

# AMONG THE BOOKS

### Bennett on a Bat

This is the year when the English novelists are taking a day off. H. G. Wells called "Bealby" "A Holiday"—which it very decidedly was; and now we have Arnold Bennett coveting round "The City of Pleasure" (George H. Doran, New York). Don't blame it on the war. "Bealby" assailed the periodical public through Collier's about three weeks before the opening of the European free-for-all; and "The City of Pleasure" has been dug up out of the trunk that Mr. Bennett owned in the days when he owned very little else.

In other words, this tiny little volume of thrills and laughter is one of the pots set boiling by the creator of Clayhanger when he vowed he would prefer fame to grubbing along, even if fame meant amassing the more general. It succeeds in its task, because it has plot and humor. It does a little bit more, because it has also character and a judgment on things in general.

### The Rediscovered Country

Two white men pierce a trackless virgin area of dense forest in German East Africa, where the sound of a gun had never been heard, and where no hunter ever before set foot. One of these explorers, Stewart Edward White himself, chronicles the events of this daring trip into practically unknown land in his diary which has been printed in book form as "The Rediscovered Country" (Doubleday, Page & Co., Garden City, L. I.).

### Health

When a treatise on health exercises is translated into 21 different languages and has sales that approach a million copies, it is not necessary for the amateur physical culturist to know that it has been adopted by physicians in nearly every country on the globe in order to feel sure of the intrinsic value of its contents. This would be a casual criticism by a casual reader of Lieutenant J. P. Muller's "My System," or, as its sub-title explains, "Fifteen Minutes' Work a Day for Health's Sake" (David McKay, Philadelphia).

### Keeping the Door Against the Spectre

"The Keeper of the Door" (G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York), a new book by Ethel M. Dell, discusses once more that often discussed question whether the physician has the right to unlock the door to

## SOME LITERARY NOTABLES



### Literary Cousins to Abe and Mawruss

The "Potash and Perimeter" formula of the joys, tribulations and wrinkles of a partnership is employed by Montague Glass in several of the stories which he has made up "The Competitive Nephew" (Doubleday, Page & Co., Garden City, L. I.). For this reason and its corollary that stories of a type are bound to pall if consecutively read, readers will justly take umbrage at the palatable attempt to make this volume appear to constitute a full-length novel.

### Health

Mighty clever short stories, most of 'em. Though the names are not Mawruss and Abe, the people beneath them are many a relation of the atmosphere at the times mentioned. The now familiar personal traits and economic principles of the cloaks and suits trade form the basis and furnish the atmosphere for most of them, but in one, "Rudolph, Where Have You Been?" Mr. Glass prospects along a new lead, where the one seems to justify itself. It would be agreeable to have some more of these studies of his race under theatrical conditions. In this one story he seems to have a firm grip on the pulvis and ways of 42nd street and Broadway as he assuredly has on those of Grand, Canal and Rivington streets, not to mention Upper 9th avenue in the "Bromix."

### From King Albert's Book

Long live King Albert! Spotted hero! Hearty to his slightest faith! He went forth, followed by all his little people—the little people that are so great—to meet the innumerable hosts of the Barbarians.

### Love Letters of a Divorced Couple

Suppose, for the sake of argument, that your Christian name was Kenneth and that your past tense wife was Sybil. And suppose once more, that she had obtained a Reno divorce because you didn't take her seriously and she took you too seriously. And then, just for the sake of finishing this series of hypothetical questions, suppose that she wrote an important personal letter, telling you of the divorce and wishing you joy with your second wife? What would you do?

### Another Anonymous Novel

The title of anonymity is toward food again. After Basil King puzzled most readers with "The Inner Shrine" came a multitude of books of concealed authorship, concerning which the public betrayed absolutely no curiosity. Then, a season ago, "Home," by George Agnew Chamberlain, reached a considerable success through clever exploiting of the author's anonymity. Erq, busy typewriters of nameless authors began heaving any romances and rival publishers, following the lead of an achieved success, began printing of the marvelous quality of their respective anonymities, each of course in its own way.

### Thrills for Heroine

Notwithstanding that the heroine is thrice rescued from peril of death in the first three chapters, "Spray on the Windows" (George H. Doran & Co., New York) must be described as a story of humdrum English life. The author, J. E. Buckrose, while not duplicating the gaiety that appeared in her previous work, has written entertainingly and has provided some excellent character drawing.

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### Gloomy Outlook for Native American

A gloomy picture of the future of the American Indian is painted by Honore Willis in her latest novel, "Still Jim" (Frederick A. Stokes Company, New York). Mrs. Willis evidently believes that the influx of foreigners is operating to remove from those who trace their ancestry back to colonial times all the opportunities their area enjoyed. Of course, she has read all this before in the pages of the Congressional Record, and if "Still Jim" relled for its interest upon the author's outlivings on this pet hobby, it would be a pretty dreary affair.

### Book Gossip

John Travena is the literary enigma of England. He is not known in the literary circles of his own land; the clubs of London have never seen him. His personality is a profound secret, and the name of Travena is said to be assumed not merely for professional purposes but also to conceal him from a world that once knew him as a writer under another name, "Sleeping Water" (Kennedy in his latest book, like all of his others, a tale of Dartmoor.

### "Under Two Flags" In Modern Guise

Do you remember the days when you devoured "Under Two Flags"—usually behind locked doors, lest mother should discover the offense—and were convinced in your own mind that no other writer of fiction could compare with Ouida? Of course, that was when you were young, for Ouida made her chief appeal to the very young, rather than to the sophisticated, who should have read her work. But if you have any lingering traces of the old predilection you will enjoy "The Red Mirage" (Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis). It's "Under Two Flags" again, the same Algerian setting; the same foreign locale to lend picturesque; even the same self-sacrificing Bertie Cecil, under another name.

### The New Books

A list of books received for review. More extensive comment will be made on those whose importance warrants further attention.

### THE JESTER

BY Leslie Moore  
Author of "The Peacock Feather"  
The Jester, like Peter of the Peacock Feather, is a wanderer, but a very different kind of wanderer in a very different England.

### The Younger Generation

W. J. Wipf, in "The Younger Generation" (G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York), tells us that a story of love about business capital is not a new thing. It is a story of the "young man" who is not a young man, and the "young woman" who is not a young woman.

### THE HOUSE OF THE MISTY STAR

By FANNIE CALDWELL MACAULAY  
A combined love and mystery story set in the ancient little Japanese city of Hijiya; Hijiya, home of crumbling castles and lotus-filled moats, swung in the cleft of a mountain overlooking the magical Inland Sea.

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