

The New Books

The books listed by title only in the classified list below are noted here as received. Many of them will be reviewed later.

Art

THE COLOR-PRINTS OF HIROSHIGE. By EDWARD F. STRANGE. With 52 plates, 16 in color. Stokes. 1926.

This large and handsomely illustrated book on Hiroshige marks a considerable advance on its predecessors. It presents besides the familiar landscape prints, the fan designs, the presentation cards, original sketches, and a very full, if far from complete list. It also settles certain disputed points. From now on the second and third Hiroshige are documented characters, though we are only at the beginning of their list. Mr. Strange's book is indispensable to the collector. It also offers much that is attractive to every person of taste. The criticism has not much color, but is just and sympathetic. The unusual degree of landscape realism in Hiroshige—a trait which early commended him to European amateurs—is regarded as almost entirely of Hiroshige development, apart from European influence. Similarly the influence of Hiroshige on Whistler and the French Impressionists is minimized. Your reviewer finds these views confusing. Surely the strong resemblance between Hiroshige's color patterns and those of the finest French *vues d'optique* is not wholly coincidence, and the French transparencies are older. A chief drawback to the collecting of Hiroshige prints is the poor paper and printing. Clearly he worked for a lower public than that of Hokusai and Kunisada. The writer has seen one of the finest Hiroshiges, The Eagle, pasted on the outside of a teabox. We have, then, as Mr. Strange duly points out, a great artist dedicated wholly to popular imagery, almost a unique phenomenon in the history of art.

A COLLECTION IN THE MAKING. By Duncan PHILLIPS. Washington, D. C.: Phillips Memorial Gallery.

EARLY AMERICAN WALL PAINTINGS, 1710-1850. By Edward B. Allen. Yale University Press. \$7.50.

Belles Lettres

DREAMS AND DROLLS. By Arthur Machen. Knopf.

A SHEPHERD. By Heywood Brown. Rudge.

THE HAPPINESS OF OUR GARDEN. By Mrs. William Lovell Putnam. Rudge.

CHAUCER AND THE MEDIEVAL SCIENCES. By Walter Clyde Curry. Oxford University Press. \$2.50.

LUIGI PIRANDELLO. By Walter Starkie. Dutton. \$3.

SELECTIONS FROM POE'S LITERARY CRITICISM. Edited by John Brooks Moore. Crofts.

Biography

MY LIFE AND TIMES. By JEROME K. JEROME. Harpers. 1926. \$4.

Mr. Jerome begins with a story about a group of men who used to dine together in his Bohemian days. Two of them, Mr. Blind and Mr. X, bought a perambulator together in expectation of two babies, but Mrs. X produced twins and refused to let either of them be a footstool on the floor of any perambulator, while Mr. Blind refused to sell his half of the perambulator unless at the price of a whole perambulator. They were still disputing when the gas went out at twelve o'clock, and the company adjourned to the rooms of Philip Bourke

Marston, on the Euston Road, who was blind and wrote poetry. There Jerome announced that he was going to write a truthful and unreserved autobiography and call it "The Confession of a Fool." All agreed it was an admirable title, but doubted if he could write a book of the requisite ruthless veracity. Apropos of this, he once asked Mark Twain about the absolutely honest reminiscences which he was rumored to be writing. Mark replied "Quite true, I am going to speak of everybody I have met exactly as I have found them," and added "that he might, before he left London, be asking me for a loan and hoped, if he did, that I would not turn out to be a mean-spirited skinflint."

Mr. Jerome's memories are full of good stories, but his life was not all cake and ale. He was born in 1859. His early experiences were varied, but somewhat hard. Chapter II. is "I Become a Poor Scholar," Chapter III. "Record of a Discontented Youth." Of several years the chief thing he remembers is loneliness. He became an actor, then a journalist, then a school master, and at length drifted into a solicitor's office. For years he wrote stories, plays, essays, and for years nothing came of it. His first book was published in 1885. "Idle Thoughts of an Idle Fellow" and "Stage Land" were written for periodicals. Both sold well, and his literary career got under weigh. It was the career largely of a dramatist, editor, and lecturer. "The Passing of the Third Floor Back" is the play that is most remembered now. The last Chapter is the "Looking Forward" of a man of sixty-seven, his attitude of mind toward religion and the personal prospect.

