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John Clair Minot, in the Boston Herald:

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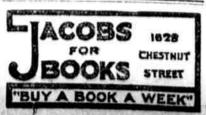
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NOTABLE BOOKS OF THE SEASON

Were the Old Times Best?

The Gentleman With a Duster, who achieved notoriety, if not fame, by writing brilliantly of distinguished British public men in "The Mirrors of Downing Street," has made a contribution to the controversy over the present state of society in "The Glass of Fashion."

(G. P. Putnam's Sons.) The book is an arraignment of British inshionable society for its materialism, and for its lack of manners. He has much to say of Margot Asquith's book of reminiscences and Colonel Reppington's war diary, both of which he cites as proof of the degeneracy of modern times. He makes a plea for the restoration of the manners and the morals of the victorian era. In spite of the ugly furniture and the commonplace paintings of that period, he insists that there was then a fine perception of the obligations of a gentleman, a perception which has been dulled by the acceptance of the Darwinian theory of evolution. This theory, according to his point of view, has led to the belief that men and women may do what they please without fear of future consequences. In the preface which he has written especially for the American edition he says: "Out of the stagnant fen of materialism into which humanity seems at this time to be fast sinking, with all the glories of its mechanical achievements and all the splendors of its earliest poetic enthusiasms, like a sun that has hal its day, we can only be lifted by one of those great waves of moral enlighten ment which in the first century of our dispensation saved mankind from the clutches of an iron dogmatism.

He insists that the aristocracy-find he seems to believe that an aristocracy is necessary to the salvation of society-should take the lead in the return to the old moralities as preached by the church and turn its back on the materialism for which he holds the Darwinian "heresy" responsible. This The Gentleman With a Duster, who

by the church and turn its back on the materialism for which he holds the Darwinian "heresy" responsible. This point of view ought to be helpful toward the identification of the Gentleman With a Duster. But whoever he is his theory will not find accentage with those her will not find accentage with those here. will not find acceptance with those be-levers in evolution who insist that it enjoins the highest morality and clean-

Why Marriages Fail

sons he finds types of the various mari-tal complications. The Judge had had an affeir with a Spanish woman before his marriage and had three children by lor. He continued the relation after her. He continued the relation after marriage and thought his wife knew Exciting Western Yarn

Mrs. Rice's New Novel

Alice Hegan Rice calls her newest novel "Quin" (Century Company), after the hero, Quinby Graham, a characteristic young American in his aggressiveness, "git-up," energy and dauntless disregard of obstacles between him and his objective. In the novel this is Eleanor Bartlett, a girl of real quality, with, however, many a winn of her own and a dominating, eccentric, aristocratic grandmother. Quin has nothing to rush him forward in his ambition to marry Eleanor—no influence, no opulence; he is a bit crude, too, but with innate refinement. All he has is youth, good looks, purpose and persistence. Also, he has a way with him. It can be realized what Mrs. Rice has made out of this situation—the struggle of a determined young man who knows his own paint to marry a girl who is yearning for a singe career and into a family that's rich and isn't overly anxious for a connection with this type. Her touches of tenderness, her whinsfeal humor and her delight in quaint characterization all find play in a very readable novel.

New Nappleon Nevel

New Napoleon Novel

What is evidently the entering wedge of a serial novel is "Terchlight" (Dur-ton), by Leonie Aminoff. The book is described in a note as Volume I of the enthor's important fictional treatment of Napoleon's rise and fall. This first of Applican's rise and fail. This first volume is an enthralling presentation of the bases and background out of which Ronaparte wrought his greatness. The title is symbolic of the French Revolutionary period that was followed by the flare of the Terror and the later illumination of the First Empire. Napoleon's rise is given with some roman-tic touches, but on the whole according to the realistic method. The writer is not penning a hopelessly romantic "Madame Sans Gene." The ambitions. the aspirations, the intrigues and the strategy of the Little Corporal are presented with full cognition of historical material, yet in a very humanizing man-

Beauharnais, Robespierre and the other mystery stories are not. important figures of the period. The book, if it continues on the same scale of merit as this inaugural, is sure to attain epic proportions.

French school in music at the period of "its greatest vigor and its most creative

"How to Choose and Get a Better liness of living in order that each gen-gration may be better than the last, and also a very practical one, which These persons will be inclined to paraphrase Justice Brandeis' remark about
Charles E. Hughes and say that the
gentleman has the grouchlest mind of
the early Victorian era.

and also a very practical one, which
contains many helpful and suggestive
thoughts for the ambitious who wish
to get along in the world. The author
has had wide experience in personnel
work as chairman of the committee on studies and professor of business English in New York University. He was Charles G. Norris has made a realthe scene is laid in California. The marriages with which he deals are those of the members of the family of a vertain Judge Baldwin, who, when the tain Judge Baldwin, who, when the family of a vertain Judge Baldwin, who, when the family of a vertain Judge Baldwin, who, when the family of a vertain Judge Baldwin, who, when the family of a vertain Judge Baldwin, who, when the family of a vertain Judge Baldwin, who, when the family of a vertain Judge Baldwin, who, when the family of a vertain section of the chief and stress of the family of a vertain section of the chief and stress of the family of a vertain section of the chief and stress of the family of the chief and the family of a vertain section of the chief and stress of the family of a vertain section of the chief and stress of the family of a vertain section of the chief and se story opens, is living on a fruit ranch. full of ripe wisdom for older persons. In the Judge's own marriage and in the and persons with some business experimarriage of his two sons and his daugh-ence. Such subjects as answering ad-ter and the sister-in-law of one of his vertisements, advertising for a posi-

nothing about it. But she knew. His elder son married a pretty girl from San Francisco, but the marriage was a failure partly because of the mother-in-

nothing about it. But she knew. His elder son narried a pretty gelt from San Francisco, but the marriage was a fullure partly because of the mother-in-law and partly because of the mother-in-law and partly because the girl had no proper comprehension of what harariage meant. The daughter's marriage was a failure because she was one of those peculiar women to whom certain of the married relations are repugnant. The cider son after his divorce found happiness for a while with a woman to whom he was not married. Then he with whom he thought he was in lave. She married him because she thought he was rich and when ic lost his money she had no further use for him. The sister after her husband ran away with the wife of another man married a tana almost old enough to be was rich and later found his helpiess old age a burden. The only happy marriage is that of the younger son, who stayed in the country and married the daughter of a neighbor. When she was congratulated by her husband's brother on her happy flome, she said that it was not always so confortable as he found it, but she explained that they had succeeded because they both tried lard to make a home. If there is any moral in the book this is it; that there can be no success in marriage unless both parties to if are agreed that its purpose is to make a home and work together to that end. Placing social since on one maning leads to disaster.

Mr. Norris has handled his subject with the skill of an anatomical dissector. He exhibits with relentless realism the working out of the various marriage theories and lets them carry their is no more plot to it than there is to make a home and work together to that end. Placing social since so of closely printed type he stops, not because he had made as big a book as the publishers would print. Yet from the data he has assembled it is easy for the reader to tell for limself what will happen in the lives of the characters whose stories are uncompleted in the book. what will happen in the lives of the characters whose stories are uncompleted in the book.

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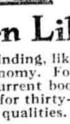
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