

LITERARY CRITICISM AND BOOK REVIEWS

The Entire Story of the Panama Gateway—Labor in Conflict with the Church—An Irish Thrums—Diverse Volumes.

A HISTORY OF THE CANAL.

THE PANAMA GATEWAY. By Joseph Bucklin Bishop, Secretary of the Isthmian Canal Commission. Illustrated. 8vo., pp. xvi, 459. Charles Scribner's Sons.

Man commandeth not the morning, and causeth the day-spring to know his place; nor knoweth he by what way the light parted which scattereth the east wind upon the earth. But he has changed for his human purposes the design of his planet. He has unlocked the doors of two great oceans, united two seas by a gateway, as solid as the everlasting hills, cut through a peak in Darien. A dream of his four centuries old he has at last made to come true. Columbus sought for the "hidden strait" which he supposed nature had supplied in the very region through which is constructed the Panama Canal of to-day. The building of this wonder of the world, in the words of Mr. Bryce "the most gigantic effort yet made by man on this planet to improve upon Nature," naturally has called forth a luxuriant literature, much of it picturesque, much of it biased in temper, and all of it more or less fragmentary in character. This is the first authoritative and comprehensive story of the canal. The writer's place as secretary to the commission made him for more than seven years a spectator of the canal's construction, and gave him a unique opportunity for acquiring information. The inside knowledge thus obtained he has supplemented by careful and scholarly research into the early history of the Isthmus of Panama. And his career as a journalist has fitted him to order his great body of material and to present it in a manner to bring out the "human interest" of his history.

Mr. Bishop begins his story almost with the discovery of America, and recounts in an engaging way the exploits of those of the hardy navigators who followed in the wake of Columbus, and of the intrepid and reckless soldiers of fortune who hastened to the New World soon after its discovery, with whose deeds begins the history of the Isthmus. He attacks with much incisiveness the exaggerated stories of Old Panama, "with which historical writing about the Isthmus has been disgraced for two hundred and thirty years," and traces the source of these tales to the famous narrative, the true "pirate's tale," of John Esquemeling. Briefly he reviews the colorful history of three centuries of Spanish rule, and records the inception and development of the idea of a waterway, built by the hand of man, to connect the two oceans. Not, however, until the beginning of the nineteenth century was any progress made in the direction of building such a passage. With the passing of Spanish dominion in Central and South America official interest in the United States was awakened in the project; and "from the very beginning of its active interest in an isthmian canal the United States government contended that if such a waterway were to be opened it should be free to all nations on equal terms." Mr. Bishop gives abundant citations from public papers to prove the unbroken "free and equal" policy of the United States government for three-quarters of a century.

The real pioneers of an isthmian canal were the builders of the Panama Railroad, who with American pluck rarely equalled and never surpassed in our annals, and with indomitable persistence, cut through pestilential jungle and morass the pathway which the canal of the future was to follow. Mr. Bishop demolishes several of the favorite and the most persistent of the many historic "fakes" connected with the construction of this railroad; notably the "Dead Chinaman—Matachin" legend, and that of the "Dead-man-for-every-tie." A portion of his narrative, through which comedy and tragedy walk hand in hand, is devoted to French effort and failure on the Isthmus, the story of which endeavor, he observes, is one of the most diverting as well as one of the most pathetic in human annals. One reads with bewilderment and wonder the record of the proceedings of Ferdinand de Lesseps in his second task as the world's chief canal builder, "presenting a performance of opera bouffe in a grisly setting of pestilence and death, with the leading actor, the all-powerful director of the entertainment, dancing and pirouetting in the front of the stage, blissfully unconscious, apparently, of everything except his own capers."

Part three of Mr. Bishop's volume, covering the period between 1902 and 1904, has its dénouement in the grant in perpetuity to the United States by the Republic of Panama of the Canal Zone; and part four surveys with the author's intimate knowledge the period of construction. The author impresses upon us that the converting of a veritable valley of death into a land of health and comfort takes rank easily as the supreme achievement in sanitation, not only of the century, but of the ages; he tells of the scientific discoveries which made this possible, the moving story of the heroism of the men who, acting solely in the interest of humanity, risked their lives for their fellow men, and of the martyrdom of Dr. Lazear. He makes the "chorus of misrepresentation and defamation," inspired in great part by professional jealousies and party prejudices, which accompanied the progress of the canal's construction. Concerning Gatun Dam, than which "no part of the canal project was more furiously or more ignorantly assailed and none has been more ludicrously misunderstood," he says, "No part of the project is an improvement more in harmony with Nature's work."

