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Library Progress in France

W. DAWSON JOHNSTON, Litt. D.


The average citizen of France, like the average citizen of the United States, knows very little about public libraries. But unlike the latter, he makes no use of them, and as he knows nothing of them, is unwilling to spend anything for them, at least anything more than he is already spending.

LIBRARY NIHILISM

This attitude is well illustrated by the report on the budget of the League of Nations, recently made to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies. The salary roll of the Library of the League, this report said, includes a Librarian at 24,000 gold francs, an assistant librarian at 15,900, two typists at 9,580, eleven assistants at 10,500, two copyists at 7,000, one at 4,325, two messengers at 1,900; a total of twenty persons, and this, it added, for a library which was just starting. In contrast to this, it went on to observe, is the library of the Arsenal, established in 1755, which has 800,000 printed books, 20,000 manuscripts and engravings, and is visited by 20,000 readers a year, and has a staff consisting of a librarian, an assistant librarian, and thirteen assistants, whose salaries are very different from those in the Library of the League; the author of the report spares us the sad details, but leads us to infer that they are not only lower but very much lower.

The only criticism which could equal this in simplicity would be to compare the expenditure of the Library of the Arsenal with that of the Library of the League, and argue that the appropriation for the former should be made equal to that for the latter. Probably as much can be said for increasing the expenditures for the former as for decreasing the expenditures for the latter, and perhaps more. There is as much difference in the expenditures necessary for different libraries as there is in the expenditures necessary for different individuals.

This negative attitude on the part of men of affairs toward public libraries does not, it is true, lead them to do away with them, their library nihilism is of an academic character; they are satisfied to leave them impotent. Their needs as individuals are in some cases met by private libraries. In the majority of cases, however, their needs are not felt.

LIBRARY CONSERVATISM

Those who believe in library progress may be divided into two classes, those to whom the development of libraries means primarily additions to their resources, and those to whom it means first and foremost, the promotion of their use.

The best traditions of French librarians, their interest in rare and beautiful books, and in the service of scholars, are well represented by the discussions in the Association des Bibliothécaires Français, and by its publications. In addition to its Bulletin, containing the more important papers presented at its meetings, it has published the rules for cataloguing observed in the principal...
libraries of Paris, and the program of examinations for admission to the service of the libraries of the state, of the university, and of the city. The membership of the organization consists largely of the librarians of Paris and its neighborhood, but two national meetings have been held under its auspices, one in 1917 and another in 1921, and an international congress was convened by it, in co-operation with the Société des Amis de la Bibliothèque Nationale et des Grandes Bibliothèques de France, on April 3 to 9 of this year.

The President of the Association, who was President of the Congress, as he had been Secretary of the International Congresses of 1900 and 1910, was M. Henry Martin, director of the Bibliothèque de l’Arsenal, editor of “Le Bocace de Jean sans Peur”, and author of “La Miniature Française du xiii° au xv° siècle”.

About five hundred delegates attended the meetings of the Congress including bibliographical or diplomatic representatives of Great Britain, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Spain, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Poland, Roumania, Czecho-Slovakia, the United States, Bolivia, Costa-Rica, Nicaragua, Peru, and Venezuela.

In addition to the general sessions of the Congress, which were largely of formal character, there were sectional meetings devoted to (1) library administration, (2) the use of libraries, and (3) the history of printing.

Of the sixty-five different papers presented in the meetings of sections (1) and (2), the majority related to library progress in the various countries or in individual libraries represented at the Congress, or to the collection of books and the compilation of the bibliographical tools needed to facilitate their use by scholars, but a few related also to the popularization of the library and its relation to national education; and of the thirty resolutions passed by the Congress, a number related to the latter subject. Among these was one recommending the enactment of a law similar to the Czechoslovak library law of 1919, and the Belgian library law of 1921.

Notable features of the Congress were the exhibitions of medieval manuscripts, illustrated books, and book bindings. The most impressive of these was the exhibit installed in the Pavillon de Marsan at the Louvre, devoted to books printed before 1860; the second, displayed at the Galerie Demotte, consisted of books subsequent to that date; a third, at the Petit Palais, consisted of choice specimens from the Duthuit collection; and a fourth, at the Conservatoire National de Musique, was devoted to early French music and musical literature.

The accompanying illustrations will give some idea of the extraordinary character of these exhibits.*

* These illustrations are published here by courtesy of Illustration, which on April 7 and 14 published two articles on the Congress by its secretary M. F. Maxon, Conservateur de la Bibliothèque de la Manne. These are two good articles on the Congress, by M. Clairè in the Revue Bleue, June 2 and 16. The second includes the texts of the more important resolutions passed by the Congress.
Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal, the Bibliothèque Mazarine, and the Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève, in the establishment of the Bibliothèque de la Guerre, and in the efforts which have been made to compile catalogues of the collections available in the more important libraries of the city.

The nucleus of the Bibliothèque de la Guerre was the collections made by M. Henri Le Blanc, presented to the State in 1917, and described in the monumental catalogue, entitled "La Grande Guerre: iconographic, bibliographic, documents divers. Catalogue raisonné", of which eight volumes have been published under the direction of Marcel Réturnier and M. Jean Dubois. Its collections now number over 100,000 volumes, almost as many pamphlets, and thousands of prints.