GEORGE ROGERS CLARK. By Temple Bodley. Houghton Mifflin. \$5.

GOTTFRIED KINKEL AS POLITICAL AND SOCIAL THINKER. By Alfred R. De Jonge. Columbia University Press. \$1.75.

STORIES OF AUTHORS. By Edwin Watts Chubb. Macmillan. \$2.50.

HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN. By Himself. Translated by Mary Howitt. American-Scandinavian Foundation.

ERNEST DEWITT BURTON. By Thomas Wakefield Goodspeed. University of Chicago Press. \$3.

MEMOIRS OF THOMAS HOLCROFT. Oxford University Press. 30 cents.

NELSON THE MAN. By A. Corbett-Smith. Little, Brown. \$2.50 net.

ONCE A CLOWN, ALWAYS A CLOWN. By De Wolf Hopper. Little, Brown. \$3 net.

Education

NEW SCHOOLS IN THE OLD WORLD. By CARLETON WASHBURNE. Day. 1926. \$1.75.

This very informative little book is a first-hand informal study of the remarkable group of European schools which under the influence of men like Saunderson, Ferrier, Decroly have introduced beside the crystallized methods of older systems experiments some of which have had remarkable success, Streatham, Hill, Marlborough, O'Neill, and Bedales in England, Uccles in Belgium, Cousinet's work at Arcis-sur-Aube, Glarisegg in Switzerland, the public experimental schools at Hamburg, and institutions in Czecho-Slovakia are the subjects of the successive chapters. The book is critical, comparative, and explanatory, and though

intended only as a descriptive essay is of real value not only to American parents who wish to place their children abroad, but to the increasing number who feel that something is wrong with the standard education of children and wish to know what is being done about it. It is clearly and simply written.

Fiction

THE MAN WHO CANNOT DIE. By THAMES WILLIAMSON. Small, Maynard. 1926. \$2.50.

Mr. Williamson, whose "Run Sheep, Run," a tale of shepherding in the mountains of central California, deserved and received high praise, has here turned to a theme that is a world away from that idyll of the Sierras. The boldness of its conception is arresting. Not many writers would dare try to project against the American scene, from Revolutionary days till our own, an American equivalent of the Wandering Jew. That is just what Mr. Williamson essays, and it is hardly remarkable to find that he has fallen short of success.

Such a story, to approach success, must create at the very outset a satisfying illusion. It may be as artificial as the illusion in "Dorian Grey," or as *outré* as the 333 illusions in "The Wild Ass's Skin," but it must be a reasonably complete and convincing world. Mr. Williamson's rather hurried narrative fails to convince us of anything. We are not persuaded of the actuality of his hero, Pentland, who at thirty-eight finds himself suddenly rendered immortal by a Philadelphia scientist; are not persuaded that this death-proof hero moves in a real world. Indeed, one of the most disappointing aspects of the book is the thinness and fatness of the intermittent glimpses of the vast panorama of social change between 1780 and 1920. The mystical and philosophical passages carry with them a sense of strained effort, and the emotional scenes are once or twice bathetic. The reader brings away from the book a sense of a grandiose design, of some highly effective bits of writing, and of some interesting gropings into metaphysics, but of general failure. Mr. Williamson's strength, for the present at least, is greatest when he keep his feet solidly upon the ground.

HALF A SOVEREIGN: An Improbable Romance. By IAN HAY. Houghton Mifflin. 1926. \$2.