It is not only as solid as the everlasting hills, but more scientifically constructed than they are, more pains, if one may say so without irreverence, having been taken in its making.

The fight of man against Nature in the spectacular showpiece of the canal, the Culebra Cut, was the most powerful factor in the creation and development of the remarkable spirit of zeal and enthusiasm which characterized the force at work. Visitors from all parts of the world, especially if they were engineers, were astonished at the magnitude of the task here, and unimpaired in expressions of admiration for the manner in which it was being accomplished. Mr. Bishop says he did not see one during his six years' connection with the work who did not declare it to be the finest exhibition of engineering organization and execution that he had ever witnessed.

"Surely, if any form of government or control," the author says, "was ever justified by results, that in force in the Canal Zone for the past five years has been." He presents the evolution of this unique form of government, which has been so much discussed, and which he describes as "benevolent despotism," and gives it as the unanimous and enthusiastic verdict of the great body of Colonel Goethals's "subjects" that their despot has not abused his great powers, but has used them with justice and wisdom. "It is an interesting and suggestive fact," he mentions, "that the man who has won victory for his country in the greatest campaign ever conducted in the interest of world-wide peace and progress should have been trained by the government to serve his country as a soldier in time of war." Mr. Bishop describes in detail the provisions for comfort and contentment of the force on the Isthmus, clubhouses and other agencies; the inducements employed to enter the canal service, which have been considered by some critics as unnecessarily generous treatment; the novel court of justice in operation; life in the canal colony, its attractions, peculiarities, and special charm, and the completed canal, "not a canal through the Isthmus, but a bridge of water over it."

He discusses the operation, the electric control of lock machinery, the lighting system, permanent canal buildings, terminal facilities and fortifications. His information regarding the defenses of the canal he derives from the published writings and utterances of various army authorities.

The volume contains an abundance of figures, statistics, tables and citations from various pertinent sources. The illustrations cover a wide range, which includes plans of the City of Panama in 1688, and scenes of the remains of Old Panama, pictures of French machinery in the jungle, portrait groups of the founders of the Panama Republic, of the different commissions for canal construction, photographs of the builders of the canal, and of various aspects of the spectacle of construction. Altogether the volume is a valuable chronicle in a popular style, and a permanent and reliable record of the realization of the idea of the Panama gateway.

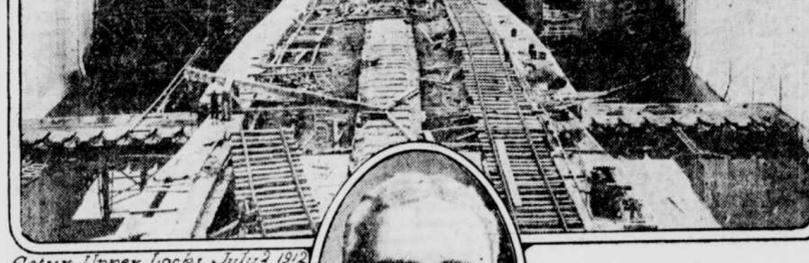
CHURCH AND LABOR

The Industrial Situation in Relation to the Church.

THE CHURCH AND THE LABOR CONFLICT. By Farley Paul Womer. 12mo., pp. x, 302. The Macmillan Company.

The current discussion of the social mission of the Church receives in this volume a contribution of a more than usually definite aim. The great army of comfortable Smiths who do not go to church stay away quite often, very probably, simply because they do not get there. Though the Church has failed to draw them with sufficient force, it has hardly provoked their hostility. Among the wage earners Dr. Womer discerns a widespread revolt against the Church, "a significant feature of the industrial situation that must now be taken into account." He speaks of the general feeling of the wage earners that organized Christianity is the willing tool of the propertied and ruling class, and says: "Socialists in particular reprobate the Church. To the socialistic mind the Church is the exclusive property and support of capitalism." He asks then how it has come about that "while the Christ of the churches is scorned and rejected, the Nazarene carpenter is enthusiastically lauded as a labor leader and revolutionist, a man of the common people who fought hard for their moral and economic welfare."