The need of better bibliographical tools, and particularly of union catalogues of books and periodicals, and of indexes to the latter has been recognized in the efforts which have been made under the direction of M. Bultingaire of the Library of the University of Paris, to prepare a union list of files of scientific and technical periodicals in the libraries of Paris, and of M. Jean Bonnerot, and M. Raymond Beaufin, of the Library of the Sorbonne, to publish a list of articles in the more important periodicals in the world, with author and subject index to the same. The publication of this important index was inaugurated in La Vie des Peuples, 4 rue Tronchet, in May, and has appeared monthly, first as a supplement to the review and latterly in separate form.

One other bibliographical publication of special interest must be referred to, the "Bulletin de Documentation Législative et Sociale", prepared under the auspices of the Faculty of Law of the University of Paris, in collaboration with the Office de Législation Étrangère (Ministère de la Justice), Bureau de Statistique et de Législation Comparée (Ministère des Finances), Ministère du Commerce, Chambre des Députés, Faculté de Droit, Société de Législation Comparée, Banque de France, and the Haut-Commission de Coblenz. The first of these, published in 1922 and consisting of a union list of serials relating to law and legislation received in twenty-nine different libraries in Paris, and the second consisting of abstracts of the more important laws and regulations published in the Journal Officiel from January 1, to April 30, 1922, illustrate well the aims of the editors of this bibliographic serial.

[Cléché "Illustration"
Evangelary of Notre Dame de Laon.
A ninth century manuscript, loaned by the Bibliothèque de Laon]

LIBRARY LIBERALISM

The promotion of the modern conception of public service undoubtedly owes much to the publication of Mr. Eugene Morel's "Essai sur le Développement de Bibliothèques Publiques et de la Librairie dans les Deux Mondes" (1908-9).
LIBRARY OF NAPOLEON I AT MALMAISON

This room, perhaps the most interesting in the Chateau, is divided into three parts, the ceiling being supported on eight Doric columns. The frescoes executed in 1800 are an excellent example of the work of Percier and Fontaine. The furniture is arranged as it was in the time of Napoleon. This plate is reproduced by courtesy of the publishers of "Collections & Souvenirs de Malmaison" (Devambez Paris.)
It was not, however, until M. Ernest Coyecque became Inspecteur des Bibliothèques de la Ville de Paris et du Département de la Seine in 1913, that much progress was made toward the realization of the ideals set forth in M. Morel’s writings.

M. Coyecque’s program is given in three words, “distraire, instruire, renseigner”, to entertain by means of fiction, to instruct by means of non-fiction, to facilitate research by works of reference. In the organization of the municipal library service he instituted not only a general advisory council but also local councils in each arrondissement consisting of teachers and others interested in popular education to assist in promoting the development and use of the libraries. Further, with the idea that the catalogue is the key to the library, he began the publication of catalogues of the libraries of the different arrondissements, with introductory remarks of a practical nature on the aim of the library, and the use of the catalogue. Finally he undertook the preparation and publication of an annual list of new books for the guidance of those in charge of the several libraries of the city in making additions to their collections. This list is printed on one side of the page only to facilitate additions to a library catalogue by clipping and mounting on cards.

These annual lists contain introductory essays similar to those in the catalogues of several of the libraries, but intended for the instruction of the librarian rather than that of the reader. The list for the year 1921, for example, contains an introduction on the library work of the American Committee in the Devastated Regions, and that for 1922 on library progress in Belgium and in England, the latter containing a long summary of Mr. Walter Briscoe’s book on library publicity*.

The War, of course, made impossible the execution of M. Coyecque’s plans, and the economies necessary, or at least considered necessary, during the period of reconstruction will continue to delay their execution, but the organization in June 1922 of the Comité Français de la Bibliothèque Moderne is a guarantee that progress will be made even if it must be made slowly. The President of this organization, M. André Chevrillon, in an article in the Revue de Paris, expresses his own feeling and, perhaps,

* There was a good account of M. Coyecque’s work by M. Noel du Caire, entitled “Les Bibliothèques Municipales de Paris : une Œuvre de Réforme” in the Revue de France, June 15, 1921.

that of his associates on this Committee by saying, “If we Frenchmen only make an effort, we ought to be able to create public libraries equal to those which I have seen in the United States”.

Cléchés: Illustration

Book binding, with arms of Duc de la Vallière, 1708-1780, loaned by the Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève.
AMERICAN PARTICIPATION
IN FRENCH LIBRARY PROGRESS

American participation in the development of library service in France began with the provision of books for the men in the American Expeditionary Forces by the American Library Association. Headquarters were established at 10 rue de l’Elysée in August 1918, and a library maintained by the Association, first of all for the soldiers, and later for residents of Paris who desired access to its collections.

At the end of the year 1920, the transfer of the library to the American Library in Paris, organized on August 2, was effected, and in the following year the Association made a contribution of $25,000 toward the endowment of the new institution. Its subsequent history is recorded in detail in its year-books for 1921, 1922, and 1923.

Coincident with the establishment of this library, intended to promote American studies in France and at the same time serve as a model of American library organization and administration, was the gift of an American library to the Sorbonne by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. This library, made necessary by the establishment of a course in American literature and civilization in 1918, was inaugurated on December 13, 1920, with addresses by the Minister of Public Instruction, M. Honnorat, the President of the European Bureau of the Endowment, Baron d’Estournelles de Constant, the Rector of the University, M. Appell, and Professor Charles Cestre *. This collection numbering about two thousand volumes was supplemented by the gift of one thousand volumes from the Alumnae of Bryn Mawr College, a gift secured through the efforts of Miss Schenk, professor of French language and literature in that institution, and by gifts of the publications of Columbia and Yale Universities.

