# EVIEWS AND NEWS OF THE LITERARY DOMAIN, SNAPPY NOTES AND JOTTINGS

## PRINTED PLAYS AND BOOKS ABOUT THE THEATER ABOUND

Shaw Leads Off, With Brieux, Masefield and a Great Array of Foreign Playwrights Following

By the Literary Editor

Among books about the theater may be mentioned five on varied aspects. One is Ashely II. Thorndike's scholarly and yet harmingly written book on "Shakespeare's Cheater" (Macmillan Company, New York)

Theater" (Macmillan Company, New York). Another, "Training for the Stage" (J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia), by Ar-

Lippincott Company, Philadelphia), by Arthur Hornblow, takes up many interesting angles of its subject matter; David Belasco supplies a foreword. "Practical Stage Directing for Amateurs" (E. P. Dutton & Co.

New York), is a pretty complete guide to the mounting of a play; hardly any side of that complex operation escapes treatment.

The two remaining volumes are critical and expository. Both are by Barrett H. Clark, a man who has done a great deal for the better understanding of the foreign stage, both by his translations and by books

like the present: "Centemporary French like the present: "Centemporary French Dramatists" (Stewart & Kidd Company, Cincinnati), and "British and American Drama of Today" (Henry Holt & Co., New York). The latter is a comprehensive outline for study, particularly well suited to the Drama Leaguers.

Quite a bit akin to Shaw in antic serious

Quite a bit akin to Shaw in antic seriousness is George Jean Nathan's collection of
dramatic fulminations, called "Another
Book About the Theater," and issued by
B. W. Huebsch. Here there are no plays,
but a great deal of wit and wisdom about
them. Some of the humor is pretty extravegant; but back of most of it is a very
solid and dependable point of view with
real knowledge of foreign and native dramatic literature. The whole thing is amazingly good fun, whether you care for
long sh discussions of "the optimism of
tragedy" or such bitter-sweet quips as the

tragedy" or such bitter-sweet quips as the definition: "Drama—the erroneous theory that the most important episodes in a man's

or a woman's life are the most interesting."
or the deadly comparison: "He who can,
does; he who can't criticizes. As, for respective example, George V. Hobart and
William Haziltt."

"The Melancholy Tale of Me" is the characteristically whimsical title with which E H. Sothern designates his delightful reminiscences, first printed, in part, in the Century and now issued in enlarged book form by the Century Company. Mr. Sothern enjoyed a long stage career, rich in acquaintances and experiences. He has drawn very liberally upon it, but not to exhaustion. He knows where to ston, and better

tion. He knows where to stop, and better still, where to start. This is no boringly continuous autobiography. The sketches of himself, his father, his remarkable uncle

and the hundreds of stage friends that he made, his accounts of dramatic ventures and modal gatherings, are all strung to-

gether in an easy, chatty, varied narrative full of sprightliness, humor and sentiment

Miss Theodosia Baxter wandered up and down the world for three years in search of something to interest her, only to return

of something to interest her, only to return home and find it on the upper doorstep of her own front door. What she found was a surprised child holding a baby on her knees. They were two of the neighbor's children, and ere long she met the two other children of the family. How this quartet of youngsters reached the heart of the staid and travel-worn woman and eventually brought romance into her life is set forth delightfully by Annie Hamilton Donnell in Miss Theodosia's "Heartstrings." (Little, Brown & Co., Boston.)

"The Spell of Egypt" (The Page Com-pany, Boston) seems more meritorious than the average gift book. To be sure, it is

beautifully produced in paper, printing and binding and it is profusely and effectively illustrated. In addition, the text is no

nights" the power to convey impressions quickly and spectacularly. There is more in his book than descriptions of the pyramids and revivals of the lore of the Ptolemies.

It gives the modern reader an idea of mod

ern Egypt; it leaves the antique to Rawlin

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breezing, amusing, deliciously satirical sketches. Say "Her-mione" to any bookseller and hand him \$1.25. He'll get what

APPLETON BOOK

"Strong in Plot,

Characterisation"

Brilliant in

By DON MARQUIS

(Little, Brown & Co., Boston.)

