

AMONG THE NEW BOOKS

Discovered: A "Man's Problem"

There's a new problem before the world. It isn't a sex problem nor a woman's problem nor has it anything to do with the Great War. It is a man's problem. It has stirred up many of the modern novelists and no one has solved it so far. They have only analyzed it until it has followed a universal pattern. A young man, of most any class and station, is aroused by his natural passions, and by foul means or fair—usually the former—is enticed into marriage with some quite astonishingly unworthy girl. Being the weaker vessel, he falls, yet seems to wish all along he were not falling. Then he settles down to a life from which in a short time he runs away, to take up a liaison with some other woman far more attractive and genuine than his wife. The illicit relationship is happy and successful, and probably there is a moral between the lines—"stolen treasures," etc.

This is the skeleton of the "man's problem" which is bothering the novelists. And to this theme—succeeding a long line led by H. G. Wells—Gilbert Cannan has come in his "Young Earnest" (Appleton Co., New York). Here, for the first time, the author has taken the "man's problem" with a few extra ones thrown in. From his ordinary character and uneventful youth he emerges, by slow steps, into a man of character and uniqueness, with human foibles and ambitions—all the time the typical man, such as most of us meet in our everyday lives. There is no particularly subtle characterization in the book, nor is the plot epoch-making. You cannot brand Mr. Cannan's novel as propaganda, except in so far as many a work, written in a vein of sincerity and realism, brings with it a message. But the author cannot help seeing and showing that man's troubles and perplexities are equal in importance to woman's, though they have their particular flavor; that they are both human perplexities; that they are interwoven as their outside manifestations. Neither can be solved without the other.

The Outmoded Epic

Lancelotti Abercrombie, the important and authentic English poet of the younger generation, has considered "The Epic" for the low-price (40 cents) and high-grade Art and Craft of Letters series (George H. Doran Company, New York). He has written about it searchingly and, amazingly, comprehensively for so concisely. Casual readers, desirous of being well informed, will have explained for them such mysteries as the origins, evolutions and meanings of the mighty Homer's mighty myths, the stark Beowulf, the inviolate Nibelungen Lied, the chanson de Roland, the Brut and Cid legends, the Arthurian cycle, the Charlemagne stories, all with their derivation in folk-song and heart-borne tale and the relation of such works as Vergil's celebration of the pious Aeneas, Dante's wondrous medieval philosophy, Milton's "Paradise Lost" and Tennyson's "Idylls," conscious products of the poet's closest. The epic of growth is distinguished from the epic of art. Why the epic, oldest of literary forms, after the prophecy and the ballad, is no longer written, is elucidated; it is outmoded in this day of the public school, which compels its instructive; of the playhouse, which provides joy for the fatigued magnate or the equally tired employee. Just as, it may be assumed, the epic diverted the wearied warrior of old; and of the newspaper, some of which today are as epically disorganized as when the akop, misnaming or hard acted not only as lyric reporter, but as circulating man, as, as uninteresting as when Homer nodded and as "romantic" as when minstrels raved or rhymed. The genuine epic in its accretion and evolution was a sort of journalism, and had many of the flaws and defects which we deem signs of our own time. Mr. Abercrombie tells about them in a book notable for clarity of treatment and distinction of style.

A Brief for Balladry

In the useful and attractive "Art and Craft of Letters" series, wherefrom you can have for a modest 40 cents an always interesting, frequently illuminating and occasionally authoritative discussion of one or other of the literary types, Frank Sidgwick adds "The Ballad" (George H. Doran Company, New York) to a collection that already includes Epic, Parody, History, Satire and Comedy among its texts.

The Sidgwick volume has the advantage of combining all the qualities already advertised to as characterizing, partly or wholly the "Art and Craft of Letters" books, though it is lacking in the distinctions of style so traitful of Lancelotti Abercrombie's "The Epic" and Gilbert Cannan's "Young Earnest." He has mastered his bibliography, he knows the "grammar" of his subject, if anything of such popular unspicing and folk development as the ballad may be said to be afflicted with a "grammar," and, best and most important of all, he has at first hand delved deeply and widely into his material, the ballads themselves, tests his several discerningly-made collections of ballads. He writes lovingly, too; in fact, his little book is a brief for balladry in its plea for intelligent study of the ancient literary form and indication of the sheer emotional pleasure to be derived from acquaintance with the simple, hearty, heady ballad in its unsophisticated form. Out of his wide ranging research and intensive study Mr. Sidgwick has condensed in 50-odd small pages all that the average reader ought to know about the origin, evolution, significance and history of the ballad, and, indeed, more than the usually informed person knows—when and wherefore the ballad was written, why it is no longer (in a general sense) written, why it is not literature, why it is deeply interesting in despite, and cognate questions.

