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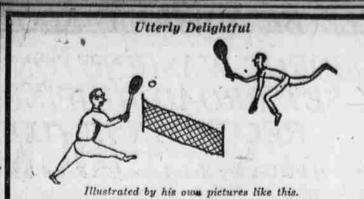
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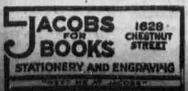
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Building a weir, circumventing a bear, staying on a ranch—ail these op-portunities and others come to Isabel and her friends during their vacation in the West. Their headquarters are a camp in the mountains of Montana. Here occur many exciting incidents implicating strange Mexicans and other interesting characters. Toward the eninteresting characters. Toward the end of the story the plot turns on the success of the boys' engineering feat. The outcome of this, and the decision of the boys as to their careers brings the reader to the time of America's entrance into the war. They all figure in "Isabel Carleton in the West," by Margaret Ashman.

One of William Heyliger's best stories is found in "High Benton." The tale of a boy's growth, mental and moral, and his development from a good natured, indifferent boy, whose

a good-natured, indifferent boy, whose horizon is bounded by the narrow con-fines of his own little town, into a manly youth, strong and wide-visioned. "High Benton" is a lively boy who always manages to be in the midst of always manages to be in the midst of things. From the time he finds written on his sidewalk the message, "Gregor Helseng licked Benton yesterday," his days are filled with picturesque adventures. He has his itch to become a moving-picture actor; he organizes a serect society and strikes to compel the reinstatement of an expelled high school student; he meets with his gang in the Hiding House and is overgang in the Hiding House and is over-whelmed with thoughts of ghosts; and his greatest blow comes on the occa-sion that his father's friend refuses to employ him when he quits school with-

out finishing his course.

HIGH BENTON. By William Heyliger. New York: D. Appleton & Co. \$1.50.

HIGH BENTON IN THE WEST. By Margaret Ashman. New York: Macmillan Same.

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Cohan, who has read the book, is
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"The Disturbing Charm" Delightful in Fancy and Manner

The lightsome funcy and the delight-The lightsome fancy and the delightful style that characterized Bertha Ruck's "A Land Girl's Love Story."
"In Another Girl's Shoes" and "The Three of Hearts," are carried over into her latest novel, "The Disturbing Charm." The title comes from the "small and secret force, the love-germ of mischief and delight." that sets people falling in love with other people, most often the wrong people. Some pawky humor that turns romantic Cupid into an interfering and unreasonable Puck who tangles the skeins of love affairs until they are wellnigh inextricable; rules the romances. nigh inextricable, rules the romance of this wholly charming story.

The path of true love never did run smooth, as the old novelists put it, and Miss Ruck is just old-fashioned enough to utilize this motivation, but is very up-to-date in her personages and in her manner, which is quizzically humor-ous, richly comedic, touched with a tang of irony at times and always good-hu-mored.

There is quite an actual charm or potion or microbe as the basis of the story, whose inventor or discoverer sends it to a distinguished scientist, whose niece happens upon it. And after that the deluge of complications of amorous extended to the continuous of sentences and continuous c cations of amorousness and sentiment and criss-crossing of affection. A group After his acute studies in fiction of the Ghetto, both its comedies and its tragedies, with their marvelous interpretations of character and knowledge of custom, it comes somewhat of a great contrast to find Israel Zangwill writing a quiet and human story against the a quiet and human story against the interestingly portrayed.

HE DISTURBING CHARM. By Berths Ruck. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co

Mid-Victorian Memories

Those who like gossip about promi ent people-and who does not?-will nd Matilda Betham-Edwards's "Midland," and this is a very admirable descriptive and qualifying label.

The delightful heroine and her swain, the equally delightful Will, are full of bucolic charm. In fact Mr. Zangwill has written what might well be described as an eclogue, of course taking into consideration the differences in form between the Vergiiian medium of expression of his romances and the modern novel. The spirit is much the same. And it is no reflection on Vergil that Mr. Zangwill is less consciously artificial and certainly more human. Victorian Memories" very pleasant reading. Miss Betham-Edwards writes of Henry James, George Eliot and Her-Victorian Memories' bert Spencer; Coventry Patmore, Frederic Harrison, Amelia B, Edwards, her cousin; Lord Kitchener, Viscount Morley, John Murray and many others, all in a delightful vein. The chapter devoted to Frederic Harrison will be prized most by prized most by many readers for the reason that there are included in it several intimate letters written by the distinguished positivist philosopher to the author, with no idea that they would ever be seen by any one but the recinient. A note by the publishers indicates that Mr. Harrison is not pleased with their publication, but they contain nothing of which he need be ashamed, and they give a glimpse of the man as he appeared to his friends when he was not conscious of public attention. As such they have considerable rather siderable value.

magnation and Adventure

Jinst imagine a complex of II. G. Wells, in his earlier scientifice-fictional manner: Edgar Allan Poe, of "Heats Pfaal," and "The Pit and the Pendulum"; Jules Verne, of "Twenty Thousand Leagues," and "From the Earth to the Moon" and "A Journey to the Center of the Earth"; Rider Haggard, of "She," and "The Children of the Mist," and James Stephens, of "The Crock of Gold," and you will gain an idea of the scientific slants, the romance, the imagination, and the thrills which are put into book form under the title of "The Moon Pool, by Abraham Merritt. And, learn too, that it is all without imitation, conscious or unconscious, of these noted writers and much-loved books that Mr. Merritt achieves his novel of uncanny adventure, weird imaginings and arabesque atmosphere. His contacts with them are all tangential, never directly and objectively touching by impact.

It is a book that cannot be described in its intricate plotting and to read it is to admire the fertility of invention of the author, his command of all the expectations and the conscious read many the man where the least one of the willingness of the earlies the scenes. The willingness of the earlies in the form the class of the reading the man while and the goosefeash to stand out at times, his control of the grotesque and the hoorefeash to stand out at times, his control of the grotesque and the horrific. Suffice it to say that the narrative takes a party of explorers in the South Pacific into an unknown and mysterious realm and the reader from thrill to thrill, from surprise to surprise.

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