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THREE ATTEMPTS TO TELL WHAT BOLSHIEVISM IS

BASIL KING WRITES AN ALLEGORY

War Turns the World Into Whitman's City of Friends

So many things could be said about Basil King's new novel, "The City of Friends," that it is difficult to decide which to say first. It reminds one in a way of "The Lifted Veil," which was the study of the sin of woman and its effect on her life, because it supplements this novel by being the study of the sin of a man and its effects on his life. Thus it adds another to the long series of these which Mr. King has worked out. The book is also a study in the processes of the regeneration of the down-and-out. It might be a textbook for social reformers because of the faithfulness of its exposition.

But Mr. King really has written a sort of an allegory, using for its central idea Walt Whitman's dream of the man of the Abbey Theatre stage, but the new City of Friends "invincible to the attacks of the whole earth," where "nothing was greater than the quality of robust love." His hero is a young man who has gone wrong through drink. While in the act of stealing jewels from a house into which he has broken his way, he is interrupted by a young woman who has pity on him and tells him to go in peace. He then decides to reform and goes with a companion to the Down-and-Out club, made up of men in like condition or who have escaped from it. They are pledged to help one another to the last. There is a fellowship born of a common terror of falling and a common desire to help the other fellow. It is really a City of Friends. Then the war breaks out and as it progresses it is shown to us that the nations have signed as the men in the Down-and-Out club have signed and that the duty of the United States to help its sister nations is as great as the duty of the men struggling upward to help their comrades in order that the world itself may become a great City of Friends.

This is the backbone of the book. It is clothed in the flesh and blood of an interesting love story as was ever written, with a heroine, tender and true and so feminine when love overtakes her that she needs to be protected from herself. It may be objected that the novel is too preachy. Perhaps it is, but Mr. King's public will not object to that.

THE CITY OF FRIENDS. By Basil King. New York: Harper & Bros. \$1.75.

IRISH STORIES BY PATRICK MacGILL

"Glennornan" Really Linked Sketches Rather Than Novel

"Glennornan," by Patrick MacGill, may be classified as Irish stories rather than an Irish novel, for, although the people and the places are the same throughout and there is a sequence of chapters, it is not the unified fiction that blends plot, characterization and mood into a novel. Rather, it is a connected narrative featuring imaginative personages in created situations, but minus the elements of surprise and suspense.

There are a number of quaint folk in the story. Occasionally caricature rather than characterization is Mr. MacGill's method. Sometimes there is a suspicion that Mr. MacGill has revived the stage Irishman—not the Irishman of the Abbey Theatre stage, but the Irishman of the burlesque and music hall stage. Doally Gallagher does not excite much sympathy—the Glennornan-born lad, turned London journalist, and then returning to his people only to find, as he thinks, that he has outgrown their native ways, their simplicity of thinking and doing. Donny the Drover also finds the community too restricted an area for his brawn and energy. Old Iney Leahy, dry of wit and tart of tongue, seems the most representative of the personages.

The purpose of "Glennornan" is supposed to be a picturing of the fast vanishing Dark Rosaleen of Mannan, Davis and the other Gaelic lands. The vanishing is ascribed to the encroachment of modernity. It is an ascription that Sinn Feiners both in this country and in Ireland will vigorously dispute. They will have another reason for Denys's lament that there is no progress in Glennornan, and no chance but to live and die by toil on the sod.

In "Glennornan" Mr. MacGill has made the mistake of trying to fictionalize a land and a race of romance in terms of a sort of hard realism. He writes in a glowing, florid style, with fine diction and brilliant play of phrase and with some notable descriptions, but there is no Celtic magic about his book, no warm-hearted, sympathetic Ilberianism about it. It also lacks the saving savor of Irish humor and only occasionally flashes with wit. From this distance it looks as if it would be as popular with the Irish as "The Playboy of the Western World."

GLENNORNAN. By Patrick MacGill. New York: George H. Doran & Co. \$1.50.

BOLSHIEVISM IS CZARISM INVERTED

Three Men Explain What Has Happened in Russia

If any American is in ignorance of the nature of Bolshevism and of its relation to international socialism it is not for lack of the efforts of the makers of books to inform him.

Robert Wilton, a correspondent in Russia for the London Times, has expressed his view in "Russia's Agony," when he says that Bolshevism demands immediate application of socialistic ideals, that it recognizes no nationality, no society, no family, nothing but a conglomeration of manual workers governed by "ideals" with the help of a Red army, and that it involves the forcible subversion of all the laws and covenants upon which human societies have been established. Mr. Wilton reminds us, however, that the Bolshevik government is not representative of the Russian people. He says that of the 384 "People's Commissaries" in office a year ago two were negroes, three were Russians, five were Chinese, twenty-two were Armenians and Georgian, and more than 300 were Jews, and of the last 244 had gone to Russia from America after the revolution of March, 1917. Mr. Wilton's book is an admirable story of the revolution, so that his statement of Russian history. It is the fullest and most complete story that has yet been produced by any one not a propagandist for socialism.

John Reed's book, "Ten Days That Shook the World," describing the seizure of power in Petrograd by the Bolsheviks must be read with caution, for Mr. Reed is an ardent Socialist in sympathy with Bolshevism. He is in constant touch with the Bolshevik leaders in Petrograd at the time, and was in a position to know what was going on, so that his statement of facts may be accepted. It is his inferences that must be taken with some skepticism by one who wishes to understand the situation.