Did Major Ian Hay Beith have a guilty conscience when he described "Half a Sovereign" as an improbable romance? The novel certainly is improbable, much in the same way as Chesterton's "The Man Who Was Thursday" is improbable. We surely do not need to add, however, that there the similarity ceases. After the first part of "Half a Sovereign" has been a pleasantly farcical narrative of a Mediterranean cruise on a private yacht, it becomes a tale, still a little farcical, of reincarnation and spiritism. Thereupon, for us, the novel lost its clear charm and felt its way, slow and fumbling, through a hopeless fog. Other readers may perhaps find themselves in sympathy with both divisions of the tale. Of one thing, nevertheless, there is no doubt: the novel breaks in two, there being little discernible reason why the two halves should have been published as one continuous whole. Major Beith is too accomplished a novelist in the lighter moods for us to forgive a lapse into such crudity. Is it possible that his plot languished to the

(Continued on next page)

The AMEN CORNER

THE HOLIDAY season brings its trials, but yields compensations. A friend who signs himself Thersites, but who is more genial than his Shakespearean original, writes us this tragical-comical, but not unwelcome, epistle.

"Neither the drab mediocrity of December weather, nor the dyspeptic depression that follows our saturnalia, can render inarticulate my delight in the new *Oxford Book of Eighteenth Century Verse*.(1) A crotchety and perverse old man, I do not share the present general admiration for that thoroughly uncomfortable and frequently vicious century; I prefer a less barbaric Victorianism. But bad sanitation and doubtful morals sometimes lead to good poetry, and your D. Nichol Smith, a peerless anthologist, has made the best of it. My gratitude is grudging, but sincere."

IT HAS been stated upon good authority that in the study of every dignified Oxford "don" and every illustrious American scholar there is a hidden book shelf full of well-thumbed detective stories. (Humanists regard this as a hopeful omen for the future of education!) Be that as it may, it is not often that the august scholars who preside over the Oxford University Press place their hall-mark of approval upon that most moving of all fictional forms—the classic thriller. *Crime and Detection*(2) is a small pocket volume with a tastefully striking jacket that promises excitement within. Elderly ladies, and austere heads of families, who may not wish to flaunt their sin in public, may remove this brilliant outer husk, and, hiding behind the sedate olive green binding, revel in the inventions of Conan Doyle or G. K. Chesterton, while seeming to be engaged in a sedate study of the essays of Carlyle!

THE OXONIAN, who boasts a select acquaintance among sprightly seniors at Vassar, has received the following comment on *English Women in Life and Letters*,(3) couched in a style which speaks well for Boston and Poughkeepsie.

"I have been perusing the unfortunate lot of ladies in England before the nineteenth century with a great deal of amusement. Did you notice Defoe's idea for the women's college? He would have it constructed so that the entrance for gentlemen, who would divert the young ladies from more serious pursuits, would be very difficult. I was glad to know that the eighteenth century ladies had the same weakness as we of the twentieth! The illustrations are priceless, and prove at last that some one in England has a sense of humor."

UNLIKE the daily columnist, we do not need to seek for asterisks to fill our final ems...On the contrary we must, like a breathless messenger, gasp out all our news in fragments... (Each trio of periods shall represent a fresh sally of thought)...We cannot, like Grant before Richmond, sit on this line all summer...An Englishman named Knowles, by the way, has written an interesting book on the Civil War.(4) Lee and Jackson are his heroes and the book is more exciting than most novels...English writers show renewed interest in our Civil War; the Oxford Press is about to publish an original study of *The Military Genius of Lincoln*(5) by Brigadier-General Ballard. Its conclusions are daring, and may excite controversy...Lincoln, says General Ballard, was, all considered, the great strategist of the Civil War.

