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THE ESSAY EXEMPLIFIED BY AN EXPERT

PENETRATING AND WITTY ESSAYS BY DR. CROTHERS

A Book Through Which the Author Carries the Torch of His Quaint and Original Genius to the Delight of the Reader

Professor of English Literature in the University of Pennsylvania
A NEW book by Dr. Crothers we are always sure of pleasure by the way, for he carries the torches of his quaint and original wit wherever he goes. We are sure likewise of something else, of a certain kind of good, in the way of the brass counters of information, perhaps—for Mr. Crothers uses a coinage of a higher denomination and of a different metal—but the way of a clearer, a kinder, a saner view of the topic under discussion.
An ingenious friend of mine has divided books into two very definite and quite exclusive classes, the one with the other. These are the plus books and the minus books. This is not the same thing as the long books and the short ones; nor yet a matter dependent on the major or minor reputations of authors. A plus book is a book the reading of which leaves the reader the better, the happier, the more hopeful; a book which appeals to what is good in you and lifts you a bit out of the slough and despondency of the world. A minus book is one which leaves the reader grumpy, if not irritable, and which clouds the sun and darkens the ear to the singing of birds and the prattle of children. A minus book may be true—most of them are—but it is dull, unimaginative, unconvincing; all this only makes its minus quality the more certain. For it is art enlisted in the service of the enemy, and the more it shows of showing us into the slough of despond. Nor is a plus book that dead thing, an improving book; for he who counts his gains in his reading like the miser, who counts his losses in his reading like the miser, should be deprived of the sweet uses of literature. A plus book is one that adds something to the clarity of our vision or to our charity toward our fellow-men; it is a book which vitalizes and ennobles; not one which kicks, debilitates and unweaves.



DR. CROTHERS Whose new volume of essays is delightful reading

WHAT an excellent thing it would be if we could catch some of our busy "educators" busy for a moment, just telling somebody else exactly what he ought to be doing—and first denying him access to all his professional apparatus for a month, which would really compel him to read and ponder such an essay as Mr. Crothers' "Dance School of Experience."
The "Dance School of Experience," however, is not the little red one which we sentimentalize about, presided over by "a withered dame" who discourses tartly on education. It is a book which is a real education in the real world. After considerable fending, noting which our "educator" might learn much from that past into which he is too busy to look, the author comments: "You have really modern ideas after all. You believe in learning by doing. 'Not by doing what the pupils do, but by doing what they should do.' This is the real teacher and the real educator."
The "real teacher" is a radical reformer who habitually uses the most conservative means to attain his ends. He is not a revolutionary; he is a realist. He is not a "teacher" who, like Mr. Crothers, will forgive a parody of his words. He employs revolutionary methods to attain mediocre results.

YAMOTO SOCIETY HISTORY OF JAPAN

The First of a Series of Books to Be Issued by an Organized Propaganda

A SOCIETY has been organized in Japan for the purpose of informing Europe and America about the history of the country, its artistic and industrial progress and its political development. A series of books is to be written by Japanese experts dealing with various aspects of the subject. The first to appear is "An Introduction to the History of Japan," by Katsuro Hara, of the college of literature of the Kyoto Imperial University. Prof. Hara says in his introduction that the greatest misfortune of his country at the present day is that her history has been written by very few first-rate historians of Europe or America. Many who have written of Japan, he says, cannot be called historians at all. The best qualifications they have are that they can write a book or that they were once residents of Japan, and if they venture to write about some country other than their own Japan seems the easiest to discuss because their compatriots are quite ignorant of the country. Hara has set out to interpret his country for the western world, and he has certainly done it in a way which does not resemble that of the European writers. He has absorbed with the air that he has breathed a knowledge of the spirit of the people which no European could acquire without long study of its institutions and their development. The titles of his chapters indicate the way he has developed his theme.

He starts with a discussion of the race and climate. This is followed by a study of the country before the introduction of Buddhism and the civilization. Then comes a study of the growth of the imperial power, with a gradual centralization of authority. This is followed by a description of the remodeling of the state to meet the new conditions of the new regime, followed by the rise of the military regime and the shogunate of Kamakura and its later political degeneration. The chapter on the ending of medieval Japan is a study of the transition from medieval to modern Japan is summarized, the history of the Tokugawa shogunate is given and the last chapter is devoted to the restoration of the Meiji. The book is written in a quiet English, yet it is easily understandable. For example, in his introduction Prof. Hara says he hopes to remove many misapprehensions, "then, perhaps," continues, "we shall not be feared, or rather, made an object of fear, and we shall be happy not to be disliked or rejected." One cannot read the book without getting a broader view of his civilization than one had before.