John Spargo, one of the most reasonable and well-equipped expounders of international socialism, has devoted a whole book to Bolshevism. He has to use for it, for he characterizes it as an inverted Czarism and the reverse of that social democracy for which he has been fighting for years. Lenin himself has admitted that the Bolsheviks, of whom there are about 200,000, are ruling Russia in the place of the 120,000 aristocrats who used to rule it. They call themselves communists, and as such Mr. Spargo tells us that they have parted company with the Socialists. He wishes to discover how abhorrent Bolshevism is to an intellectual Socialist one cannot do better than to read Mr. Spargo.

And if one wishes to learn just what social democracy is supposed to be, he will find it clearly set forth in an address by Mr. Spargo called "Social Democracy Explained." Mr. Spargo, who separated himself from the Socialist party some time ago because he believed it had betrayed its principles, is a convinced Marxian. His book is an interpretation of the later Marx theories and an application of them to present conditions.

RUSSIA'S AGONY. By Robert Wilton, correspondent of the Times in Russia. New York: George H. Doran & Co. \$1.50. TEN DAYS THAT SHOOK THE WORLD. By John Reed. New York: Harper & Bros. \$1.50. BOLSHIEVISM. By John Spargo. New York: Harper & Bros. \$1.50. SOCIAL DEMOCRACY EXPLAINED. By John Spargo. New York: Harper & Bros. \$1.50.

A Touching Easter Tale

"The Gift," by Margaret Prescott Montague, is a tenderly written, touchingly conceived long short-story on the motives of war, Easter and faith. Almost plotless so far as action, complication or climax is concerned, it none the less has an interest in the end—the resurrection of absolute belief in God in the troubled soul of a clergyman, whose son has been killed in the war, on the eve of his preparation of a woman, stricken with a fatal disease, whose only son has made the supreme sacrifice in battle, his own faith is renewed and fortified, and he is able to echo the dying words of his blinded son: "The Light, the Light."

THE GIFT. By Margaret Prescott Montague. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co.

Food Problems and Solutions

In "This Famishing World," Alfred W. McCann assembles a vast amount of data and details concerning food, food that main and kill the rich and poor, that starve the growing child and the prospective mother of health, and that ill untimely graves. It is a destructive book in a sense, and yet always re-ounds remedies of a constructive sort. He exposes food adulterations and other detriments to the public health and shows the dangers of "food deficiency" diseases.

THIS FAMISHING WORLD. By Alfred W. McCann. New York: George H. Doran

BOOKS RECEIVED

General IRONICA. Poems. By Donald Evans. New York: Nicholas L. Brown. \$1.25. KILMER (Mrs. Joyce Kilmer). By Alice Kilmer. New York: George H. Doran Company. \$1.25. LIT AND LOST. By John Addison Symonds. New York: Nicholas L. Brown. \$1.50. BOLSHIEVISM. By John Spargo. New York: Harper & Bros. \$1.50. THE DAY OF GLORY. By Dorothy Canfield Fisher. New York: George H. Doran Company. \$1.50. THE POLITICAL SCENE. By Walter Lippmann. New York: George H. Doran Company. \$1.50. THE HOUSE AROUND THE CORNER. By Gordon Holmes. New York: E. J. Clode. \$1.50. FURTHER ADVENTURES OF JIMMIE DALL. By Frank J. Packard. New York: George H. Doran Company. \$1.50. THE GAMMETERS. By H. C. Bailey. New York: George H. Doran Company. \$1.50. TALES OF SECRET EGYPT. By Sax Rohmer. New York: George H. Doran Company. \$1.50. THE SECOND BULLET. By Robert Orr. Philadelphia: New York: Robert M. McElroy. \$1.50. HE WIPED HIS EYES. By Grace Searwell. New York: E. Appleton Company. \$1.50.

RED-BLOODED HISTORY TALES

Edward Lucas White's Short Stories Vitalize the Past

Edward Lucas White, who in his two historical novels has made vivid the people of his selected time and place and made his people flesh and blood human beings, not costume-drama puppets, speaking strange and strained dialogue, has applied the same perceptive and vitalizing methods to a number of short stories in "The Song of the Sirens."

His locales vary through ancient Greece, Rome, Europe of the middle ages and elsewhere. His people, include Anna (Dido's sister, celebrated by Ovid), Hannibal, Pompey, Crassus, Julius Caesar and other historical personages, and a number of fictitious characters very believably drawn from men and women in the moods and emotions of their humanity in like men and women of today. The several stories are not merely historical narrations, extracted from the archives of archeology, but red-blooded stories with suspense, excitement, and climax in their plots. Mr. White does not go to Gibbons or Grote, or to Thucydides or Livy, for a skeleton of facts on which to drape the toga or poplin of historicity; he goes to life and invests his personages with lifelikeness. His fiction is under no mortmain of analysts and antiquarians of the past; he is decidedly modern in his expression. The reader actually sees Greece, Rome, Carthage, Sparta; he recognizes them as living cities, not as names, just as New York or Chicago or London lives for him in a realistic contemporary story.

"Iarbas," having to do with Aeneas's flight and Dido's immolation in punishment of her love; "The Furies," built about the first triumvirate and the rivalry of Pompey and Caesar; and the title story, all reach high water mark. THE SONG OF THE SIRENS. By Edward Lucas White. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. \$1.50.

Nerves and the War

Annie Payson Call, a well-known exponent of mental science, so called, has applied the principles of that science to the economy of nerve force on which the war has made heavy demands. It is purpose when written was to assist in winning the war. It has value, now that the war is over, for all those who find themselves unable to conquer the petty vexations of everyday life.

NERVES AND THE WAR. By Annie Payson Call. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. \$1.25.

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By Lawrence Perry

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Bolshevism

(John Spargo spent months in Europe gathering material for this book)

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