American activities were not, however, confined to Paris. The Carnegie Endowment’s gift to the University of Paris was followed by a similar gift to the University of Strassburg, and by a donation of $200,000 for the rebuilding of the Municipal Library in Rheims. Rural library work was also established in Alsace and in the

* These addresses are published in a small brochure, as well as in the Bulletin Trimestriel de Conciliation Internationale, 1921, number 1.
library in one of the arrondissements of Paris, has arranged with the Office National des Universités for the selection of a certain number of young French women for professional library training in the United States, and with the Institute of International Education for a subvention which would provide for the expense of such training; and finally, with a view to offering an opportunity for professional training to those who are unable to go to the United States for the purpose, as well as an opportunity for advanced or special courses to those who have already had elementary training and some experience in library work, has provided for the organization of a library school in the American Library in Paris.

“No more thorough study of Wordsworth as a philosophical poet has ever appeared”, Professor George M. Harper says in reviewing Professor Arthur Beatty’s “William Wordsworth, his Doctrine and Art in their Historical Relations” (University of Wisconsin Studies).


A reviewer of Dr. Robertson’s “Edgar A. Poe, a Psychopathic Study” (Putnam) says that his attack on Lautrière’s big book on Poe does good service, for many, especially in Europe, have taken very seriously that highly imaginative piece of higher criticism.

“Relations of the United States with Sweden” is the subject of a thesis presented by Mr. Knutz Emil Carlson to the faculty of the graduate school of the University of Pennsylvania in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of doctor of philosophy. It discusses negotiations during the American Revolution, the Proposed Alliance, the Stralsund Claims, and Commercial Negotiations.

The sale of publications of the League of Nations indicates that there is a greater interest in the League in Great Britain that in any other country. The United States is second, followed by Japan and by France.

In an article on “Recent Revelations on European Diplomacy”, in the Journal of the British Institute of International Affairs Professor G. P. Gooch describes Count Bernstoff’s book, “Three Years in America”, as one of the most poignant produced by the War.

“Constantinople To-day, or the Pathfinder Survey of Constantinople: a Study in Oriental Social Life”, directed by Clarence R. Johnson, professor of sociology in Robert College (Macmillan), is an interesting example of American social survey methods applied to European life. A history of the survey is given by the director in an introductory chapter. This is followed by chapters describing the Greek, Armenian and Turkish elements in the population, civic administration, industrial life, refugees, orphanages, adult delinquency, native schools, and recreation. In a foreword, President Gates of Robert College expresses the hope that the work may be extended and continued through the years to come.
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The primary aim of Ex Libris is to give its readers information in regard to the best American and English books of general interest. The primary aim of the American Library is to make these books available to its members throughout Europe.

The circulation of books in the American Library during August amounted to 6,283 volumes, that is, eight per cent more than for the same period a year ago.

During the month the library received gifts of books amounting to five hundred and thirty-six volumes. These included one hundred and seventy-six volumes from the Virginia State Library. Other donors were the Hon. Myron T. Herrick, Mrs. Cummings, Mrs. Davenport, Mrs. P. L. Dempsey, The Misses Ferris, Mlle. Eva Gebhard, Mr. Parmely Herrick, Mme. Jameson, Miss C. M. Meals, Mr. M. B. Norris, Mr. Dwight Prouty, Mrs. D. Richardson, Mrs. S. M. Shepherd, and Miss S. B. Sturgis, of Paris, and Mr. H. K. S. Williams of New York.


THE LIBRARY'S PLACE IN RESEARCH

In a recent address Professor Jacques Loeb said, "We imagine that it is in the laboratory that men discover new truth and that if we can only provide well equipped laboratories, important truth will soon be discovered. That is not the case. Real discoveries are actually made in the library and subsequently tested out in the laboratory. A new discovery is a new combination of old ideas, and those combinations are most likely to occur to the mind of the scientist, not when he is handling material things, but when he is brooding over the thoughts of other men and re-thinking them himself. In those hours of profound reflection, the new combination may occur to him and then he goes to his laboratory to verify or disprove. The library remains the great essential to discovery".
The Jarves Collection

The collection of books and photographs recently presented to the American Library by Mr. Deming Jarves, of Val Fleuri, Dinard, includes many of general interest.

The most important single work, perhaps, is the "Sites et Monuments de France" published by The Touring Club of France, between the years 1902 and 1906 in thirty-two monumental volumes. Other books about France are the anonymous work entitled "An Englishman in Paris", published in 1892, "Shadows of Paris", by G. Duval, richly illustrated by J. Gavin, and "Two Gentlemen in Touraine", by Charles Gibson, published under the pseudonym, R. Sudbury. Both of these books belong to the period just before the war.

The collection includes books of travel relating to other parts of Europe also. Among these may be noted "Spain from Within", by Rafael Shaw; "Through Italy with Car and Camera", by Dan Fellows Platt; and "Rome To-day and Yesterday", by John Dennie; as well as such books relating to the Orient as Lafcadio Hearn's "Glimpses of Unfamiliar Japan", "Unghostly Japan", and "Kotto", and the sumptuous work on "The Hanami, or Flower Festival", described by S. Takashima.

Of greatest personal interest, however, are the books by Mr. Jarves' oldest brother, James Jackson Jarves, and by his wife, Mrs. Elsie Deming Jarves. The former spent most of his life in Italy and made a collection of pictures illustrating the history of art to the time of Raphael which he afterward presented to Yale University.

A catalogue of the Jarves collection by Cavale Siren privately printed is among the books here described. Mr. Jarves was an author as well as collector, and in addition to several books on art, published two books of travel which his brother has included in this collection: "Parisian Sights and French Principles", published in 1852, and "Italian Sights and Papal Principles", published in 1856.

