

THE CLOSING YEAR HAS PRODUCED MANY IMPORTANT BOOKS

SOME BOOKS OF 1921 THAT ARE WORTH WHILE

IT MAY BE interesting on this last secular day of the year to look back over the preceding twelve months to discover whether any of the books that have appeared in that time have left any vivid impression on the memory.

LET us start with the novels, for they are the books most widely read. The one which has pleased me most, although I have not finished reading it, is Hugh Walpole's "The Young Enchanted" (George H. Doran Company).

There were several other notable novels, including "Sisters in Law" (Stokes), by Gertrude Atherton; "Dangerous Ages" (Boni & Liveright), by Ross Mackay; "Figures of Earth" (McBride), by James B. Cabell; but there is not space to do more than mention them.

THE most interesting, though perhaps not the most important, book of non-fiction that came to my desk this year is "Adventures in Wars of the Republic and the Consulate" (Dutton), by A. Marcen de Jonnes, a Frenchman, who after a youth of strenuous adventure spent an old age in a government department handling statistics.

There have been at least two serious books of biography or autobiography that will be prized. One is Count Witte's "Memoirs" (Doubleday, Page & Co.), and the other is S. B. Chester's "Life of Ventozola" (Doran). Both of these men were world figures.

AND there have been at least three new books about Roosevelt. The one most worth while is "My Brother, Theodore Roosevelt" (Scribner's), written by Mrs. Corinne Roosevelt Robinson. It is worth while because it is an intimate record of certain phases of Roosevelt's life that could have been learned in no other way.

These three books still leave the real Roosevelt book to be written. Roosevelt was not a demigod, as some of his admirers seem to think. He was a very human sort of a person who made a multitude of mistakes while trying to do the things which he thought ought to be done.

WHAT seem to me the greatest novels to appear in America this year are written by foreigners. One of them is "To Let" (Knopf), by John Galsworthy. This is a work of art. In it Galsworthy tells the story of the Forsyte family, which started in comparative poverty in Dorset and rose to affluence in London.

It is the finest thing that Mr. Galsworthy has done. The other novel is Knut Hamsun's "Growth of the Soil" (Knopf). Although it was written several years ago it was made available in an English translation for the first time this year.

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BOOTH TARKINGTON Author of one of the notable books of the year A DANISH NOVELIST

Nexo Writes Another "Ditte" Book

Martin Anderson Nexø is the latest of the European novelists who are winning a hearing in this country. The Dutchman, Louis Couperus, already has a faithful following for his keenly observed, psychological studies of character, and of course, the vogue of Blasco Ibanez is well known.

Entertaining in a different way is "The Mistress of Washington" (Putnam), written with a pungent pen by the great and those who wish to be thought great in the national capital. It will have a vogue for a while and then will be forgotten for a generation or two until some investigator digs it out of a public library and announces it as a marvelous revelation about the men in public life at the present time.

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REDWOODS ROMANCE "Long Sweetening," a Colorful Novel of California

California offers the aspiring novelist innumerable themes, from movies to mining. Grant Carpenter in "Long Sweetening" (R. M. McBride & Co.) has excused the movies with their color and scandals and has harked back to two things that are as native Californian as the Japanese question—the love of "native sons" for the redwoods districts and the San Francisco earthquake.

Starting with a young, uneducated Californian living alone in his native woods, Mr. Carpenter has him ousted by an unscrupulous banker. The gradual emerging of the youth from his aversity and his lifelong quest for vengeance—a business and financial reparation, not physical castigation—make up the bulk of the story.

The climax of the earthquake and fire with its accompanying tragedy of death and financial ruin is brought forth cleverly and interestingly. "Long Sweetening" is not startling in its aspects, but it is colorful, interesting and well constructed.

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GOD'S ANOINTED The Story of a Devoted Pastor and a Worldly Wife

The title figure in Mary Katherine Maule's absorbing novel "God's Anointed" (Century Company) is a clergyman, devout in faith and practice, and devoted as the minister of a church in a western city. But of equal importance is the complementary figure of his wife, a girl of beauty, social poise, intellectual culture. Whereas she is distinctly of the world in principles and ideas, he is essentially of the spirit.

Conflict between her sophistication and practicality is bound to eventuate. The clash comes after marriage's first fervent and perfect acceptance has lost its romantic glow and lustre. The common denotation of love which had reduced variations of traits and neutralized temperamental differences could not last forever in such a required degree of intensity.

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It Is This Way

IF THE people and the Administration believe that the great Harding vote was to "scrap" the League and likewise any effective association of nations, then scrapped they will be, and behind the splendid achievement of disarmament there will be no enforcing power.

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1922 OPPORTUNITY Be Better Dressed at Less Cost

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