Every season, whether reckoned in and theatrical drams, "The Lie," is partnered by a book of discussion about the drams called "The Theater of Ideas." Though the point of view is a little old-fashloned, its wit is as delicious as any in Mr. Jones's many delightful comedies. recording the printed play grows in popularity. The new year in the theaters finds easie of worthwhile volumes, some fresh from the presses, some remaining from the ring and summer lists of the publishers. Lading them all is Bernard Shaw's new collection from Brentano's. It includes, beoliection from Brentano's. It includes how for the "Youngham of the Lion," "Overruled and "Pygmalion" explaining a great deal more shout the people and telling just whom Eliza, the converted flower girl, married in the and. It is Shaw from a rather novel angle. of it is Shaw from a rather novel angie.
Of sourse, the plece de resistance for
those who already know the three deightful comedies in this volume, is the
preface to "Androcles" on "The Prospects
of Christianity," beginning with the query:
Why not give Christianity a trial?" His
meage is twofold; Current Christianity is
not a following of Jesus's creed; if we had
followed Jesus we should not be in the
pickle from economics to war, that we are
seeds?

After a long and keen analysis of the
New Testament, he finds that Jesus "advecates communism, the widening of the
private family, with its cramping ties, into
the great family of mankind under the
fatherhood of God, the abandonment of
revenge and punishment, the counteracting of evil by good instead of by a hostils evil and an organic conception of society in which you are not an independent
matridual, but a member of society, your
reignbor being another member " " the
obvious conclusion being that unless you member being another member the below conclusion being that unless you have your neighbor as yourself and he resprecates you will both be the worse for " If we embark on a purely scientific study of economics, criminology and biology, we "find that our practical conclusions are virtually those of Jesus."

We have the conditions of today, says that, because Christianity has not been made applicable by complicated political devices. We shall never get better until me invent these devices and apply them. It is a remarkably stimulating preface, he best since "Major Barbara's."

Brentano also issues a new collection of tys by Brieux. The first, which gives volume its name, is "Woman On Her " the tragic narrative of a woman Own." the tragic narrative of a woman she finds no employment in life except at the base terms of men in authority. It handles much the same theme as Galsworthy's "Fugitive," but strikes a truce and deeper note in the tragic vista upon which the play ends. Besides the early play of the law's iniquity, "The Red Robe, there is included a very interesting frama of ancient Egypt, "The False Gods," based on religious controversy. In it Brieux postulates the necessity for dogmate helief among the lower races of tie belief among the lower races of

a play from John Massefield is a rare and say notable event. To "The Tragedy of isn" and "The Tragedy of Pompey the t" he has added, under Macmillan im-"The Faithful," again a tragedy, but print, "The Faithful," again a tragedy, but this time of Japan. The form is once more the rhythmed prose which Masefield han-dles, not only better than any modern tramatist, barring Synge, but better than any other poetic dramatist handles his blank with the power of heightened and sug-petive prose is a secret that will mean a readssance of the imaginative theater if cally poets and playwrights will learn the lesson. Winthrop Ames is to produce "The Paithful" this season at his Little Theater a New York. So far as beauty and emo-tion so the play is assured of artistic suc-ma. What the verdict of the box office all be is another and a debatable matter.

imulating little volumes from Percy Mac-laye along with his ambitious and musical rama. "The Immigrants." The smaller coke are "The New Citizenship: a Civic and engrossing in presentation. Possibly titual Devised for Places of Public Meet-Ritual Devised for Places of Fubic Meeting in America" and "A Substitute for
War," a very powerful plea for the democratic arts of the theater as an emotional
expression, which not only may unify races,
but may also supply an outlet for feelings wadays drive toward war.

