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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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deal at the expense of the Shriners, big business, morticians, realtors, and other unfortunate aspects of our National life, to an absolutely first-class article on H. L. Mencken and his imitators, and others very early as good about Henry Ford, the appeal of "Abie's Irish Rose," Lincoln, and Irving Lardner. Robert Littell is a singularly level-headed person with a faculty for other people's points of view. He does not happen to be particularly funny. Beside the remarkably straight thinking and writing of most of this volume some of the author's more jocular efforts fall upon the ear with a dull and sodden sound.

**Plays**

**ANOTHER TREASURY OF PLAYS FOR CHILDREN.** Edited by Montrose J. Moses. With Illustrations by Tony Sarg. Little, Brown & Co., Boston. \$3.

Treasury is the only word for it, as it was for the first collection of plays for children made by Mr. Moses. If, as he says, we have every reason to believe that a good children's play is the one children may take their parents to without any fear of boring them, many parents are booked for an enjoyable time this Christmas, even if they only read the plays presented here. (We wish that it had been our luck to have been taken by some intelligent British child to A. A. Milne's "Make-Believe" to see Jean Cadell, the unforgettable Miss Shoe of "At Mrs. Beam's," play Miss Pinniger.) It seems an altogether excellent thing that children should be invited to set their teeth into such plays as "The Mikado," "The Birthday of the Infanta," or even "Abraham Lincoln," all printed in full in this book, as much as to witness such old favorites as "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" and "Racketty-Packetty House." Tony Sarg's illustrations are gay, colorful, and witty. The good taste and common sense evident in the selection of the plays is equally apparent in Mr. Moses's prefatory remarks and in his "introduction which is an appendix" for parents, teachers, and librarians only.

**Science**

**THE NEW NATURAL HISTORY.** By Professor J. Arthur Thomson. Vol. III. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. \$4.50.

The third volume of this popular and laborately illustrated work. The chapters in this volume are on sea animals, islands, cave animals, insects, rivers, animals in relation to man, the human body, and evolution. The pictures—in color and in half-tone—are the feature of the work.

**Travel and Description**

**SAILING ACROSS EUROPE.** By Negley Farson. The Century Company, New York. \$3.50.

Mr. and Mrs. Negley Farson went to England and bought a 26-foot power yawl, sailed her out in Holland, and then maneuvered her up the Rhine and Main to Bamberg, through the almost forgotten Ludwig Canal to the Danube, and down the Danube to the Black Sea.

They had adventures. No one can take such a trip and avoid adventures, but gain there are few amateur yachtsmen who can convey the reality of them so well to a patient reader. Most travel books are interesting to people who have been themselves to the places described. We like to look at the pictures, remembering the time we were there, and what we said to the head waiter. Perhaps it is high enough praise to say that this book should interest you if you have never been east of Second Avenue. Negley Farson talked with fishermen and barge captains in six countries, shot pheasants with Admiral Horthy, drank *slivovitz* on the *puszta* with *csizkos* and other Theatre Guild extras, was shot at by one Bulgarian regiment and dined

with another. He is to be envied for the amount of fun he has had, and thanked for the portion of it he has passed to us.

**BY WATERWAYS TO GOTHAM.** By Lewis R. Freeman. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. \$3.50.

Come every motor-mariner and stout fresh-water seaman, And listen to the chronicle of Mr. Lewis Freeman, Who launched his skiff of cedar-wood, who donned his oilskin slicker And braved the storms of Michigan a-cruising with a kicker, Who bobbed through awful hurricanes as buoyant as a cork To make the inland passage from Milwaukee to New York!

Such is the essence of "By Waterways to Gotham," by that intrepid explorer of the Colorado, Columbia, Yellowstone, Irrawaddy, and other romantic and perilous rivers, Mr. Lewis R. Freeman; but undoubtedly all hardy motor-boaters will want to know the incidents of his long, varied, and at times tempestuous voyage in an eighteen-foot craft propelled by a little outboard motor. The author supplements his pleasant narrative with a full appendix giving river, lake, and canal distances, lock data, and similar details that the ardent sailor will absorb and the lazy passenger ignore, and illustrates the story of the trip with forty-eight photographs; and yet he forgets the one thing that no such book should lack—a clear and simple map of the route.—ARTHUR GUTTERMAN.

**A WAYFARER IN EGYPT.** By Annie A. Quibell. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. \$3.

One who is about to visit Egypt should by all means read this book in advance and take it with him; but it is not sufficiently detailed to serve one's turn completely as a guide-book. It is written with gusto and charm, and, though evidently out of abundant knowledge, yet without the slightest taint of pedantry. The historical is mixed with the descriptive (from first-hand observation) very attractively. If you have no intention of visiting Egypt, read the book, anyway; it will at once instruct and entertain you.

**Children's Books**

**A BOY'S-EYE VIEW OF THE ARCTIC.** By Kennett Longley Rawson. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$1.75.

Rawson, a boy of fourteen, was cabin-boy of the Bowdoin on the MacMillan expedition to the Arctic regions in 1925. This is his story of the trip, with pictures from photographs.

**Contributors' Gallery**

**REAR-ADMIRAL AUSTIN MELVIN KNIGHT** speaks from a long and varied experience in naval affairs. He has now retired, after forty-nine years' service as an officer on the active list. For some time he was Commander-in-Chief of the Asiatic Fleet and during the Spanish-American War he saw active service, blockading the north coast of Cuba and taking part in the Porto Rican expedition. He is the author of "Modern Seamanship" and was head of the Department of Seamanship at the United States Naval Academy for several years.

**WE** wish we might disclose the identity of the author of "Raymond Poincaré—A Sketch," but are unable to do so.

**MARJORIE ALLEN SEIFFERT** is known to some by her pseudonym of "Elijah Hay." She has published "A Woman of Thirty" and "Poems of Elijah Hay." Another book, "Ballads of the Singing Bowl," will be brought out by Scribner's in a few months.

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