A Soldier's Letters

Kenneth Gnow, who served on the Mexican border and later when the United States entered the war, went to France, wrote frequent letters home telling of the life of a soldier. He was killed in action on October 17, 1918. His letters after heroic achievements which won for him the Distinguished Service Cross. The letters have been gathered into a volume and published. They are written in a literary style for young and old, and tell simply and colloquially what happened to him. His letters are peculiarly valuable for this reason. They convince one of their authenticity and the accuracy of their descriptions of what happened on the Mexican frontier, and what happened in the trenches of France. The volume of letters that have been published none will have greater historical value than these. If we could get a similar collection of letters from a soldier of the revolutionary war we should have a much better knowledge of the life of the soldier of that time than we now have.

NEW BOOKS

- General THE GREEK CHRONICLES, by J. F. Doherty. New York: P. Dutton & Co.
THE GREAT GIBBER, by J. F. Doherty. New York: P. Dutton & Co.
THE BIRTH OF THE NATION, by J. F. Doherty. New York: P. Dutton & Co.
THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES, by J. F. Doherty. New York: P. Dutton & Co.
THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD, by J. F. Doherty. New York: P. Dutton & Co.

IN the choice of books for Christmas one should seek not only to select in good taste, but books which will bring joy to the hearts of their readers.

- THE OXFORD BIBLE No finer gift, for young or old, than a choice edition of the greatest book. Oxford editions are almost infinite in their variety and price. \$4.00
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HELENISTIC SCULPTURE By Guy Dickens Net \$8.00
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THE IDEA OF GOD By A. Seth Pringle-Pattison Net \$3.50
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CHARACTERS FROM THE HISTORIES AND MEMOIRS OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY By David Nichol Smith Net \$3.00
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BOOKS FOR BOYS

- War, Adventure, Nature and School Furnish the Backgrounds
W. Crispin Sheppard follows his earlier books on the adventures of two American boys in the great war with another full of the same wholesome excitement. "The Boy Scouts" tells the story of Don and George Glenn after America entered the war. The lads, thanks to their earlier experiences driving ambulances for the French, are well equipped for service when they answer Uncle Sam's call to the colors.
"Two Boys in Beaverland" is by Major Ralph E. Dugmore, the noted outdoors and animal photographer. It tells in story form the adventures of two boys, one of whom is a conservationist, in the north woods. The story is exciting and set all in instructional material. Major Dugmore has illustrated it himself.
"Scouts of the Desert" is another of John Fleming Wilson's Boy Scout stories, and there are none to beat them for thrill and maintenance of scout principles. The adventures take place in the Mojave Desert.

- "The Blue Pearl" is another scout book and is merited by Samuel Scoville, Jr., whose name will be known to all scout headquarters and will make scouts, both near and far, rejoice to see it on their shelves next Christmas morning. The title page of Boy Scouts, calling them the Argonauts, quest after a blue pearl on an almost unknown island. Their adventures are many and varied, but their scoutship enables them to meet challenges effectively.
"The Threat of Sitting Bull" is by D. Laugel, an educator and specialist in boys' fiction. It is an "Indian" story that never caters to mere sensationalism. It tells the story of the last great chief of the Sioux and the fight he fought against the white man. The chief appears in person, as does General Custer.
"Boys' Book of Model Boats" by Raymond Yates, is a practical "how to make" and "how to do" book. It is well illustrated and contains numerous definitions and explanations of nautical and shipbuilding terms.
BOYS' BOOK OF MODEL BOATS, by Raymond Yates. New York: The Century Co.
THE THREAT OF SITTING BULL, by D. Laugel. Boston: Loeb & Shepard.
THE BLUE PEARL, by Samuel Scoville, Jr. New York: The Macmillan Co.
TWO BOYS IN BEAVERLAND, by A. Crispin Sheppard. Philadelphia: Penn Publishing Co.