Five notable additions have been made that most notable of "libraries" of the be that most notable of "libraries" of the current stage, "The Drama League Series." Issued by Doubleday, Page & Co. The series now numbers sighteen volumes of thoroughly representative plays. The five newest range from English comedy through the Prench and German theaters. That delightful theatrical success, "Hobson's Choice," by Harold Brighouse, represents England. Prance supplies "A False Saint," by Francois de Curel, a drama that marked the birth of naturalism in the French theater, and "The Apostle," by Paul Hyacinthe Loyes, a play of deep human interest. From Germany come Max Haibe's famous "Youth" and "The Mothers," by George Hirschfeld, soft dramas constantly seen in the repetry theaters of the fatheriand. All five have authoritative introductions by men of

Another good series of plays is the Contemporary Dramatists, issued by Richard C. Badger, of Boston. Among the new volumes, Gorki's "Nachtasyl." a marvelous creation, is freehly translated. Italy yields its a playlet by Jacinto Benavente, called The Smile of Mona Lisa," and one a play by that remarkable German, Hugo von Hedmannsthal, "Madonna Dianora," is brought over into English, as well as "The Great Galsoto," by Jose Echegaray, already acted here by William Faversham in Charles Nixon-Nirdlinger's "The World and His Wife." There is also a new translation of Strindberg's "Advent," a very powerful work.

mother selection from Strindberg's comes in Scribner's "Fourth Series" "Plays by August Strindberg." It insist in general pieces less known by inmittonal reputation. "The Bridal Crown," inscellaneous folkplay; "The Spook Soa." The First Waxning," a one-act coming and "Gustavis Vasa," one of the Ge's historical drammas.

Tomi the American-Scandinavia Society may yet another Strindberg drams, "Mas-Olaf," a historical play written in youth thus the first of his long series.

om the Yale University Press comes Book of the Yale Pageant," a hand-a volume containing the scenario of the coming pageant in celebration of "2 200th anniversary."

will call Theodore Dreiser our own
ref for the curious combination of
smallstic and the mystic in his
included by John Lane under the
ays of the Natural and the SuperThe dramatic effectiveness of
le dramas may be questioned; their
interest in unquestionable;

es also issues a new translation of risin's powerful attack on German army Tapa. It is well worth a rereading.



Which refers to the lettering on the Atlantic City Boardwalk sign in the photograph as applying to the man depicted. The name is William K. Bartlett, Director of Public Safety. The gentleman leaning against the sign is Frederick rin Bartlett, author of "The Wall Street Girl," published by Houghton Mifflin.

#### NOTES OF AUTHORS AND THEIR WORKS

Artist Opper Collaborates With Aesop-New Edition of Grenfell Book on Labrador

Those who have enjoyed the Opper Mother Goose, will welcome Aesop, Opper and Com-pany into the comity of funnakers. What Frederick B. Opper himself thinks about being admitted into partnership with wise old Aesop may be gathered from his re-marks here quoted: "I am glad this book is about animals, birds and insects because I like them. I like all animals except the skunk and him I respect. I like all birds except the rooster and I would like him too if he did not get up so early, I ike all in-sects who can be mentioned in polite com-pany, and though I do not like reptiles I am sorry for them. I used to think it a pity sorry for them. I used to think it a pity that nature did not give our fellow creatures of the animal kingdom the power of speech. Their talk would probably be more interesting than ours. But perhaps it is just as well as it is. Men would teach them to lie and swear, and they might get to telling tiresome stories and circulating gossip. A dow fight would be a great deal worse than tiresome stories and circulating gossip. A dog fight would be a great deal worse than it is if the dogs could call each other names while they were fighting." But if the animals cannot speak, they will miss little by it while they have two such interpreters as Aesop, Opper & Co. "Aesop's Pables, With Illustrations." by F. Opper, is published by the J. B. Lippincott Company.

An important book published by Houghton Mifflin Company is the variorium edition of Shakespeare's Sonnets, edited by Raymond MacDonald Alden; the text of the quarto of 1609 is printed verbatim and each

quarto of 1609 is printed verbatim and each sonnet is followed by the var ant readings of the most authoritative editions and by interpretative notes from the leading com-

fact that it is by a trained journalist, Archie Bell, the dramatic editor of a Cleveland first year, with her pen still active, has written "A Little Book of Friends," in which she tells of the lives of such gifted newspaper, whose work as reported gave him the quickness of vision to seize on striking features and the capacity to repro-duce color in words and as critic of "first

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VICTORY

BY SARAH GRAND

THE WINGED

women as Cella Thaxter, Gall Hamilton, Anne Whiting, Louise Chandler Moulton, Sara Orne Jewett, Rose Terry Cooke and Mrs. Annie Fields, Little, Brown & Co.