The author gracefully acknowledges the long-continued supremacy of American scholarship in the field of the ballad, from the marvelous Child to our own Gummere (assuming the annexation of a few miles of the Main Line in a sort of intellectual "Greater Philadelphia").

John Jay Chapman

Imitates Homer

John Jay Chapman has imitated the vigor and broad characterization of Homer's tales in his two sketches, "Hector's Farewell" and "The Wrath of Achilles," grouped into a little volume which he calls "Homer's Homer" (Lawrence J. Gomme, New York). The author has failed, however, to grasp the finer distinctions of the Greek epic poet. "Hector's Farewell" is a masterpiece of satire. War, heroes, glory and sacrifice are extolled in fine irony. The delicious humor and sarcasm of the Homeric Therapist alone make the book worth while.

A Political Novel

Inspiration for reformers is found in Holman Day's novel of politics, "The Pauper" (Harper & Bros., New York). The author tells stirring and inspiring tales of the story of a victorious battle for sanitary conditions and civic decency against a corporate octopus whose tentacles not only gripped the water supply system of a great state, but actually controlled the executive, judicial and legislative departments. There is a good bit of "hard work" in this tale of how the poor man wins an understanding of how the rich man controls the state organs.

REVIEWS REVIEWED

BY ROOTH TARRINGTON

My feeling about reviews is that a reviewer reviews himself as well as the book he is estimating. Most reviewers seem to me to reveal more of the reviewer than of the book. How many, for instance, shout of epigrams; the reviewer being in labor from the outset to demonstrate that he is the reviewing fellow, the author is flatterer or flatterer. They do not understand it—they cannot feel it. I suppose a supreme sensitiveness to words is as rare as a supreme sensitiveness to color—or rarer. All my life I have worked for prose—for the texture of it—as the primary thing to be obtained, and seldom indeed has a reviewer told me that here and there I have obtained it. Often, of course, I have not obtained it, but when I have, there was evidently only a few who were able to recognize it—they will write of everything else in the book!

tion and political forces to a standstill and got pure water and politics for over-ridden communities. But the plot is not inherently improbable, and the telling is forceful and romantic.

Holy Land in Text and Picture

To the genuinely elegant "Spell" series of travel-romances expressing the individual lure of many lands Archie Bell has contributed "The Spell of the Holy Land" (The Page Co., Boston). Mr. Bell, who is altogether a capital critic of music and drama in the Midwest, has adventured to Palestine and Syria not as religious devotee or archeologist, but, bluntly, as tourist. On the site of that civilization, more ancient of days than the Pharaonic dynasty, he has found many new things to catch the eye and many old things to compare with the novel or modern. He has written, lucidly and graphically, something better than a guide-book or travel-book—a glowing, enthralling narration of holy haunted ground. The illustrations, beautifully reproduced, consist of eight plates in full color and 48 drawings from splendid photographs by E. M. Newman, the "travel-talk" man, familiar to thousands of theatregoers whom he has "personally" conducted in orchestra chair excursions to all quarters of the globe.

American College Analyzed

Though his book is otherwise admirable, Dr. Isaac Sharpless is a bit careless with a few of the dates in his survey and rating of "The American College," which introduces a new series to readers, "The American Books" (Doubleday, Page & Co., Garden City, N. Y.). These serious manuals aim to treat compactly and untechnically problems of our national life. They are well bound and printed and sell for 40 cents each. If the contents of succeeding volumes maintain the standard set by the present of Haverford they will be worthy additions to the library of the average person who desires to be informed, but has neither time, training nor perhaps inclination for the tomes of specialists. The individual character of the American college is keenly analyzed by Doctor Sharpless; it is educationally sui generis. It is peculiarly individual, and one is tempted to add peculiarly American; but this is so only because it has no existence elsewhere and not because its existence elsewhere is impossible. That is to say, that although the American college is indigenous, it is not necessarily an exclusive product of the genius of the stocks and folk that developed—developing—into the American people. It is easy to discover where President Sharpless' predilections lie in most educational questions, but always he presents both sides fairly and fully. Why the earliest colleges developed as they did instead of following the English or Continental university ideas is capably discussed. The conflict between high school and college, elective vs. prescribed studies, student discipline and responsibility are other topics.

