The Psychic Literature Shelf Reaches Six-Foot Proportions

The Threshold of Mystery

Many Writers Attempt to Rend Veil Between Two Worlds

PHENOMENA OF MATERIALIZATION. By Baron von Schrenck Notzing. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York.
THE FOUNDATIONS OF SPIRITUALISM. By W. Whately Smith. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York.
LAST LETTERS FROM THE LIVING DEAD MAN. By Elsa Barker. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York.
THE OTHER SIDE GOD'S DOOR. By Mabel Nixon Robertson. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York.
THE INITIATE. By "His Pupil." E. P. Dutton & Co., New York.
TRUE TALES OF THE WEIRD. By Sydney Dickinson. Duffield & Co., New York.
FAMOUS PSYCHIC STORIES. Edited by J. Walker McSpadden. Thomas Y. Crowell Company, New York.
OCCULT PHILOSOPHY. By Isabella Ingalese. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York.

THE present widespread interest in psychic phenomena is a crest of a wave that started to move about two decades ago. During the years from 1905 to 1910 there were published many books and magazine articles that dealt with spiritualism, spiritism and the manifestation of strange and apparently uncharted psychical forces.

The war, with its tremendous death-roll, gave the receding wave a new impetus that culminated in a record-height in definite statements to the press, and in pamphlets and in books, by Sir Oliver Lodge, Sir Conan Doyle and lesser fry in the psychic swarm. The student of the literature of the new science, or of an old set of semi-mystical theories revamped, perceives with satisfaction a trend toward a scientific, critical study and appraisal of all recorded psychic phenomena of to-day.

A Few Points of Light

In the almost stygian darkness of this truly enthralling subject, that of spiritism in its broad scope and content, there are visible pin-points of vivid light, diminutive apertures in the black veil between the worlds of the living and the so-called dead. Query—Are they real beginnings of a greater flood of light, or are they the gleams of an ignis fatuus?

To base our study of the eight books named above in something solidly tangible, we begin with Phenomena of Materialization (Dutton) by Baron von Schrenck Notzing, translated by E. E. Fournier d'Albe. This is a rather ponderous book in which are recorded detailed accounts, scrupulous in matters of minutiæ of record and of resultant speculation, of the surprising European experiments of Dr. Schrenck Notzing. Here is a mass of testimony difficult to brush aside as ephemeral or unreliable. Dr. Schrenck Notzing, disdaining the airy manifestations of automatic writing, verbal messages of entranced mediums and the usual claptrap paraphernalia of the mediumistic closet, sat at close range, with a camera at hand, while "Eva C." and "Stanislava P." were the media for a series of remarkable feats of materialization. "Materialization" appears to be the production, through the channel of the body of a medium entranced, of strange effluvia that assume weird shapes. One cannot dismiss this record of experiences—the book goes to 340 pages and contains 225 illustrations—with a smile of incredulity, claiming that the witnesses have been recipients, recorders of psychic phenomena while unwittingly hypnotized or acting as unconscious conduits of thought and of motor propulsion. The camera does not lie, does not evade, cannot be bamboozled or mesmerized.

Many Records Given

And so, in this authoritative book we have record after record of the formation, apparently out of nothing, or from effluvia created in and freed from the body of the medium, of substances that mimic fabrics of man's handiwork and time and again bear the contours of human forms and faces. Of course, such a history is enthrallingly interesting in places, although tedious in its general longevity and the prolixity of its record. The book, as a total, is monumental, stands at the dividing line between fact and phantasm in psychic research, cannot be overlooked or dodged as fantastic.

We wish to criticize one conclusion arrived at by the author and his co-operators. In the experiences with Eva C filmy faces were seen in close juxtaposition to the medium, and they were caught by the camera. The supported theory outlined in this book is that the medium, while in a natural mental state, looked over certain magazines and had photographs of the King of Bulgaria, ex-President Poincare, President Wilson and other notables caught on the sensitive plate of her mind, later to be projected in teleplasmic form into the free air of human observation and captured by the camera. That these appearances were motivated by discarnate spirits there is not an iota of proof, nor is it claimed that they were. They were manifestations of a force not yet apprehended even in its fringes of power. What we wish to say in way of criticism is this: The photographs, to our mind, do not reveal likenesses of the men named sufficiently strong enough to warrant the claims advanced. The whole matter is astounding without the dragging in of kings and presidents.

For the Unbeliever

When the Archbishop of Canterbury, at the recent Lambeth Conference of the Anglican clergy, recommended W. Whately Smith's The Foundations of Spiritualism (Dutton) as a reliable textbook on the spiritualistic theory, he picked the one modern book that can be read with satisfaction by an unbeliever. The writer of this review is an agnostic in his attitude toward everything that savors of spiritualism. We went through this cautious little book with pleasure. It states the case, pro and con, succinctly and with clarity. Mr. Smith has winnowed out a few cases of significant phenomena from a huge bin of chaff. He admits, finally, that there have been a dozen or so perfectly authenticated episodes in the maze of incidents recorded by spiritualists and experimenters that baffle all efforts to explain them away as mere freaks of telepathy or as combinations of chance in human mental activities. They seem to indicate the existence of life after death, a survival that does not connote immortality. Spiritualism as a science or as a religion, have it as you will, produces, through these few circumstantial proofs, if such they be, a species of view into the life to come. Mr. Smith gives a table of six plausible conditions of that life, as predicated in these so-called revelations. Here are two of them: "A man is the same five minutes after death as he was five minutes before it, except that he has added one more item to his stock of experiences. The whole content of consciousness is carried forward into his new environment; that is to say, his memory is unimpaired and substantially continuous."