This volume gives a brief review of the influence of the Church as it bore upon industrial conditions in the past, and a survey of the present industrial situation as a problem related to the functions of the Church. Various chapters discuss "The Class Character of the Labor Conflict," "The Industrial Issue and the Church," "The Beginning of Another Reformation," "What the Church Should Contribute," "The Question of Justice for the Wage Earners,"



Gatun Upper Locks, July 2, 1912

THE PROTECTION OF THE WAGE EARNING WOMAN AND CHILD.

"The Protection of the Wage Earning Woman and Child," "The Question of the Open or Closed Shop," "Labor's Appeal to Violence," "The Establishment of Labor Courts" and "The New Social Order and the Rise of a True Catholic Church." The author treats of the most recent experiments of the Church in behalf of the wage earners, such as settlement work and the "labor temple," and relates to the inspiration in the teachings of the Christian pupil, the vast undertakings of secular philanthropy "which characterizes the modern world." He says:

Now that the light of critical research is being turned on the past, with the result that the social mission of Jesus is becoming more fully understood and the failure of the Church to work for social reconstruction on His lines is beginning to be realized, there is every reason to believe that in due time the needed readjustment of purpose will come and the vast energies of the Church will be directed more definitely toward social ends.

AN IRISH THRUMS

Sentiment and Humor in a Picture of Love and Poverty.

MY LADY OF THE CHIMNEY CORNER. By Alexander Irvine. 12mo., pp. ix, 221. The Century Company.

This very real little picture of love and poverty in Irish peasant life gives one, to put it so, a sort of faint toothache in the heart. It touches a tender nerve deep down, one not often disturbed. The book is the author's tribute to the love of Anna and Jamie, his parents; it tells of their grinding life "at the bottom of the world," of their many "chilthir," of whom Alexander was the ninth—the favorite boy whom his mother gave the Greek name which means "Helper of Men," and told, "Ye're God's Plowman"—and of Anna's creed that "Love is enough." It tells, also, of the neighbors in Antrim, which the author beholds as an Irish Thrums.

Mr. Irvine calls his book "a spiritual biography of my mother" and also "the torn manuscript of the most beautiful life I ever knew." Its appeal is very similar to that of "Margaret Ogilvie," though here there is a salt savor in the uncouth Irish life portrayed which relieves unrestricted sentiment. The writer's father, he says, was a peasant "with all the mental and physical characteristics of his class"; his sister, a peasant woman. But "about my mother there was a subtlety of intellect and a spiritual quality that even in my ignorance fascinated me." She was wont to say, reassuringly: "Every time we get 'th' end of 'th' tether God appears." Of his early home in "Pogue's entry," the writer says:

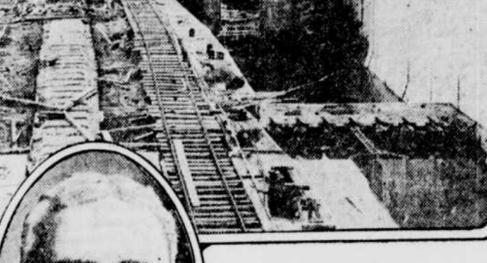
We never owned a chair. . . I do not know where it came from, but each of us had a hope that one day we should possess a pig. We built around the hope a sty and placed it against the end of the cabin. The pig never turned up, but the hope lived there throughout a generation.

A MAETERLINCK PRIMER

A Handy Mosaic of Things Maeterlinckian.

LIFE AND WRITINGS OF MAURICE MAETERLINCK. By Jethro Bitwell. 12mo., pp. xvi, 189. The Walter Scott Publishing Company.

This little book contains a good index, an interesting bibliography, a very full table of contents and a terse preface. It is neatly printed and bound; in the middle there is a little text. But, indeed, all the author claims for his book is "that it should be a running account of Maeterlinck's works, with some suggestions as to their interpretation and value." The events in Maeterlinck's life, he says, are his books; and so has the biographer chronicled the events in the Flemish writer's life. The circumstances of his birth are touched upon, and the influences of his early life. Then the method of procedure is much as follows: In such a year this was published; the



Col G. W. Goethals

A LIVELY JOURNALIST

Experiences with Murderers, Ghosts, Celebrities and Girls.