Mrs. Jarves' book is entitled "War Days in Brittany". It was privately printed in 1920, and consists of letters written to friends in the United States who helped in the war work carried on by her and her husband at their chateau, Val Fleuri. It includes also the "Feuille de Route" of Albert Ledreau, a French volunteer who was killed, October 17, 1914, and reproductions in color of a number of French war posters.

Four albums of photographs of travel in the Yosemite in 1896, in Yellowstone Park in 1897, in Hawaii and Japan in 1898, and in Europe in 1900 are also noteworthy.
Book Reviews


This admirable story of the life and character of Lord Northcliffe by his intimate friend, Max Pemberton, reads more like a romance than a simple record of the achievements of the great maker of newspapers.

With his acquisition of *Tit-Bits* and in the novelty of its management Northcliffe foreshadowed the qualities which were to change the whole character of news-giving to the English public. After the starting of the *Daily Mail* this revolution in journalism was to work magical changes. First of all, the *Daily Mail* was to be a half-penny newspaper, an unheard of proposition. Morning papers, in London, were selling at a penny, and the *Times* held its price at three pence. News in these journals was often days old. Transport was such that, only a short distance from London, people had to wait until evening for their morning paper. Northcliffe's *Daily Mail* could be had all over England at breakfast.

Probably the outstanding feature of Northcliffe's career, and one which is too little recognised, is his courage during the war, the courage of a great patriot: first, in defying Lord Kitchener's belief in the efficiency of shrapnel when the want of high explosives was imperilling the existence of the British forces in France; and, later, his great service to his country in his persistent exposure of the danger attending a continuance of the Coalition Government.

This capacity for taking broad and high views was strengthened by Northcliffe's passion for displacement. "He who lives with my son should keep his bag packed," said the remarkable mother of her remarkable son. Northcliffe confessed to a marked dislike to sleep four nights running in the same bed or place. His travels took him all over the world. Though England was his home, he was literally the true, the ardent citizen of the world.

His last tour saw him return marked with the seal of death, for disease and the "working like a steam engine" had finally done for the great man. The crowds who followed him to his resting place in the Abbey, the King and his country mourned one of the noblest of English patriots, one of the greatest of Britain's sons.

A. B. D.


This volume contains a score of letters written by Melville between the years 1846-1860 to his friend, Evert Duyckinck, editor of *The Literary World*. They contain much which is interesting in regard to his literary work, his feeling about it, and about that of his contemporaries.

"What a madness and anguish it is", he says in one place, "that an author can never—under no conceivable circumstances, be at all frank with his readers"; and in another place when he was again feeling the limitations of literary art as well as those of the literary artist, "I don't know but a book in a man's brain is better off than a book bound in calf—at any rate it is safer from criticism".

One of the most interesting of the letters gives Mr-ville's impressions of Emerson as a lecturer. "I was very agreedably disappointed in Mr. Emerson", he says, "I had heard of him as full of transcendentalism, myths and oracular giberish,—to my surprise I found him quite intelligible tho' to say truth, they told me that night he was unusually plain".

And of Hawthorne he writes from the Berkshire Hills in the winter of 1851, "After a long procrastination I went down to see Mr. Hawthorne a couple of weeks ago. I found him, of course, buried in snow, and the delightful scenery about him all wrapped up and tucked away under a napkin as it were. I regard Hawthorne as evincing a quality of genius immensely lofty, and more profound, too, than any other American has shown hitherto in the printed form, Irving is a grasshopper to him,—putting the souls of the two men together, I mean".

The bibliographical appendix describes all first editions, American and English, of Melville's writings, subsequent reprints, and magazine articles. In this Mr. Minnigerode calls attention to the fact that it was the English publisher, John Murray, who first recognised the genius of Melville.


Ambrose Bierce in retrospect is one of the most romantic figures of American literature. No mediaeval
of them to meet protege whom Twain.

He leaves a note of exasperation, prominence ever and time. Often so elusive. Often tamper his blasts that as great as his admirers as he was moody and restless and this haunts to a lesser degree the same sense of futility that beset Henry Adams. Now scouring, now laughing, he drifted through life stirring up tea-pot tempests to divert his own mind. He was moody and restless and with his unbridled sarcasm greatly in need of a mild Mr. Howells to temper the blasts that blew stronger than those of Mark Twain.

These "letters", apart from the fanciful bit of biography introducing them, have no general interest whatsoever and should not have been collected. The majority of them were written to George Sterling, his young protege whom he was assisting to attain a literary prominence that throughout his long career he had found so elusive. Often suggesting, always encouraging, and sometimes liberally praising, Bierce is made to serve in death as in life as the press agent for the poetry of his friend. Did they but tell of his meetings with Jack London and Miller, or his private as opposed to his journalistic views of the foreign policies of Hay, or throw laconic sidelights on life in the Capital under the Big Stick regime, there would be some excuse for the letters. But they only reveal a lonely old man, weary and broken in spirit, waiting in Washington for his greatest adventure; and finally, impatience becoming desperation, he leaves a note of farewell and goes forth to meet it. Ambrose Bierce as a writer is perhaps not as great as his admirers contend, but as a man his biography is immense, and we regret that these alterglow fragments are to pass for the correspondence of a lifetime.

JACKSON MOORE.


G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1922. 200 pages.

The editor of John O'London's Weekly has written as interesting an outline of Wells as Wells has of World History, for he feels that Wells is fully as interesting as anything that he writes about, and that, as Anatole France has said, he is the greatest intellectual force in the English speaking world.

