

Kemp might not write seventeen more volumes in the same manner.

Other Biographies

Mother Dear: The Empress Marie of Russia and Her Times. By V. Poliakov. D. Appleton & Co., New York. \$3.50.

Walter Camp: The Father of American Football. By Harford Powel, Jr. The Atlantic Monthly Press Publication. Issued by Little, Brown & Co., Boston. \$2.

The Life of Captain Alonso de Contreras. Written by Himself. Translated from the Spanish by Catherine Alison Phillips. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. \$3.50.

Modern Biography. [An Anthology.] Edited by Marietta A. Hyde. Harcourt, Brace & Co., New York. \$1.12.

William Blake. By Osbert Burdett. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$1.25.

Soldiers and Statesmen, 1914-1918. By Sir William Robertson. 2 vols. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. \$12.

Chambers's Biographical Dictionary. Originally Compiled by David Patrick and F. Hindes Groome. New Edition Edited by William Geddie and J. Liddell Geddie. The J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. \$6.

Figures of the Past. From the Leaves of Old Journals. [First published 1883.] By Josiah Quincy. Introduction and Notes by M. A. De Wolfe Howe. Little, Brown & Co., Boston. \$4.

E. P.

Fiction

RETURN TO BONDAGE. By Barbara Blackburn. The Dial Press, New York. \$2.

Barbara Blackburn in "Return to Bondage" treats of much the same sort of situation to be found in a dozen novels of the last few years, nor do the characters she portrays depart far from types that we have encountered often enough. But she handles her material with a sincerity and clearness in presentment, together with imaginative understanding and a common and uncommon sense, which more and more impress the reader. The central figures are two young women, Joan and Laura, who both in varying degree claim and exercise the new freedom in determining their lives without guidance—and a pretty mess they make of it! Joan, scorched and disillusioned, though not in the least repentant, since she has lived according to her lights, turns at last in despair to the bondage of matrimony with a better man than her lover and the possibility of a sobered and conventional happiness, which the old-fashioned will think is more than her desert. Poor Laura, wretchedly married, but of an innate helpless loyalty of temperament, tries vainly to bring herself to escape, first by suicide, then by simple departure, the bonds she might fairly repudiate; but she cannot force herself to the final act; she too returns to bondage. Does this sound as if the book were another of those tediously gloomy studies of futility of which we have wearily read so many too many? It is not. That is just where it is different. It is good reading as well as good writing.

THE ELDER BROTHER. By Anthony Gibbs. The Dial Press, New York. \$2.

Mr. Anthony Gibbs, of the gifted Gibbsses, shows a young and modern ruthlessness in his treatment of Ronald Bellairs, Elder Brother of the unspeakable Hugo of his tale. It is trying to the emotions of the sensitive, though no doubt artistically commendable. Ronald is a man of old-fashioned, unselfish ideals of devotion and of







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sacrifice at need. Hugo has no ideals and an immense and unswerving devotion to his precious self. From whoever will give he will take, and Ronald gives to the utmost. Fate tricks the unhappy man at every turn, and at the end he is not even allowed to carry off his tragedy with dignity; having come, in a revulsion of despair and fury, to shoot the unworthy Hugo, he spares him, borrows a tenner instead, and vanishes into the fog. Though the scene is set with other figures, vividly projected, it is the development of the characters of the two brothers and the increasing tensivity of the drama in which they are involved which grips the reader's interest. A novel of sophistication and brilliance; compact,

clean-cut, many-faceted, glittering, and hard.

THE DARK DAWN. By Martha Ostenso. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. \$2.

Not a novel of distinction, this is an enthralling story, well written. The writer's knowledge of her Northwestern country, its moods and its people, is passionate in its intensity and lends a great sureness to her touch. She fumbles badly only in the last chapter, where Mons Torsen is dragged in neck and heels to hasten to a conclusion the slowly moving drama. To be sure, Lucian Dorrit, the hero, does not attain the stature we would desire—and we are cruelly artistic enough to demand that he should drain his bitter and

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undeserved cup to the bottom if it would aid him in so doing. But we feel that he never will reach heights even if married to Karen. He is most interesting in that fascinating first chapter, so rich a part of which is his father, William Dorrit. After his father's death all Lucian's possibilities shrink too suddenly. Miss Ostenso commenced a great figure and then decided to reduce her scale of dimensions.

It is Hattie Meeker, the terrible, who is thrown into high relief, a tragic figure on a cold white frieze, beside whom the artistic sprite Karen is no more than a wan and creeping shadow. It is Hattie that the author has really completed. In time Miss Ostenso will write a great novel. But she must not permit long acquaintance with her locality to make facile her handling of it, and she must strive for compression. In Edith Wharton's brief story "Ethan Frome" there is a similar tragedy; but how its structure slowly, grimly, rises and rises until mortals are overpowered by the size of it! "The Dark Dawn" is a gigantic situation, but not handled in a gigantic manner; only very vital and compelling the reader to follow on at a brisk pace.