THE ADVENTURES OF A NEWS-PAPER MAN. By Frank Dillnot. 12mo., pp. 315. E. P. Dutton & Co.

This is not bad fun, this book. The author is an English journalist very much devoted to the policies of the "new journalism," and a member of the reporting staff of a "live" London newspaper. He sees a to be a half-fellow-well-met sort of chap, with a quick understanding of what is of interest to the general reader; he has ability in crisp description and writes with considerable dash. His adventures in the way of business here recorded range from experiences with murderers and ghosts to professional bouts with a revivalist preacher, a bevy of girls from Ohio travelling on a holiday trip as a prize for popularity at home, and with princes, statesmen and distinguished literary men. He skips about the world from London to Wales and from Niagara Falls to Russia. His grousing story of "The Master of the Mont" is a tale of crime that might, indeed, "have aroused the contemptuous admiration of Sherlock Holmes himself." Concerning his ghost stories the author says: "If the material were put into fiction it would hardly be possible to give it a touch of reality." In his chapter "The Girls from Ohio" he records his first real introduction to the "personal side of American journalism." The journalist later returned the visit of the young women. Local newspapers promptly announced his engagement to one of them. It was necessary for him to explain to four young men of the press who called to interview him that, far from being in love with one, he was in love with all twenty-four of the young ladies.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Current Talk of Things Past, Present and to Come—Mr. de Vere Stacpoole's New Translation of Villon's "Ballade des Pendus."

Brazilian Exploration. Mr. A. H. Savage-Lander's blood-curdling experiences of torture in Tibet sixteen years ago did not daunt his resolute spirit. He has since faced all sorts of dangers in China, Afghanistan, Persia and Africa. His latest adventures have been encountered in the interior of Brazil, where he had for companions savages, ex-convicts, wild beasts and the most unpleasant of poisonous tropical insects. His long and thrilling account of his journey will fill two volumes, which Little, Brown & Co., of Boston, will bring out next month. The work is to be illustrated from the author's photographs.

Henry VII of England. Professor Pollard is at work upon a notable collection of documents which he will bring out in three volumes under the title of "The Reign of Henry VII from Contemporary Sources." The first volume, which is to be published soon, consists of "Narrative Extracts." Much new light has been thrown upon this interesting period since the publication of similar collections more than thirty years ago.

A Road of Gold. The author of a popular novel of the period, "Anne of Green Gables," has finished a new romance, which, under the title of "The Golden Road," will be published by L. C. Page & Co. in September.

A Fascinating Book. What promises to be a book fascinating to the general reader as well as to ardent horticulturists has been written by Mr. E. H. Wilson, of the Arnold Arboretum. Under the title of "A Naturalist in Northern China" it will be published in October by Doubleday, Page & Co. Mr. Wilson is a travelling naturalist and collector who has brought into our gardens from the Orient a great number of valuable trees, shrubs and plants. He brought to us the first wood oil tree known outside of China—a tree which will perhaps be of great use commercially—and we owe to him many new individuals of the rhododendron family. He has gathered treasures even in Tibet. He has told in his forthcoming volume some exciting stories of his travels.

Shelley's Boat of Death. Mr. Ernest Law sends to the London "Spectator" an account of the history of the Don Juan—renamed by Shelley the Ariel—subsequent to the accident which cost the poet his life. She was bought under the name of Don Juan at Zante by five officers of an English regiment stationed there, and was used by them for going across to the coast of the Morea; one of them took a month's cruise in her. Her destruction was no proof of lack of seaworthiness. "She was wrecked," says Mr. Law, "by breaking from her moor-

ings one night in a gale of wind, when she was cast ashore and smashed to pieces, a mishap due to the negligence of the man in charge of her—a private in the regiment, formerly a sailor, who had gone ashore on that very British errand, a drinking bout."

A Book on Interior Decoration. Miss Elsie de Wolfe's clever and entertaining account of her work as a house decorator is to be published by the Century Company under the title of "The House in Good Taste." It is to be copiously illustrated with photographs of charming interiors.

The Bookseller's School. The Bookseller's School established in France in 1908 has apparently made a fixed place for itself. It has now four instructors, who give a course of lectures covering two years, the first year being devoted to the technical and the second to the commercial aspects of the craft of bookselling. Printing, illustrating and binding and the various questions involved in copyright form the material of the technical course, while the commercial course deals with the various aspects of the book trade, the sale of school books, of foreign books and of second-hand books.