But Oxford tastes are not wholly belliose. To counteract these military studies, the Press has prepared a circular of Books on Religion, which has more than a theological interest. Write the Oxonian for it at 35 W. 32nd Street...Fowler's *Modern English Usage*(6) continues to sweep the market; it has now conquered the critical minds of college teachers of composition. Yale, Princeton, Chicago, Northwestern and others will use it...Later, we hear, the book will appear in leather—an admirable gift!...Our colleagues are just returned from Boston, where the Modern Language Association has held its annual frolicsome assembly, so we have heard much talk of linguistic potentates there gathered...May the erudition of each have a balancing sense of humor!


Just as every little Liberal has his little Con-ser-va-tive!

—THE OXONIAN.

(1) Blue cloth, gilt, \$3.75; or on Oxford India paper, \$4.25.
(2) Olive cloth, gilt. (World's Classics Series). 80c.
(3) Blue cloth, gilt. \$4.00.
(4) Red cloth. \$3.00.
(5) Blue cloth, gilt. \$5.00.
(6) Blue cloth, gilt. \$3.00, or on Oxford India paper, \$4.00.

NEW NOTABLE NOVELS

SHOOT!
By Luigi Pirandello
Author of
"Six Characters in
Search of an
Author."
The movie actress Nestoroff is centered in this Pirandello novel of tragic passions.
\$2.50



GLORY
By Léonie Aminoff
A splendid novel based on Napoleon in his days of triumph—his coronation, his brilliant military campaign—interspersed with fascinating intimate details.
\$2.50

THE REBEL BIRD
By Diana Patrick
Author of
"Firefly," etc.
A new novel where love—"the rebel bird"—plays a strange, difficult part.
\$2.00

E. P. DUTTON AND CO.

The New Books

Fiction

(Continued from preceding page)

point of death midway through its course, and that he thought to resuscitate it by turning to preposterous novelty?

THE RIVER FLOWS. By F. L. Lucas. Macmillan. \$2.

A WOMAN IN EXILE. By Horace Annesley Vachell. Stokes. \$2.

GLORY. By Leonie Aminoff. Dutton. \$2.50.

UNDER THE TONTO RIM. By Zane Grey. Harpers. \$2.

THE ANCIENT HUNGER. By Edwin Granberry. Macaulay. \$2.

THE KEY ABOVE THE DOOR. By Maurice Walsh. Stokes. \$2.

TWILIGHT. By Count Edouard von Keyserling. Macaulay. \$2.50.

PRINCESS CHARMING. By Wilbur Fawcley. Macaulay. \$2 net.

THE BUTCHER SHOP. By Jean Devanny. Macaulay. \$2.

From the beginning

BONI & LIVERIGHT felt it a particular honor to publish the work of Lewis Mumford. Readers who enjoy thoughtful books will remember his *STORY OF UTOPIAS* and his *STICKS AND STONES*. The first showed how the ideal of social organization had changed through history; the second was a history and a criticism of American life in terms of its architecture. Both books have made a profound impression on American thought. The reputation of *STICKS AND STONES* crossed the Atlantic. The book has had a distinct influence on architecture and community planning.

Lewis Mumford's new book ▼▼ The GOLDEN DAY

Is his most distinguished achievement. It is the history of American culture, the story of its spiritual life, its European beginnings and its *GOLDEN DAY* when Emerson, Thoreau, Melville and Whitman were writing the classics of American literature. It describes the decline of our culture and gives a penetrating analysis of those conditions that thwart an American culture and those forces that give the hope of a new development. It is a book that speaks manfully to the intelligence and the courage of America.

It has been received with deep appreciation by the American press, and noted American critics and writers like Van Wyck Brooks, Henry James Forman, Alfred Kreyborg, Carl Van Doren, to mention only a few, have written to express their deep satisfaction that such a book could be written in America.

Nothing could be more significant than the praise of the noted philosopher, George Santayana, who is reputed to have given his praise publicly to only one other book.

George Santayana

writes: "The best book about America, if not the best American book I have ever read."

At all stores, \$2.50

GOOD BOOKS

BONI & LIVERIGHT, N. Y.