The New Books

ANNE OF THE ISLAND, By L. M. Montgomery. \$1.25. The Page Company, Boston.
THE PIONEER BOYS OF THE YELLOWSTONE, By Harrison Adams. \$1.25. The Page Company, Boston.
OUR LITTLE MACEDONIAN COUSIN OF LONZ AGO, By John Darracow. 60 cents. The Page Company, Boston.
MICHAEL O'HALLORAN, By Gene Stratton-Porter. \$1.25. Doubleday-Page, Garden City, N. Y.
THE SPELL OF THE HOLY LAND, By Archie Bell. \$2.50. The Page Company, Boston.
PUNCH CARTOONS OF THE GREAT WAR, By Geo. H. Doran Company, New York.
GERMAN PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICS, By John Dewey. \$1.25. Henry Holt, New York.
AMERICAN WOMEN IN CIVIL WAR, By Helen Christine Bennett. \$1.25. Doubleday & Co., New York.
THE CAMPAIGN OF 1914 IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM, By G. H. Ferris. \$1.25. Henry Holt & Co., New York.



GENE STRATTON-PORTER
Whose new novel "Michael O'Halloran" will be published on Aug. 17, by Doubleday Page.

ANOLA

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Something different, something new. Crisp, chocolate-flavored confections with the most delicious o-eamy filling.



NATIONAL BISCUIT COMPANY



MARY ROBERTS RINEHART
Her new novel, "K," will shortly be issued by Houghton Mifflin.

Book Gossip

Owen Wister's study of Prussianized Germany and the spirit in which it entered the war, "The Pentecost of Calamity," which had recent magazine publication, will shortly be brought out in book form by the Macmillan Company.

Eleanor Atkinson, author of "Johnny Appleseed," attended the dedication at Ashland, Ohio, on July 25, of the memorial to Johnny Appleseed. The monument to "the nation's saint of American orchards" has been erected with boulders collected by school children. All this locality is intimately connected with the scenes in "Johnny Appleseed," of pioneer life in the border States, and "Johnny" was a welcome visitor in the cabins of Union-town, as Ashland was then called.

From the Century Company will come in the autumn a new novel by Bertha Tunkie, whose "Helm of Navarre" will be remembered. It will be called "Straight Down the Crooked Lane," and will deal with people of today in society life in Newport and army life in the Philippines.

On August 3 the George H. Doran Company will have ready W. Somerset Maugham's new novel, "Of Human Bondage," said to be a detailed picture of the life of a real man of the present time.

Oliver Onions is still engaged in compulsory work for the English army, but is making efforts to get to the front as a private in the ranks. He was offered a commission as captain in the home defense troops, but declared that he would rather black boots at the front than be a major general at home. He is a year over the age of the present volunteers, however, and has been unable to get to the front, though an important politician endeavored to have a special post established for him. Meantime, with sanitation, transport, food, etc., he is kept decidedly busy.

E. P. Dutton & Co. announce the forthcoming publication of "The Complete Ju-Jitsu," by W. H. Gurnall, "The Toll-house," by Mrs. St. Ledger, and "From the Shelf," by Paxton Holgar.

The title of the story by Corra Harris to be published in the autumn by Hearst's International Library Company is "Justice."

The Holts will shortly publish Barrett H. Clark's "The British and American Drama of Today," which will be a companion volume to his "Continental Drama of Today."