The Ballade des Pendus. O brother men, who after us shall thrive, Let not your hearts against us hardened be. For all the pity unto ye we give, God will return in mercy unto ye. We five or six all swinging from the tree, Retold, and all our well-fell flesh one.

Retold, and eaten by the beaks that tear, Whilst we the bones to dust and ash Dissolve. Let no man mock us, or the fate we bear; But pray to God that He may us absolve.

O brothers hear us and do not receive Our lamentations in disdain, though we Came here by justice, for all men that live Are not born into good sense equally. Make intercession for us, graciously, With Him whose life the Virgin once did share.

That His grace comes to us as water clean, Nor Hell's destructions on our heads de- volve; Dead are we, and as dead men leave us here. But pray to God that He may us absolve.

The rain has washed us as we'd been fair, The sun has burnt us bitterly ye see. The spen and crows that all around us strive Leave us of eyes and beard and eyebrows free. Never from torment have we sanctuary, Ever and always driven here and there At the winds' will, and every change of air.

More pecked by birds than fruit that beaks revolve; O brothers make no mock of what we are. But pray to God that He may us absolve.

Envoy. Prince Jesus, lord of all, have us in care, And keep from us the fires of Hell that stare, Least those dread fires our fate and future solve. Men! gaze on us, be warned, and onward fare. But pray to God that He may us absolve.

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NEW NOVELS BY OLD HANDS

"Otherwise" Mr. Nicholson and the Hoosier Athens—

Robert Hichens in a New Novel—Justin Huntly McCarthy in a London Suburb.

GENIUS AND THE WORLD. THE WAY OF AMBITION. By Robert Hichens. Frontispiece in color and illustrations in black and white by J. H. Gardner. E. P. Dutton, 12mo., pp. 473. The Frederick A. Stokes Company.

This new novel by Mr. Hichens is set apart from most of his other work by its perfectly normal tone. It does not deal with some conflict between love and duty, some breach of conventional morality, some ingenious problem of sex. It tells the story of the way of ambition with genius. The ambition is a young Englishwoman's; the genius is her husband's. He is a composer who shields his gift from the world, a servant and master of music to whom popularity means nothing, to whom, indeed, it would be unwelcome. His is the music that a handful of people will worship the world over, but which the great world will never understand. This retiring young man is led into marriage by a young woman, a member of an artistic set much given to lion hunting, and she resolves that he, too, shall roar. So the genius is driven into writing an opera, whose libretto is of the "Carmen" type. An American impresario, easily recognized, produces the opera in New York; the result is failure in the worldly sense, but in a deeper sense husband and wife find each other, and his true career begins.

It is the treatment, even more than the story itself, that forms the unflagging interest of the book. Mr. Hichens sketches his characters firmly; he has a knack of social effects in the mass; he is picturesque as ever in London, in the Sahara, and in the feverish bustle and tension of the staging and rehearsal at the new opera house in this city. Indeed, the operatic history that is made in this book almost is a novel in itself. The struggle for the possession of the libretto, the jealousies and intrigues, the social complications of this form of art, all this is told with steadily increasing interest. The book is intensely readable, and also intensely human.

OTHERWISE PHYLIS.

OTHERWISE PHYLIS. By Meredith Nicholson. Frontispiece by C. D. Houghton. 12mo., pp. viii, 397. The Houghton Mifflin Company.

Frequently otherwise has been Mr. Nicholson, respectable minor poet in his youth, author of the only good critical work on the story of literature in Indiana—"The Hoosiers"—erstwhile prince of best sellers, later an essayist of literary and personal charm, and at present a fictional historian and interpreter to the world of the "provincial Athenians." Though, indeed, since his "swearing off," formally announced with a purple flourish in the "Atlantic" a few years ago, from the business of for much gold tickling the fancy of frivolous readers, he has been most steadfast in his devotion to literary virtue. Doubtless, too, many of his cronies of yesterday, so to say, among those thousands who were wont to fare forth with him upon the quest of lightsome, romantic adventure, consider with some pique to-day that he has turned against the hand that so royally fed him. With the publication of "Otherwise Phyllis" he exchanged, no doubt, many old friends for many new. "Otherwise Phyllis" is a supplementary volume to that very worthy story. Very likely some folks held that further pictures of life in Indiana hardly fill a long-felt want. A particular feature of this story, however, is that it presents a most distinguished place, even for Indiana. The town here called Montgomery is no less than that literary centre referred to in the early 80's by the Boston "Transcript" as the "Hoosier Athens," a community even so to-day largely of bards, romancers and essayists, the home of the author of "Ben Hur," a place of simple culture and "best families," the seat of a quaint and mellow Indiana college, and the birthplace, into the bargain, of our author himself.