The author's purpose in this book is to summarize Wells' message to his own generation and to discover the actual man from the books that he has written. In a letter written to him in 1901 Wells says of his own work, "My biggest thing, my most intimate thing, my first line of battleships is 'Anticipations', my best piece of significant story writing 'The Invisible Man'. I think 'The Wonderful Visit' manages to be pretty and that 'Mr. and Mrs. Lewisham is as near beauty as I am likely to get.'"

Mr. Dark thinks the last of these, usually known as "Love and Mr. Lewisham", was the best, and that Wells's reputation as a novelist depends upon this and six novels published later: "Kipps", published in 1905, "Tono-Bungay", "Anne Veronica", "The History of Mr. Polly", "The New Machiavelli", and "Marriage" published between 1908 and 1912, and of these he considers "The History of Mr. Polly" Wells's supreme masterpiece.

Of his later works, "Mr. Britling Sees It Through" he describes as one of the invaluable documents of the Great War. "God the Invisible King", "The Undying Fire", that bitter record of post-war disillusionment, and "The Salvaging of Civilization", containing the author's program of world reconstruction, are described more briefly.

In most of his novels, Mr. Dark says, the leading character represents a phase of the author's development, and "his instinct for truth is so great that, at its call, he has never hesitated to sacrifice himself of yesterday. Isaac Wells is always offering Abraham Wells as a sacrifice to the Gods".


In giving to the world a biography of David Lubin Madame Agresti has made an exhaustive study and a conscientious characterization of a picturesque personality. one perhaps all too little known and appreciated in our hurried surface life. With Madame Agresti it has evidently been a labor of appreciation and love, for working as she did for fourteen years as interpreter and
amanuensis to David Lubin she became thoroughly imbued with his ideas and a sympathetic co-worker in his struggles.

Lubin was born of Jewish parents in a little town in Russian Poland, where his family, living within the Jewish pale, excluded from almost every trade and profession, and from the land as well, could experience nothing but privation and poverty.

In 1855, when David was six years old, his parents emigrated to New York. Here he was sent to school until he was twelve, when he was obliged to set forth and earn his own living. He was not a studious boy, but he was fond of reading and had a certain independence of thought. He drifted from one small occupation to another until he was sixteen when he made his way west to California where a married sister had settled.

Setting up a store in one room, and selling clothing to rivermen and laborers in the mining community he was able in a few years to invest a few hundred dollars which he had managed to earn and save in this tiny venture into business. Here the existing business methods of haggling sales, no fixed prices, "Jewing down", taking what one could get for goods, were an anathema to David's honest soul and here his life work began. Gradually the error in economic and business practices dawned upon him. The evolution in his own soul commenced and at length he saw his future work take shape before him.

His first attack was on the "vicious trading system" among his own business rivals. He determined to fight for what afterwards was his life work, a "just weight and a just measure". He was the first to put up the "one price" sign and along that line he fought his way to success as a merchant. In ten years he had a chain of successful stores and had inaugurated the first "mail order" business.

As his experiences grew, so his ideals expanded, and he became a pioneer in the application of sound business principles to all branches of industry, including agriculture, which interested him particularly.

Madame Agresti carries David Lubin on through all the details and vicissitudes of his struggle to gain friends for his ideas. Her book is a great tribute to a great man. He worked for forty years for an ideal; he wore out his life in his effort.

He was obliged at last to carry his ideas to Europe for fruition and succeeded in 1905 in founding in Rome the International Institute of Agriculture to which fifty-two nations were signatory.

Lubin firmly believed in a League as a means by which international problems could be solved. During the war the Institute of Agriculture was the only international body which never recalled its delegates and which held together through the darkness of the war. All his life David Lubin held high the torch of Israel. To him the modern mercenary Jew was intolerable.

His faith in the fine quality of the old Hebrew race was secure. He believed that "the prophets of Israel always tried to bring a kingdom on earth as well as in heaven". He held fast the "inner essence" of religion.

The study of this life could be used as a text book to inspire young men to emulate the fine rugged character, the singleness of purpose and the zeal to sacrifice all comfort, health, money, to high ideal.

Louise S. Connett


Lincoln's mental life is more or less familiar to us and we accept without question the Gettysburg address and some political speeches as models of clarity and logic. It remains for Professor Robinson to show us that the letters, dispatches, memoranda and written addresses are better than his speeches and we wonder if under more propitious circumstances Lincoln might not have achieved the fame as a scholar that he gained as a statesman.

Starting with an arbitrary division of his material into "the homebred and the finished", Professor Robinson proceeds to develop in a clear, sympathetic fashion a subject which though familiar does not become trite. Its interest lies not only in the well drawn political and social background but in the universal appeal of the central figure. "The mind and work of Lincoln were not confined to a single age. We now realize as never before, that but for the principles he held fast as a means of cementing the States of the Union together, under the aegis of one flag and national spirit, the cause of government responsible to the people might have, for a time at least, 'perished from the earth'."

F. H. L.


If you love Dickens, or if you love the theatre, — better still, if you love both Dickens and the theatre, here is a book for you to warm the heart. Mr. Woollcott knows his subject well, and surely only a person who thoroughly enjoyed his task could handle it in so delightful a manner.
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The book is concerned only with that part of Dickens' life which is related to the theatre, letters to friends about the theatre and the plays he has been to,—more charming and vivid than any reviews meant for publication possibly could be,—and letters to his intimate friend, Macready, the great English tragedian. Finally there are excerpts, all dealing in some aspect or another with the stage, from the novels. The chapters concerning the astounding "Vincent Crummles Company", of which the Infant Phenomenon may be the smallest but certainly not the most insignificant member, are transported in toto from "Nicholas Nickleby". Mr. Woollcott loves Mrs. Crummles as we do. "Dear Mrs. Crummles", he says of her, "her husband saw her first standing upon her head on the butt-end of a spear, surrounded by blazing fireworks. 'Such grace!' he used to say afterwards, 'coupled with such dignity! I adored her from that moment.'

