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THE Walt Whitman Chamber of Commerce, compiling bureau in Long Island, reckons that allusions to Walt in the hodiernal and hebdomadal press are this year 3.14159 per cent ahead of the same period last year. This is one of the statistics arrived at by Jesse Merritt, the official Historian of Nassau County, New York, who has recently published two small and interesting professional brochures. These are *Walt Whitman's Paumanok* (250 copies) and *The Historical Importance of Nassau County*. Among Mr. Merritt's interesting marginalia is the recollection that Downing Street in London is named for Sir George Downing who graduated from Harvard in 1642 (the first graduating class). The Downing family has many representatives on Long Island, and in Sea Cliff there is a Downing Street where M. Lincoln Schuster used to live. Mr. Schuster's number, we believe was 4; he tried hard, but without success, to get the local selectmen to change his number to 10. Those who are interested in the rich vein of eccentricity exhibited by Long Island natives will find Mr. Merritt's books amiable colloquia. They are published by himself at the "Turf and Twig," Farmingdale, L. I., and as every reader of Stubbs's Constitutional documents will remember, Turf and Twig is a symbol of the feudal seizure of land.

Last week there was the *Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature*; another type of bibliography is coming out soon and it is the sort of work we're most interested in. It is not in the strictest sense a bibliography but an Appleton-Century publication, *Murder for Profits*, by Howard Haycraft, the first full length historical and critical study of the detective story to appear in this country. The book will be illustrated and will include as special features a "Who's Who in Detection," listing more than 1,000 detectives and detective-story characters throughout the years, and the most complete bibliography to date of writings about detective stories. The publishers point out that the book is being published in the Centennial Year of the detective story, the first, "Poe's Murders in the Morgue," having been published in *Graham's Magazine* in 1841.

John Weld, who just authored *The Partners*, is having lots of fun in California. From the front of his new home, which is situated on the bed rock of a cliff overlooking the Pacific, he reports the Lock Ness sea monster is now inhabiting the Pacific Ocean. Apparently the famous Loch Ness, whose last appearance was reported off the coast of Scotland, has departed from those dangerous shores to a haven of serenity. Mr. Weld

swears he saw the monster and assures Scribners, "I hadn't been imbibing. It had green eyes and catlike ears. It swam along with its head out of water and its neck arched like a swan's. I tried to interest some other persons in it, but they were indifferent. That's California for you."

Another "sea monster"—the electric eel which inhabits the mouth of the Amazon—was encountered by Shelby Shackelford, author of *Electric Eel Calling*, which Scribners will publish April 7. Miss Shackelford is an artist who accompanied her husband, Richard Cox, the noted biologist, on a journey to Brazil to conduct various experiments on that amazing biological phenomenon—the electric eel. John Kendrick Bangs, editor, lecturer, and author of dozens of books and countless magazine pieces—often under pseudonyms—which set the tone of American humor in the "gay nineties," is the subject of a biography which Knopf announces for publication on April 14. Its author is Francis Hyde Bangs, J. B. K.'s son, who is head of the English department at Avon Old Farms. John Kendrick Bang's career was one of meteoric success, for he began to establish his reputation while still a Columbia undergraduate, both as a contributor to and editor of "Acta Columbiana," and as a regular writer for *Life* when that old humor publication did not go in for pages of photographs. At one time he conducted various departments as an editor of *Puck*.

The life of a roving reporter and author are hectic these days. Take Ben Robertson, *PM's* London correspondent. Returning to England after a brief rest in the United States, Robertson ran smack into a terrific bombing of Plymouth a few days back, when at the behest of Lady Astor was urged to visit this famous seaport. At first, they merely watched the bombs falling and the flares in the sky; then a large bomb exploded near the place they were staying, breaking all windows, but injuring nobody. Later incendiary bombs were dropped, and several of them landed on the roof. But all this seems to be an old story to Ben, for he had been caught in more than 500 air attacks in the period between last June and December. Practically all of these experiences are graphically described in his book *I Saw England*.

Christopher Morley is retiring as Contributing Editor of the *SRL* in order to devote himself to other writings. Now that he is leaving, his (and ours) favorite byline will no longer appear in this magazine. For those readers who haven't yet guessed it, Christopher Morley was P. E. G. Quercus. Though he will no longer write a weekly column, Mr. Morley will contribute from time to time.

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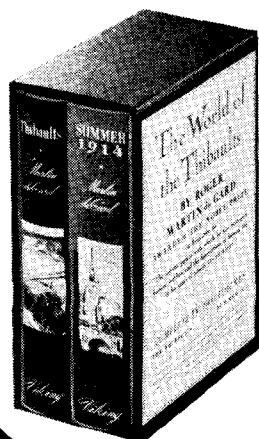
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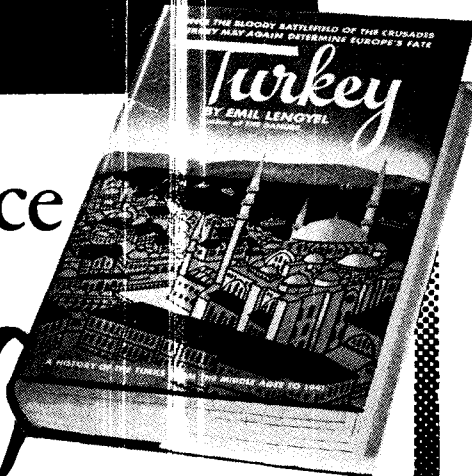
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