SENSIBILITY.

THE LEGEND OF JERRY LADD. By Roy Rolfe Gilson. 12mo., pp. 254. Doubleday, Page & Co.

Well, a popular novelist met upon a street of his native town a friend of his youth who had become a university professor. "Now, let me see," he said, "what is it you are doing?" Oh, yes," he added, "I remember now. You are doing the serious." The author of this cleverly contrived little story is doing the man of feeling. "Sensibility" in writing is decidedly quaint to-day. And the hero of this story in an old-fashioned literary form certainly is in nowise related to the hero of this hour of "efficiency." But he is one of the classic heroes of sentiment, the dreamer, arising "from dreams to dreams," idealist, genius, child, Jerry Ladd, "St. Jerry" (of course), some called him, was one of these unpractical angels entertained in this world not always so much unawares as generally not very regally. "You can see he ain't all there," was the comment upon him of a person of affairs, an office boy. This "young old man," Jerry, was "if not quite a journalist, at least the ghost of one." Hope, as he said, and not his face, was his fortune. He made futile, half-humorous attempts to become "practical"; but his soul lingered in the past, and he saw visions, as his wife said, "even on weekdays." The book contains some rather pretty writing.

A GORGEOUS SPECTACLE.

THE LOST MAMELUKE. A Tale of Egypt. By David M. Reddon. 12mo., pp. vi, 315. E. P. Dutton & Co.

Reading this book is not unlike witnessing some gorgeous spectacle at the Hippodrome. No expense has been spared on costume and scenery. The stage is drenched in glowing colors, scarlets and purples, spectrum-like sheets of green and lavender, yellows and heliotoques; the sun sinks in a ball of fire beyond distant pyramids, fountains splash in gardens "stretched heavy" with the accent of mimosa and orange blossom, behind lie the battlemented towers of citadels and palaces. The figures in the seductive pageant look like gorgeous dragon flies, things of colors and sheen, pomp and luxury, their bright accoutrements glittering and flashing in the light. Behold this personage swaggering along, followed by a boy carrying a huge scimitar in its leather scabbard: "On his head he wore a scarlet turban, his baggy pantaloons were scarlet, his vest, which lay open, exposing his neck and part of his bare chest, was of dark blue, his bare feet were shod into a pair of yellow heeled slippers; around his waist he wore a broad sash of the same bright color, and from it the in-laid butt of a pistol protruded in close contiguity with the jewelled hilt of a dagger." Scimitars are everywhere. Most of the male characters have either ferocious mustaches or flaming beards. With the thunder of hoofs mingles the

QUITE HARMLESS.

CALLING THE TUNE. By Justin Huntly McCarthy. 12mo., pp. 315. The George H. Doran Company.

In this volume of denatured fiction the author of "If I Were King" departs from the tinsel setting of the dashing days when gallant gentlemen wore a ruff at the neck and a sword by the side, wherein he has so been wont to disport himself, and settles in a modern and dully respectable London suburb. Here, however, it need not surprise you to learn, dwelleth "a suburban angel" with the figure of a nymph and a face framed in glorious hair, one Gondoline. The lovely Miss Winbush is having rather a stupid time of it here, owing to the fact of her somewhat musty father's being so wrapped up in his great invention, Winbush's Stabilizer, a contrivance designed to solve the problem of the conquest of the air, when, lo and behold! along comes none other than Mr. Wickliff Hershman, late of Buenos Ayres. This gentleman gives one somewhat of a start as a leading figure in a romance of modern chivalry. He is middle aged and not at all slim. Some time back he made love to Gondoline's mother. Since that time, it appears, he has been pretty much what is commonly described as a "rounder." He is rich. Tall, young Charlie Trevor is poor, but

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

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