. Ratel's outlook is refreshingly sane throughout, her treatment of the slight but poignant theme almost always felicitous, and her characters unfailingly alive and believable. T. P., Jr.

Miscellaneous

HORSELESS CARRIAGE DAYS. By Hiram Percy Maxim. Harpers. 1937. \$2.50.

THE HORSE & BUGGY AGE IN NEW ENGLAND. By Edwin Valentine Mitchell. Coward-McCann. 1937. \$2.75.

The city of Hartford, Connecticut, is celebrated in both these small volumes. The author of that delightful account of his famous father, "A Genius in the Family," left also among his papers the manuscript embodied in the present book, an account of the part he played in the coming of the automobile. "The Horse-

less Idea" came to him in 1892 when he was riding a bicycle in Massachusetts. He was in his early twenties. When he began to work on a mechanical road vehicle, about fifty other persons in the United States were busy with the same idea. His account of his first experiments, with an explosive tricycle (featuring remarkable gas-engine trouble!) and the Columbia Horseless Carriage, brings him into the fold of Colonel Pope of the Pope Manufacturing Company of Hartford, and the famous Hayden Eames to whom the book is dedicated. The first run to New York, the contest with the Stanley Steamer, sabotage on the part of rivals, and all the experimental steps in the evolution of the automobile are told in natural and racy fashion.

Mr. Mitchell recalls the simpler pleasures of the old days of horse and buggy, of the old livery stable, the private coachman, harness makers and saddlers, the manufacturing of horse whips, old barns, old sleighs, horse racing, the carriage trade. A truly Yankee book, it is full of information. The end-papers reproduce Platt's etching of the old Hartford covered bridge. Mr. Mitchell is well known as the former genial bookseller and editor of Hartford. His father was for over fifty years a grain-shipper of New England. He was brought up across the street from the "horse nail king of America"!


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Double-Crostics: No. 187

By ELIZABETH KINGSLEY

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

DIRECTIONS

To solve this puzzle, you must guess twenty-five 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 International Dictionary.

The solution of last week's Double-Crostic will be found on page 23 of this issue.

DEFINITIONS

- Hurtful.
- Blind ruinous impulse (Gr. tragedy).
- Opera by Verdi.
- Beef and bacon roasted on a stick.
- British princess martyred in Cologne (c. 300).
- English biographer (1880-1932).
- Character in "Mill on the Floss."
- Clumsy, inconvenient.
- Roman historian (B.C. 59-A.D. 17).
- Measure of capacity in metric system.
- Preconceives, prefigures.
- Disturbed, restless.
- Greek choral movement.
- Fastidious (slang).
- Badly put together.
- Fringilla coelebs.
- Wide-extending.
- Anything strikingly noisy, intense (slang).
- Reproved.
- Defamatory language.
- Mildness.
- Lyrical compositions expressing grief.
- Shrewdly sagacious.
- Sort; everyday-life painting.
- Old Testament heroine.

WORDS

10	29	125	129	81	165	93
90	43	72				
36	1	103	82	137	122	48
166	42	8	142	155		
156	83	133	116	144	97	
131	2	154	127	88	60	35
94	151	104				
11	80	89	58	146	31	25
136	121	63	39			
74	119	110	64	91		
37	65	95	135	120	168	26
134	5	12	62	77	107	30
159	141	152	6	17	24	160
28	41	21	61	76	70	
158	52	59	147	109	99	130
13	111	55	73	87	3	98
46	33	23	92	143	123	78
56	108	149	113	106	140	22
86	69	100	67	96	53	47
79	66	14	124	115	101	145
118	18	163	51	34	9	
102	27	71	44	15	54	
117	16	38	132	49	105	
128	75	139	164	32		
57	4	40	167	19	45	