The Delectable Mountains

By the author of "The Interpreter's House"

Struthers Burt

IN this romance of a wealthy young Philadelphian and a chorus girl from a Broadway revue, Struthers Burt has taken a broad canvas on which to depict modern American society, and to contrast with convincing effectiveness the mannered social attitudes of Philadelphia aristocracy, the swift, elaborate cruelty of stage and studio life in New York, and the serene, powerful beauty of life on a ranch in the mountains of Wyoming.

It is a moving story, told with humor, warmth, and sophistication, and showing the author's unusual understanding of the social and intellectual conflicts peculiar to the present day.

\$2.00 at all bookstores Charles Scribner's Sons, New York



Miscellaneous

COLONIAL FURNITURE IN AMERICA. By LUKE VINCENT LOCKWOOD. Third Edition. Scribners. 1926. \$30.

This important work, first issued in 1901, revised in 1913, and now reissued with 134 plates of new subjects, contains "over a thousand illustrations of representative pieces" and is, in effect, an illustrated catalogue of important colonial furniture in America. The text is careful and detailed, but the great value of these two volumes is to be found in the opportunity for comparison and contrast which the many objects of each kind and period listed afford to the interested student, collector, or fortunate owner of an old and unidentified piece. Mr. Lockwood divides his work by subjects, discussing chests, chests of drawers, cupboards and sideboards, desks and scrutoires, looking glasses, chairs, settees, couches and sofas, tables, bedsteads, clocks, each chronologically discussed and illustrated. Supplementary chapters at the end of each volume have been added to describe the new and important pieces that have come to the knowledge of the author since the second edition of 1913. So complete and so satisfactory in its illustrations are these two volumes that one wishes for a third in which such objects of art workmanship as colonial silver, watches, jewelry, glass, and wrought iron might have been depicted and analyzed so that this work could become the encyclopedia which in its field it already is.

HORSE SENSE AND SENSIBILITY. By Crasredo. Scribners. \$5.

CANADIAN HOUSES OF ROMANCE. By Katherine Hale. Illustrated by Dorothy Stevens. Macmillan.

THE METHODIST YEAR BOOK, 1927. Edited by Oliver S. Baketel. Methodist Book Concern. 50 cents.

MUSIC FOR CHILDREN. By Doris Simmonson. Child Study Association of America.

ISRAEL'S TREASURES. By Benjamin Vend. New York: Hebrew Publishing Co.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF BOOKBINDING AS AN ART. By Meiric K. Dutton. Norwood: Holliston Mills.

MOTION PICTURES FOR INSTRUCTION. By A. P. Hollis. Century.

SELLING THE SALARY INSURANCE PLAN. By Richard L. Place. Crofts. \$2.

Philosophy

HUMAN EXPERIENCE. (A Study of Its Structure.) BY VISCOUNT HALDANE. Dutton. 1926. \$2.

It might be well if there were some autocratic Mussolini of letters to establish a rigid censorship of philosophical terms. Let the philosophers be forbidden on pain of deportation or death from using half of the words in their present vocabulary, and let them be compelled to give some definite meaning to the other half—there is no telling what happy results might follow! Among the equivocal "weasel words" of philosophy, as Professor Perry has well called them, one of the first to be proscribed would unquestionably be the term "experience." It sounds well, it has an honorific value, everyone would like to possess it, but just what does it mean? Viscount Haldane devotes a book to telling us and at the end leaves the confusion worse confounded.

