

OUR DEBT TO GREECE AND ROME INTERPRETED: NEW PLAYS

Abiding Values of the Classics; Philadelphians Back Library

PHILADELPHIANS have special points of interest and also of pride in the new classical library, "Our Debt to Greece and Rome," of which the first volume, "Seneca and the Stoic Philosophy," has just come from the press of Marshall Jones Company.



GEORGE DEPUÉ HADZITS One of the co-editors of "Our Debt to Greece and Rome," a new series of books on the classics.

The volume which so intriguingly and successfully opens the series is the maiden work of Richard Mort Gummere, Ph.D., headmaster of the William Penn Charter School, and following in the scholarly footsteps of his honored father, the late Francis B. Gummere, for many years a vital force in the Harvard faculty and a most stimulating influence in the intellectual life of Philadelphia.

of being which marks an advance over the ancient predecessors and contemporaries. "The need of bringing personal standards into public life" has our favored civilization got beyond the necessity of that ideal? It is an electrifying contact of Seneca and modernity. It makes a spark.

THIS book reveals Seneca as the authentic philosopher, the man with the quality of universal appeal. And to another definition Seneca was four-square: He was a man who lived fruitfully and died calmly. Out of suspected of democratic inclination, he was the modern materialistic tendency declines and the power of mind and spirit increases, the originality of Seneca's message may not again be an auxiliary force in the world's progress toward a deeper Christianity.

As Dr. Gummere concludes his study, "Seneca is led to speculate whether, in the modern materialistic tendency declines and the power of mind and spirit increases, the originality of Seneca's message may not again be an auxiliary force in the world's progress toward a deeper Christianity."

THE initial volume of the series is a credit to Dr. Gummere and well worthy of association with the name of his father, to whose memory it is inscribed in a quotation appropriately drawn from Seneca: "Virtus est postrema sapientia."

THE "Our Debt to Greece and Rome" library with its convenient volumes, well margined and in excellent and tasteful format, each prepared by a specialist, but done unpedagogically and non-technically with the stress on the vital and with an aim toward literary and intellectual culture.

THE present generation Lucius Annaeus Seneca, Prime Minister of Nero, is a vague figure so far as his biography is concerned. He is thought of mainly and vaguely as the super-sensible and somewhat noble mentor of a lascivious and savage pupil whose criminal career reflects no glory and scant consideration on the philosopher's teaching.

THE editor's preface "a new revelation, through the pages of this new series, of many abiding values, whose merit is determined not merely by fanciful vested rights existing in tradition, but established by inherent worth and truth."

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HIGHLY INTERPRETED

O'Dea Playlets Interpret Midwest Women and Loving Interprets O'Dea



LADY GREGORY The noted Irish folklorist and playwright has written several new dramas.

Given one good interpreter with a good supply of adjectives and similes and no one making an initial plunge into the literary depths of the intelligentsia need worry. And Mark O'Dea has done this with his four short plays grouped under the collective title of "Red Bud Women" (Stewart Kidd) can be said to have made the usual impressive debut.

IRISH LIFE AND CHARACTER IN LADY GREGORY'S PLAYS Shaw, in writing of Lady Augusta Gregory's plays, said: "They never fail to do one thing which is all demanded from a play, which is not, as stupid people say, to amuse us (though Lady Gregory's plays are extremely amusing), but to take us out of ourselves and out of the stuffy theatre while we are listening to them."

Another called "Silvaree" voices the indignation of a young farmer's bride at the prospect of simply being the mother of his children—his human brother—his loving wife. He says to her on their wedding night. More explanation by Mr. Loving.

THE volume includes "The Image," "Hannibal's Oath," "Silvaree" and "The Wren." The second and last are in the one-act form in which Lady Gregory excels and the others are more extended dramatically in the three-act form. "Silvaree" recreates one of the rich material in Lady Gregory's "Visions and Beliefs of the West of Ireland," a story of the persistence of life after death.

Two others, which are set in Red Bud, but which for any appeal might as well have been in any city of the sovereign States, make a bit more for interest, dramatic as well as literary. "Miss Myrtle Says Yes" tells of the destiny of a little milliner who is to become an old maid by her sister, who broods over the failure of her one love affair.

AMIEL ON ROUSSEAU It is odd that two of the outstanding world-famous works of self-revelation should have come from the pens of Genevieve, and it was fitting that the one should have been chosen as the principal celebrant of the hundredth anniversary of the other's death. Amiel, the "Journal Intime," delivered the address upon the occasion of the centenary of the passing away of Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

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HISTORICAL PLAYS

Four Pieces From Various Languages Adapted for Little Theatres

Plays which are interesting from historical or comparative standpoints but certainly do not bulk large on their individual merits are contained in the volume, "Little Theatre Classics," adapted and edited by Samuel Eliot, Jr. (Little, Brown & Co.).

THE present volume is the fourth of a series of such plays, and the contents are just as varied and removed from the beaten path as the first three volumes. For example, "All For Love, or the World Well Lost," the Restoration tragedy of John Dryden is included, and, to most readers, will probably appeal as the soundest and most worthwhile of the four plays.

THE volume includes "The Image," "Hannibal's Oath," "Silvaree" and "The Wren." The second and last are in the one-act form in which Lady Gregory excels and the others are more extended dramatically in the three-act form.

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If You Hated Music

and had a beautiful, sensitive daughter who loved it, and you continually repressed her craving for it, would you be willing to take the consequences of your attitude?

Stacy Aumonier, one of the foremost young English novelists, author of "The Querris, One After Another, etc., is at last receiving the public recognition which is his due, after years of enjoying the almost unanimous applause of the best critics on both sides of the Atlantic.



is a deeply penetrating psychological study of a more or less average woman, melodramatic perhaps, but only as life is melodramatic. Barbara Powerscourt, the daughter of a music-hall favorite and a Lord Chancellor of England, is one of the most appealing portraits in the gallery of women that recent fiction has given us.

The New York Herald says: "Mr. Aumonier rises in this novel to an efficiency both of dramatic power and psychological subtlety notably above any of his preceding novels. Mr. Aumonier has worked over most difficult subject matter with extraordinary restraint and skill—with something of the completeness and inexorableness of a Balzac; a very English and modern Balzac.

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