"I allus did think David Spafford was an unpractical man," said Grandfather Heath in Grace L. H. Lutz's "Miranda" (Lippincott's). "I heard the other day how some big Senator 'r other said that every country needed a place where the' could send all their scallawags to, and this here Oregon was just the very thing for that, 'twas the mos' God-forsaken land you ever see. An' here comes David Spafford apoutin' a lot of nonsense 'bout Oregon, how it's a sardine of roses an' potatoes, an' a great place to live, an' "



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the comin' country, an' all that sort of stuff; an' 'dittin' that thar queer lookin' missionary Whitman he had 'Cother day visitin' him. In my 'pinion that man was a liar an' a hypocrite. Why, M'flesay, what d'e want to come riged out like that if he wa'n't? Take my word for it, M'flesay, that man was jest a wolf in sheep's clothin'—an' that thar buffalo hide he wore was jest stuck on far, effect. Oh, Dave Spafford's terrible easy took in."

The Century Company will soon have ready "Me: A Book of Remembrance," which has been having anonymous magazine publication. It is a section of a year or so out of the life of the author, who is said to be a well-known woman novelist, during her later teens, when she was making her precarious and adventurous way in a busy world.

When Gene Stratton-Porter's new novel, "Michael O'Halloran," takes its place in the book shelves of the world on August 17, as an appropriate companion piece to her "Freckles," "Laddie," "The Harvester" and "The Girl of the Limberlost," Doubleday-Page & Co. will have completed a little more than eight months' active work upon the actual planning, designing and manufacturing of the book. All of this work was done in co-operation with the author and no step in the matter of decoration, illustration or design was taken without her approval.

Eden Philpotts told a recent interviewer that he always selects the setting of a story first and then evolves from it the plot and the characters. When he was preparing to write "Brunel's Tower" he lived among the potters three months before beginning the story.

Sinclair Lewis, author of "Our Mr. Wrenn," is taking a tramping trip, with his wife, on Cape Cod, in the course of which they expect to explore the cape from end to end.

The following volumes are announced for publication by G. P. Putnam's Sons: "An Art Philosopher's Cabinet," by George Lansing Raymond; "The War of 1814," by Emil Waxweiler; "Zoology," by A. E. Shipley (third edition, revised and enlarged).

Fire in Norfolk Navy Yard
NORFOLK, Va., July 30.—A few minutes work extinguished a small fire in the navy yard here today. The damage was trifling. How it started the commandant didn't know, but it was a paint barrel, he said, deriding the foreign spy theory.

BOY DROWNED IN DELAWARE

Lad Loses Life After Disobeying Mother's Orders.

A mother is prostrated today because her little son went in swimming against her warnings and was drowned. Joseph Davellin, 9 years old, of 2118 Memphis street, accompanied his mother to the North Cramer Hill shore of the Delaware River yesterday to open their cottage for the summer. The day was hot and the water looked cool. Joseph wanted to go in swimming, but his mother knew the water was dangerous at that point and said "no." Occupied with work in the cottage, the woman did not miss her child until informed an hour later that he had been drowned. Joseph had gone to the wharf, stripped off his clothes and plunged in. Two boys, who saw his struggles from the shore, went to his assistance, but they were too late.

A hot weather luncheon—
Bowl of "half-and-half"—
half cream, half milk—
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JOHN LANE COMPANY
Publishers New York



How a Year's Red Scourge of War Has Shaken Europe and Her Rulers

Next Sunday's Public Ledger gives its readers a truly remarkable collection of articles on the topic uppermost in every mind. The progress of the great conflict is reviewed from every angle by military experts; its effects upon business, politics and world's progress are ably discussed by noted authors, historians and men high up in diplomatic circles.

HENRY JAMES and A. CLUTTON-BROCK, whose fingers are perhaps closest to John Bull's pulse, give us The Mind of England at War. Mr. James, who has just renounced American citizenship and acquired that of Great Britain, is represented by one of his most brilliant essays.

EDWARD GOLDBECK, a former officer in the Prussian Army, contributes an interest-gripping article on Imperialism and Peace.

STANLEY S. SHEIP frankly deals with the psychological effect of the overseas combat on America.

CHARLES WILLIS THOMPSON writes an illuminating history of the war in its diplomatic and martial phases.

GEORGE HERMANN BORST gives every reader food for thought regarding war's effect on big and little business in an article, "Hand-writing on Wall."

This Big War Number of the

PUBLIC LEDGER

Is Scheduled for Sunday (August 1)

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