Then there is also the unforgettable passage from "Great Expectations", where Pip and Herbert sally forth to see Mr. Wopsle, alias Waldengarver, give an original interpretation, certainly never contemplated by Shakespeare, of the Prince of Denmark. And we delightedly renew our acquaintance with parts of "Little Dorrit", "David Copperfield", "Sketches by Boz" and the "Uncommercial Traveler".

Mr. Woollcott tells us that the true wish of Dickens heart was to be an actor, and that as an author, notwithstanding his wide and practically instant popularity, he only half satisfied his desire for histrionic action. From his descriptions of the theatre it is certain that he loved it; but it is equally certain that no actor on any stage could touch and hold and sway an audience so large and so enduring as that which he reached from between the covers of his novels.

Happily, thanks to Mr. Woollcott's book, a Dickens revival is inevitable.

M. Rice


The writer of the preface to this book expresses the belief that Chesterton has done more than any other living writer to stimulate and preserve the primitive sense of wonder and joy in human life. The author's enthusiasm for his subject is more discreet. When he says that there has never been an essayist quite like Chesterton, he does not mean that he is the greatest of essayists but simply that he is different from others; not as academic as Dean Inge, for example, but just as learned, not as charming as Mr. Lucas but at least more versatile.

Of all Chesterton's essays Mr. Braybrooke considers "Orthodoxy" the finest and probably the sanest book which he has written. Among his critical studies he places his "Browning" first,—no critic has written with such understanding of Browning as has Chesterton, he says; among his poems, "The Ballad of the White Horse"; and among his novels, "The Ball and the Cross".


These delightful reminiscences of the author's early life were first published in the London Evening News in 1915 under the title, "The Confessions of a Literary Man". "The work not being of an encyclopedic nature", the author says, "no effort has been made to bring it up to date".

The book describes his boyhood days in and about Caerleon-on-Usk, the place of his birth, days given up to solitude and floods and deep lanes and wonder, and to books. Among the latter were Parker's "Glossary of Gothic Architecture", in three volumes, one of text and two of beautifully executed plates, and an early volume of Tennyson. "Of these two books", he says, "I can scarcely say which is the more precious and eminent in my recollection. The one stands for my initiation into the spirit of Gothic, and I think that is the most magical of all initiations". In the other he first found delight in poetry as poetry, for its own sake, apart from any story it might tell.

It describes also his call to the City and his apprenticeship to life and letters there in the early eighties, and concludes with the publication of his "Anatomy of Tobacco".

No one will read this story of "Far-off Things" and not ask for its sequel, "Things Far and Near".


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Bonaparte detested politics and it took all his sense of public service, as well as the love that he bore Roosevelt, to induce him to assume the yoke. In 1905, however, he entered the President's family as Secretary of the Navy, in 1906 he became Attorney General, in 1908, at the expiration of Roosevelt's Presidency, he joyfully turned his back on Washington to return to his native Baltimore, to resume with his private practice his unceasing warfare against wrong-doing.

Thus for seventy years he lived nobly and unselfishly, to the great good of his country, until he was called from it, in 1921.

Such a character is good to meditate on, and this book pleasantly delineates it.

George G. Fleurot

THE WRITINGS OF W. H. HUDSON

In an article on W. H. Hudson in the International Book Review, William Lyon Phelps advises that readers begin with his "Green Mansions" and follow that by "The Purple Land". "They will be so thrilled by these two romances", he says, "that they will wish to know everything possible about the man who wrote them, and they can not be restrained from reading his other books." Next in order they should read "El Ombu", and then "Far Away and Long Ago". After this should come "Idle Days in Patagonia" containing that marvelous thirteenth chapter, which was such a favorite with William James. Now we can leave Patagonia, and the reader should take up "Afoot in England", to be succeeded by "A Shepherd's Life", and "A Hind in Richmond Park", his last work. By this time one will not be content until one has read everything: the "Naturalist in La Plata", and all the bird-books, "Birds of La Plata", "Adventures Among Birds", "Birds in Town and Village", "Birds and Man", and then "Dead Man's Pluck and an Old Thorn", "A Traveller in Little Things", "The Book of a Naturalist", and "A Little Boy Lost".
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THE AMERICAN LEGION

This work is most timely in view of the discussions during the past year over the American Legion, its activities and its future. From a historical point of view, it is of the greatest interest, particularly as a graphic description of the Paris caucus and the first Convention, adjourned for the reason that the majority felt that the Service Men in the United States should be invited to participate in the organization of the Legion.

As an eye-witness, I can testify to the accuracy of the author's record of that caucus and convention, and from this we may fairly judge the value of the book as a historical document.

The peculiar interest of the book to members of the A. E. F. will probably prove to be the excellent biographical sketches of the leaders of the movement: Theodore Roosevelt, who is said to have initiated the idea of the Legion; George A. White, who co-operated with him in launching it; Henry D. Lindsley, the brilliant ex-major of Dallas, who was the First National Commander; his successor Franklin d'Olier; Past Commanders, John G. Emery and Hanford Macnider; the present commander, Alvin Owsley; The National Adjutant, Lemuel E. Bolles; and, above all, the inspiring story of the career and tragic death of Frederic W. Galbraith, Jr., the lamented National Commander, who was killed in an automobile accident on his way to speak at a meeting called to combat German propaganda; General Milton J. Foreman, who was in the automobile and was terribly injured when Mr. Galbraith was killed, is also the subject of a touching tribute.