Mrs. Annie Fields. Little, Brown & Co. publish the book.

A large edition of Dr. Wilfred T. Grenfell's "Tales of the Labrador," published by Houghton Mifflin Company, has been taken for England by Nisbett & Co.

This is the day of passports, as all who have wandered into Europe recently declare. "When one returns to America one

clare. "When one returns to America one at first on entering a railroad station instinctively fumbles for his pass before boarding a train." says Mr. Wadsworth Camp, author of the recently published mystery story, "The House of Fear."

Perhaps a sort of figurative passport for Mr. Camp among his own people making his readers free of the outstanding facts of his career may not be out of order. Wadsworth Camp, then, is a Philadelphian by birth, but has spent a good deal of his time in such picturesque places as New time in such picturesque places as New Jersey, Florida and northern Africa. He is at home at present, on a recess apparently from the battlefield and the jungle,

and the especially distinguished art colony at Cornish, N. H., and Windsor, Vt.

The thousands of readers of James M. Beck's "Evidence in the Case" will turn with interest to his new volume, "The War and Humanity," issued by the Putnams. This volume presents an analysis of the rights and immunities of non-combatants and of and immunities of non-combatants and of the duty of the United States. The sub-jects considered are: "The Submarine Con-troversy," "The Case of Edith Cavell," "The Foreign Policy of George Washington," "Where There Is No Vision." The book includes an appendix the letter of Cardinal Marcier hearing upon the execution of Edith Mercier bearing upon the execution of Editi Cavell, the British nurse.

#### The Wrack of the Storm

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#### RIGHT AT THE END, BUT WRONG AT START | NOVELIST M'CUTCHEON DELVES INTO SURGERY FOR PLOT OF NEW BOOK

Odd Angle to Popular Writer Appears in His Volume, "From the Housetops"

OTHER AUTUMN ISSUES

Though it may be a long way to Tip-perary, as alleged in one of the popular songs that marked the early days of the Great War, the distance conjured in the mind of the British Tommy is scarcely greater than that which marks the space between the mythical Greater of George between the mythical Graustark of George Barr McCutcheon's lively fancy and the same author's field of vision "From the Housetops," which is the title of his latest novel, just from the press of Dodd, Mead &

The author in picturing the affection of a rich old man for his nephew, an affection which takes the form of ostensibly disinheriting him to keep him from marrying the girl of his choice, whom he shrewdly and accurately suspects of wanting the nephew in question on account of his expected wealth, carries the conceit farther by causing the old gentleman to marry the mercenary person himself.

cenary person himself.

Nephew is a surgeon, who a year after the hateful marriage is called on by the old man to perform a necessarily fatal operation on his tortured body. The young surgeon's objections are overruled by the positive orders of the dying man, who apparently has discovered hitherto unsuspected virtues in his young wife, and is content to have his nephew marry his widow. After the tragedy of the operation, which might have been averted but for a fractional slip of the surgeon's knife, the inevitable happens and the young people are free to follow the dictates of their hearts.

Mr. McCutcheon makes it clear that the

Mr. McCutcheon makes it clear that the "accident" of the operating table, by reason of the young surgeon's surpassing skill, might have been averted but for an order whispered to him by the dying uncle just before he went under the ether. The author leaves it to the reader's conscience whether this sort of euthanasia is justifiable, in view of the foot that the of the fact that the old man would have died within a few months even if the "ac-cident" had not happened, and that both the patient and the surgeon were aware of the fact that a successful operation would have entailed only additional and hopeless suffer-ing for the old man.

In "A Little Book of Friends" (Little, Brown & Co., Boston) Harriet Prescott Spofford out of her wealth of memories of lang syne shows that auld acquaintances are not forgot. Mrs. Spofford was singularly fortunate over two generations in a wide circle of friends, who included the women of a past generation notable not only in New England, but throughout the country, for their interest in such public movements as abolition, education and suf-

Cap'n

By Elizabeth Lincoln Gould

As a "type" Cap'n Gid is part and

parcel of quaint New England. But the Cap'n refuses to conform

to "type" in many ways—and that makes him enjoyable. He falls

in love when he's far from young

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ture, journalism and the arts.