He takes for point of departure, as an example of the way of thinking most opposed to his own, John Dewey's "Experience and Nature." Dewey contends, it will be recalled, that human thinking is a mode of natural interaction whose meaning is dependent on its context, and that knowledge is a useful phenomenon occasionally arising in the course of natural events. For Haldane, on the other hand, knowledge is fundamental to there being any events to know. This is the familiar contrast between the realist and the idealist, but Haldane is not content to be a mere idealist; he wishes to be both. "Our Minds," he writes, "have the double aspect of being included in nature and of being its foundation." This proposition seems, on the surface, to express an antinomy worse than any of Kant's, but the author solves it easily by the simple method of stressing the second half of it and forgetting the first. "We invest the facts with their meaning and so with their existence." Later it transpires that it is not "we" as empirical beings who do this but "a single self foundational to all individual selves"—in other words, the idealistic Absolute once more. Such a thesis is respectable and may perhaps even be true, although the majority of philosophers are not convinced of it, but there is little that is novel or particularly compelling in Vis-

count Haldane's presentation. He does not escape the reproach of thinness justifiably leveled against most of the later idealists. Where Dewey's work, whatever else it may be, is at least full-blooded and in touch with the concrete facts, Haldane wanders through a pale world of dialectic in search of a formula. Human experience is, according to human experience, quite obviously a matter of trial and error, experiment, frequent frustration, a matter of individual selves dealing with other selves and with natural phenomena, a matter of chaos with a very little of cosmos infused in it. To escape from all this to "the single self foundational to all individual selves" is an achievement, certainly, but a barren one philosophically—however, it may be aesthetically and religiously—unless one manages to get back again to the individuals from whom we started. This is precisely what Haldane neglects to do. His "human experience" is experience with the humanity left out.

Religion

THE ECONOMIC BACKGROUND OF THE GOSPELS. By FREDERICK C. GRANT. Oxford University Press. 1926. \$2.50.

A competent scholar has attempted to give here as far as the scanty data permit a survey of the economic history of the Jewish people in the centuries preceding the time of Jesus and of the resultant conditions at that time. He regards Palestine as a mainly agricultural community economically hard pressed by overpopulation and excessive taxation. His description is clear and well documented and would be quite convincing if one had only more evidence. Professor Grant has, however, not used the abundant data from Egyptian papyri either for the light they give directly on economic conditions in Syria or for comparing Syria with their complete picture of Egypt.

Of more general interest is the later part of the book in its attempt to show the influence of economic causes on the contemporary Messianic hope among the Jews. It has long been recognized that Jesus came to a people in political unrest under the yoke of Rome. Dr. Grant believes this unrest was due largely to economic factors, though neither Jews nor Romans realized this cause, still less were able to cure it. Jesus himself was no social revolutionary. He adopted rather the current apocalyptic, pacific, quietistic programme of renunciation and patience. He preached the blessedness of poverty and taught them to expect a future and other-worldly reward. With keen insight Dr. Grant has followed the lines suggested in a recent commentary on James by Martin Dibelius and really helps us see how thoroughly religious and pietistic and characteristically Jewish was Jesus's aloofness from the social question.

Though the book is vigorously written it can hardly be expected to check the over-modernization of Jesus as a social reformer. In many ways it is a companion piece to Simkhovitch's famous essay, "Toward the Understanding of Jesus." If any criticism is needed of its wholesome corrective of the social revolutionary theory of Jesus one might say that it gives too much the impression that Jesus pondered the social problem and decided not to adopt the programme which socialists and the modern social creeds attribute to him. More likely he never considered the alternatives. Let conservatives take such comfort as they can get from that.

AN OUTLINE INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF RELIGIONS. By THEODORE H. ROBINSON. Oxford University Press. 1926. \$2.

It is a pleasure to recommend so unreservedly as one may in the case of this admirable little volume. In the present turning of the public mind to the subject of religion it is a wholesome trend which brings the history, or as it is sometimes called "comparative religion," into the foreground. Champions of Christianity as the "final" religion are fortunate if they find exponents of our faith at once so well informed and so judicious in their presentation of this ultimate form of spiritual development. We imagine that satisfaction would likewise be expressed by adherents of the other great faiths of the modern world. Here Professor Robinson does not profess to speak in the same degree as an expert, but adds to his own personal experience and studies the advice of a notable group of expert counsellors. As a simple, reliable, and clear presentation of the subject to English lay readers this little volume has many rivals but no superiors that have come to our knowledge.