Another admirable story is that of the attack on Grant Hodge Post at Centralia, Washington, by the I. W. W., who fired upon a detachment of the Post marching in a parade; the battle which ensued, resulting in the capture of the assailants, after the Commander of the Legion Post and three other members had been killed.

Mr. James deals exhaustively with the story of the long fight for the bonus and President Harding's attitude towards the bill, resulting in its veto, contrary to the expectations of the officers of the Legion. But it must be said, in fairness to the author that he does not exaggerate the importance of the bonus but shows it in its proper perspective as a temporary question, though one of the greatest importance, in the opinion of the leaders of the American Legion. Having disposed of the question of the bonus, he turns his attention to the purposes of the Legion and emphasizes its real role, as the bulwark of American liberties, in the following language:

"Though no national crisis impends now, some day one will come. When the next crisis will come and what it will be like is something no one knows. But whatever its character, if it should threaten the security of the institutions we believe best express the genius of the American race in ideals of government; if it should imperil the security, the peace, the honor or the integrity of our Nation, the American Legion, if it keeps faith with its past, will be ready to serve again.

"I think it was this a certain speaker had in mind when he said that the Legion is 'the best insurance policy a country ever had.'"

B. H. CONNER.

AMERICANISM

From Mr. Hoover's point of view, American individualism is not of the acquisitive type, as the author of "Americanism, a World Menace" would have us believe; its ideal is service and equality of opportunity for all.

"That our system has avoided the establishment and domination of class", he says, "has a significant proof in the present Administration in Washington. Of the twelve men comprising the President, Vice-President and Cabinet, nine have earned their own way in life without economic inheritance, and eight of them started with manual labor."

ASIATIC TRAVELS

Under this title Mr. Curle assembles some impressions gathered in his eastern wanderings in Colomn, Rangoon, Penang, Singapore, etc.

One is, perhaps, too often conscious that these were primarily conceived as detached articles for magazine readers, and, therefore, lacking the inspiration of a cohesive whole; and one is sometimes tempted to apply to Mr. Curle's book his rather weary utterance towards the world: "Nothing comes up to his imagination yet he sometimes falls short of ours".

Still if we miss the fresh enthusiasm of youth, we benefit by the mature observation of the experienced traveller. If this volume does not inspire us with the desire to start forthwith Eastward, it at least leaves us some solid impressions and tangible outlines; especially of Rangoon, Mandalay and Malaya.

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This little book is a notable contribution to clear thinking on a great subject. One rarely finds a direct and lucid style so perfectly combined with sound scholarship. Professor Brown has placed the public under a real obligation. We venture to say that no intelligent person with a genuine desire to understand what is happening to the world can afford to ignore this fundamental study of international society.

The basic factors of nationalism, the evolution of the theory of the state, the essential characteristics of "the group mind", the true significance and scope of war, diplomacy, arbitration,—these are all forbidding subjects to the average reader; but they are handled in such simple, common sense fashion as to divert them of this terror. In fact one wonders why one ever shied at Aristotle, Locke, Hobbes, Rousseau, Vattel, Bluntschli and Austin. After all, it is largely a matter of the way in which things are put; and we have always noticed that the writer who has thought deeply and knows his subject has usually little difficulty in making it understood by others.

Professor Brown comes to the defence of international law, notes its peaceful triumphs, proves that its sanctions are real and impressive, and shows the broadening of its scope and importance in recent years. Much is said about the Permanent Court of International Justice, which is hailed as the proudest accomplishment of the League of Nations.

The writer is a bit pessimistic about the post-bellum rearrangement of Europe and evidently draws upon a large fund of accurate knowledge of actual conditions in Hungary, Austria, and the so-called successive states. He declines to be swept away by vague idealism, justifies war as sometimes a duty and a necessity, and explodes the fallacy of open diplomacy, asserting flatly that nations cannot negotiate in the market place. "Dollar diplomacy" comes in for severe condemnation: the danger lurking in the prevalent tendency towards diplomatic exploitation of trade is made plain.

It is a relief to come across a book with no ready formula for the existing ills and discontents. Bold statement is, however, not lacking. The League of Nations is assessed as primarily a European concern. For the present the United States can only stay out of the League and wish it luck. "In the meantime, as a nation free from European intrigues and politics, the United States may best serve the world by preserving as a sacred trust its freedom of leadership in behalf of international justice". Professor Brown thinks the League would do well to bear down less upon the comparatively unimportant task of guaranteeing the status quo and coercing recalcitrant nations, and to concentrate upon its real job of strengthening the Law of Nations and the administration of justice. An extremely interesting suggestion is the possibility of developing regional leagues of which the Pan-American Union is cited as an example.

The Monroe Doctrine is characterized as a self-denying ordinance in contrast with the European principle of Balance of Power which never can make for lasting peace.

The upshot of it all is that the evolution of international society is going to be an excessively slow process. This is sound doctrine, and by courageously accepting it, we shall guard against an unreasoning pessimism and be able to maintain the only sort of optimism that is worth while.