Mrs. Spofford writes out of her heart with rare sympathy and understanding. Each of the personages discussed was a friend in the full sense of the present biographer in miniature who writes, therefore, intimately as well as appreciatively. Fine felicities of style make more than ordinarily attractive the dozen or so sketches. The subjects include Jans Andrews, who is remembered to this day for her "Seven Little Sisters," and "Ten Boys Who Lived from Then to Now! Louise Chandler Moultin, splendid critic and authentic poet; Anne Whitney, the sculptor, whose "Rome" was a remarkable marble; Sarah Orne Jewett, novelist of the "plain folks" of Maine, and mistress of short story technique; Celia Thaxter, the temperamental singer of the Isle of Shoals; Gail Hamilton, brilliant journalist and stimulating thinker, and Mrs. Fields, wife of James Ticknor Fields, the publisher, a true poet as well as a female Maecenaa, whose capacity for ample friendship was only equaled by her bountiful hospitality.

pitality There is inspiration in Mrs. Spofford's clume of tender recollections and just es-imates. It is a book to read and keep to

It's hard to write a story of the Mexican border nowadays without something in it about the movies. B. M. Bower has not been able to leave out the films in her new novel, "The Heritage of the Sloux" (Little, Brown & Co., Beeten). The "Flying U" boys are again daredevil and laugh-making figures in the Bower story. There is a framed-up bank robbery for film purposes and a real "blowing" for the sake of loot. This is only a hint of the adventurous action that sweeps resistlessly through the pages. Annie Many-Ponies, daughter of a Sloux sachem, is an appealing person of the drama, and the trust reposed in her is well warranted. Altogether a rattling story, that is better in conception and expression than the conventional thriller on account of its emotional moments understandingly portrayed and its touches of real humanity in characterization.

A stimulating volume with what popularly is called a "kick" in it is "Open That Door," by R. Sturgis Ingersoil (J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphial. Its main theme, although this is cleverly concealed, is how to get the best out of life. And it develops this thems by being an enthusiastic introduction to those who do the thusiastic introduction to those who do the work of the world, to that great source of inspiration and fellowship—literature. The book, although small, contains a great deal that is well worth the reading. Above all class it is noteworthy in that the author never falls into the error of mistaking sentimentalism for sentiment.

Eliza Calvert Hall's new volume of Ken tucky stories. "Clover and Blue Grass" (Little, Brown & Co., Boston), has the same charm and sympathetic touch as has her earlier success. "Aunt Jane of Kentucky." The volume contains the last Aunt Jane Story, "How Parson Page Went to the Circus," and the story takes the reader back once more to Goshen and the old-

time folks of that neighborhood. "Mar Crawford's Chart" and "Old Mahogany show the Goshen of a later date, In a the stories there is a vivid character draw ing and the charm of familiar things as simple incidents that have made her pro-vious volume so popular.

He was a retired sea captain, but not to old to fall in love or to need the guidance of a hard-haaded sister in steering his bar through troubled waters. The little town twhich he lived grew too small for him, he went to the city. There, in a boardin house, he met some people who roused honest ire and others who were—well, quidifferent. Of course the story is laid New England. Nowhere else could found the quaint mixture of sentiment as hard common sense that characterizes the grizzled veteran of the sean, about who climabeth Lincoln Gould has wowen charming little tale, titled simply "Cap Gid." (The Penn Publishing Compan Philadelphia.)

In "Unfinished Portraits" (Charles Scrib-ner's Sons, New York) Jennette Lee has built a series of charming stories upon the legendary incidents in the lives of the world's greatest artists and components
Mrs. Lee's stories—they are really sketche—
display a sympathetic appreciation of the
masters about whom she writes so attractively. Titian, Giorgione, Leonarde, Durar
Schubert, Chopin and Bach appear in the
book in more or less unfamiliar guise.

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Not even "The Heavenly Twins" embodies so many of

the characteristics of a literary masterpiece as this new

novel by Madame Grand. It is the story of an English

girl-whose indomitable spirit carries her from a lace

maker's shop to the highest position in Society. The Lon-

don Daily Telegraph says: "The author makes her char-