Biography

IGNATIUS LOYOLA: The Founder of the Jesuits.
By Paul Van Dyke. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. \$3.50.

Outwardly the life of the founder of the Society of Jesus was not eventful. But if one cares to see afresh how the intensity of one man's inner living can form the world about him both for good and ill he will find no more fascinating study than the remarkable biography Professor Paul Van Dyke has just published. We remember from no great novel a more unexpected yet logical unfolding of the ever-romantic mystery of human character than he makes Loyola's. The most Protestant of readers must admit that the latter was one of the purest souls of history; yet what a mixture of devotion, humanness, and worldliness did he leave to his order to harden sometimes in service, sometimes into horror. It needs a portrait painter with more than the impartiality of a photographer to bring out the memorableness of such a man. Ignatius has hardly found this before, but Dr. Van Dyke's goes toward a great biography. The reader who persists for two or three chapters will find himself in the power of a man able to show what a human personality can be. We recommend to all Protestants, too, that they read the life, that they may know how close home lie the materials out of which a Jesuit is made.

DEMOSTHENES. By Georges Clemenceau. Translated by Charles Miner Thompson. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. \$2.50.

One is shrewdly tempted to find in this book a veiled autobiography, and to discuss it accordingly. But the temptation should be resisted. No doubt Clemenceau was strongly influenced toward depicting the character and career of Demosthenes by certain striking resemblances between the character of the service rendered by Demosthenes to Athens and the character of the service rendered by himself to France; still more by resemblances between the virtues and defects of Athens and the Athenians and those of France and the French; and yet still more by the resemblance (in some aspects almost amounting to identity) between the ideal rôle in ancient Hellas conceived by Demosthenes for Athens and the ideal rôle in the modern civilized world conceived by Clemenceau for France. And no doubt Clemenceau recognized in such obvious parallelism a happy artistic means of driving home the most precious lessons derived from his own political experience. But, despite that this parallelism is continuously in evidence, the

personality of Demosthenes stands out, clean-cut and salient; a profound, just, and poignant study.

We have here the political testament of the greatest statesman of his time. To be sure, Clemenceau is not a writer of the first order; far from it. He is handicapped, desperately so, by the imperfection of his art, in the effort to convey to us the essence of his political wisdom expressed from a political experience of unparalleled richness. Yet the greatness of the man, his profound wisdom, his passion for honor and justice, shine victoriously past the imperfections; and the result is a most precious document. We predict immortality for it. Clemenceau on Demosthenes; truly a "couplement of proud compare."

Sociology

CONCERNING IRASCIBLE STRONG AND TRIxie-CUNNING AND THEIR SONS. By William H. Smyth. With Sketches by the Author. Alfred A. Knopf, New York. \$3.50.

Irascible and Trixie were our ancestors away back in eolithic times; and the traits that they and their immediate progeny developed still abide with us, though taking on a highly specialized and diversified expression. Using these forebears of ours as galvanized marionettes on a stage, the author endeavors to show us the cause of our social maladjustments and a way out to the development of a more rational society. It is a thoughtful and a learned book (even though the author sadly mixes up the theory of natural rights with the theory of social justification) and it is inspired by a noble purpose. But its manner is a thing about which opinions will differ widely. It is unconventional and jazzy, and is thus destined, while attracting the favorable attention of some, to repel others. Very likely some will declare it a work of genius; others, noting the oddities of expression, drawing, and typography and finding in the pocket of the inside back cover a mystifying colored chart warranted to explain everything, will vote it downright queer. No one concerned with social justice, however, will fail to find it interesting.

Essays and Criticism

GIFTS OF FORTUNE. By H. M. Tomlinson. Harper & Brothers, New York. \$4.

It appears that in this book the author has made a pretty thorough clean-up of odds and ends. The result is pleasant enough, but pretty thin. Mr. Tomlinson is industriously and uncompromisingly casual and impressionistic; the trick has brought him a host of admirers, but, really, he should use it a little less relentlessly. He is, for example, on his way to an appointment, and overhears the word "Amazon." In a jiffy he is at the head-waters of the Amazon, drawing the long bow and bringing down a "whopper." A "whopper," mind you, not a "swinger." That's his lay; over and over again. Mr. Tomlinson has authentic graces of style. He is probably capable of writing a good book if he would take proper time to it and chuck his old lay.

READ AMERICA FIRST. By Robert Littell. Harcourt, Brace & Co., New York. \$2.50.

The grandfather of the author of this book is that same Littell who, not so many years ago, wielded a most discriminating pair of shears in the editing of "Littell's Living Age," a magazine reprinting interesting articles from other publications for the edification of the Back Bay. Robert Littell is an editor of the "New Republic," retaining sufficient respect for the scissors of his grandfather to use them in harvesting the material for this book from his magazine editorials.

The contents range from rather heavy-footed attempts to be facetious and satiri-

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