R. E. O.


This story is a delightfully simple one, on a theme which, with minor variations, has served poets and fabulists from Aesop to Masefield. To be sure the permutations of animals and men have become so frequent that one can scarcely find a book these days which does not portray respectable ladies and gentleman turning into ferocious beasts and all manner of strange phenomena; and it is therefore not surprising that this is just what happened to the importunate Mrs. Tebrick, the wife of an English country gentleman. The fact that she was a Fox before she was married is a plausible explanation of her extraordinary behavior. At first the metamorphosis was not complete. Mrs. Tebrick wished to sit upright, wear the clothes that she wore when she was a lady, turn the pages of the magazines and look at the pictures, and enjoy a game of cribbage with her husband in the evenings. Still with all these human attributes there was no gainsaying the fact that she was a vixen, and matters went from bad to worse until the tragic climax put an end to the misery of her distracted husband.

In the development of his subject Mr. Garnett has shown the rarest of qualities, originality. The beauty, the dignity and restraint of language, the faint humour flowing through the story, never once deviating from its well-defined channel,—all contribute to the subtle unfolding of the tale which is the writer's individuality. The book is a thing apart, with a certain timbre, to be read and enjoyed and recommended to one's friends.

J. M.
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Literary Notes

Professor John Erskine’s “The Literary Discipline” (Dufield), is described in the New York Times Book Review as one of the most stimulating contributions which has recently been made to the discussion of aesthetic theory. It lies within the tradition of the little enduring criticism that has been produced in the United States, and it belongs with the best of that, with such books as those of George Santayana and George Edward Woodberry, which seem to hold a durable and vital content of artistic wisdom”.

The “Manual of Collections of Treaties and of Collections Relating to Treaties” by Deny P. Myers, corresponding secretary and librarian of the World Peace Foundation (Harvard University Press) should prove indispensable to professional students of international law and useful to all interested in international relations. It describes not only the general collections and collections by States, but also collections by subject matter and documents relating to international administration. Among the last, for example, are those relating to the Central Commission of the Rhine, from 1803 to 1868. The book concludes with an interesting essay on the history of the publication of treaties. It does not include treaties subsequent to the outbreak of the World War. These will undoubtedly be made the subject of a separate treatise.

“The Readers’ Guide” reports that during the year 1922 some 250 novels and over 900 non-fiction books by American writers were published in Great Britain. Cheap editions of popular American novels are numerous. For example, in one list of 450 cheap editions of British and American novels, one-third are by American writers.

It is still true, however, that more British books are published and sold in the United States than American books in the British Empire.

The Bookman’s Literary Club Service for August is devoted to contemporary American poetry.

In his “Outline of Wells” (Putnam) Sidney Dark refers to Thomas Hardy’s “The Dynasts” as the culminating achievement of his genius.

“The Stream of Pacifist Novels in France” is the title of an article by William MacDonald in the New York Times, August 12.

The great autobiographies according to Mr. Asquith are those by Rousseau, Cellini, Caesar, Gibbon, and Hayden. He himself does not intend to write one. “I leave that to other members of my family”, he says.

Of “Sea and Sardinia”, by D. H. Lawrence (Seltzer) the Manchester Guardian reviewer says, “his story has the bright ingenuity of the letters from abroad of a precocious child”.

Henry Fairfield Osborn, author of “Men of the Old Stone Age” and other works, has been awarded the Roosevelt medal for the promotion of the study of natural history.

The Lady Northcliffe prize for the best French novel of the last year has been awarded to Madame Jean Balde for her “La Vigne et la Maison”.

Of Ossendowski’s “Beasts, Men, and Gods” (Dutton), the Spectator says, “It would be difficult to imagine anything more thrilling than this mysterious and astounding book”.

The Newcastle-upon-Tyne Public Library has published a very useful index catalogue of the Parliamentary papers added to the library from 1915 to 1922. The catalogue was prepared by Mr. Joseph Walton.

In his book on “Abraham Lincoln as a Man of Letters” (Putnam), Professor Luther E. Robinson classes Lincoln’s Gettysburg address, his second Inaugural address, and his letter to Mrs. Bixby as among our greatest English prose writings.

There is a useful article on American humorists by Miss Bessie Graham in the Publishers Weekly, July 14. It is the first of several chapters which are to appear in an enlarged edition of her “Bookman’s Manual”.

The biographical study of Henry Ford, by Dr. Marquis (Little & Brown) is described by the New York Times as an exceedingly entertaining book, and the most truthfully illuminating discussion of the Ford mind and heart that has yet been made.

Wilkie Collins’ “The Woman in White” is usually considered his masterpiece, but in a recent article in the National Review, Percy Stephens expresses his preference for “The Moonstone”. The latter is, indeed, in his opinion, the best story of the kind that was ever written.

“Moby-Dick” is referred to as Herman Melville’s masterpiece in Meade Minnegerode’s “Some Personal Letters of Herman Melville” (The Brick Row Book Shop). “Mardi”, he says, is from beginning to end gloriously insane.

Anthony Trollope’s “Orley Farm” is described by Sir Francis Newbolt as the most venomous and pointed attack ever made on the legal profession.
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HISTORY, TRAVEL, POLITICS.


O'SORNE, SIDNEY. The Saar Question, a Disease Spot in Europe. London. George Allen & Unwin Ltd. 1923.


POLITICAL ECONOMY.


BELLES LETTRES


BRADLEY, H. DENNIS. Adam and Eve. London. T. Werner Laurie Ltd. 1923.


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MISCELLANEOUS
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FICTION
WALLACE, EDGAR. The Valley of Ghosts. London. Odhams Press Ltd. 1922.

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Landmark, August: The English-Speaking Union and the League of Nations, John Daniels.

Nation, August 11: The Weakness of Mr. Baldwin.