"Letters From the Dead"

In 1914 appeared a book that created a veritable sensation in the circle of the elect of psychicdom, Elsa Barker's Letters From a Living Dead Man. This collection of epistles in automatic writing was the advance courier of a legion of similar books and pamphlets, all touted as containing communications from men, women and children, sisters, cousins and aunts, in Paradise or its lower gardens. To-day Elsa Barker gives the world her final volume of this nature, Last Letters From the Living Dead Man (Dutton). We have read this book through from alpha to omega, and we grant it distinction for its qualities of poetic prose and frequent loftiness of thought. Yet it in no sentence reveals any flame or color of fire kindled from an immortal torch. There are scores of writers in the United States who could run off a similar book deliberately without any hint of supernormal suggestion or inspiration. We believe that Elsa Barker has been sincere in all these "automatic" books from her pen. We are convinced that she wrote them under the drive of a purely native impulse. The theme of this concluding volume—that of "faith in the great and orderly future of America"—is inspirational in the line of orthodox nationalism.

Less convincing than the book just reviewed is Mabel Nixon Robertson's The Other Side God's Door (Dutton), which is the autobiographical record of the manner in which the author was led to dabble with automatic writing and a statement of the results attained. This writer is so honestly frank in her belief that she has been a bearer of messages to the world from Lord Kitchener, Mary Baker Eddy and others that we find it difficult to be harsh in our remarks. Yet it is funny to figure the stern soldier, "the icy 'K,'" as some one termed him, metaphorically wringing ghostly hands at the memory of his death, with "the awfulness of it all, the blackness, the pitching boat, the towering waves!" If Kitchener had any message for the world to-day, one that we would be inclined to accept as from fountainhead, it would be a terse criticism or review of British war policy in 1914-15. Poor Mrs. Eddy wails because she was not a spiritualist in her old Boston days, but that's enough for this book. Mrs. Robertson is too good a woman—her text, which is always herself speaking, is vital with sincerity—to be made a target for cruel arrows.

A Psychic Novel

The next book of our octet is a novel, The Initiate (Dutton). The author hides behind a mask of anonymity, introducing himself as "His Pupil." We have read this book and were surprised that it did not tire us. One will travel along many shelves of books on the psychic universe ere he reaches a book that tells more, in an ingratiatingly intimate way, than does this story of a man who attained to the bliss of perfect harmony with the resources of mortal and discarnate knowledge. Justin Moreward Haig had solved a big batch of soul-mysteries before he walks upon the stage in chapter one of The Initiate. Suave, kindly, compelling in speech and in glance, he moves among men and women with the dignity of a Brahmin and the gentleness of a St. John. Thoughts in other minds are read by him as they evolve into completion; remote causes and effects are telegraphed to the ear of his sensitive aura. He is a wizard in solving the nodule of an iron difficulty. He never errs, yet is everlastingly human. His creator or disciple sets him before us as the type of a man made perfect through a strict obedience to laws read only by a mind attuned to a sphere that encircles and impinges upon our own. We say we read this book through. We did, curious to discover where in the world or in Heaven Haig would lead us. We won't read it again, despite its decently good construction, for one session with J. M. Haig is enough. He'd be an awful bore inside two days were he alone with us.

Breaking Into Fiction

The literature of psychic phenomena in the division of fiction is still small in bulk, especially as to stories that are handed to us as accounts of actual happenings witnessed or felt by human beings. A little book that hovers near to being a classic in its field is Sydney Dickinson's True Tales of the Weird (Duffield). The opening story in this set of four brief ones and one long one is the deservedly famous and really beautiful "A Mystery of Two Continents," the facts of which have been so stanchly vouched for that one hesitates to question. We advise all who are to any degree interested in the fiction or the reality of psychic phenomena to get this book and read slowly and thoughtfully the record of the violets and daisylike flowers that journeyed mysteriously from Italy to Massachusetts. We take refuge in our comfortable agnosticism when confronted by affairs and matters of the kind related in True Tales of the Weird. These things may be, we say, but we don't know why or how.

We have maintained that the essential element of psychic revelation, the thrill of the abnormal and inexplicable, is best staged in fiction in the short story. That horrible book, Dracula, would be far more chilling if condensed and given a rapid crescendo. Proofs of our contention are found in J. Walker McSpadden's Famous Psychic Stories (Crowell), a collection of twelve of the best brief tales of the uncanny written in the English language. Each story of the grewsome dozen has the proper spine-congealing caress. We commend the reader to Margaret Oliphant's The Open Door, which, read by us for the third time within a year, loses not a whit of its force.

A Standard Work

One of the standard works on occultism is Isabella Ingalese's Occult Philosophy (Dodd, Mead & Co.), first published in 1908 and now reissued in an amended and enlarged form. Where many treatises of this nature are tiresome in their wanderings through thin atmosphere of the intangible and problematical, this book goes directly to a presentation of the arguments for reincarnation and the achievement of perfection through merging of the self in the containing Self of the Universe. No two straight-thinking persons are likely to arrive at similar conclusions in their study of occult phenomena and theses, but few sincere gropers for Truth will deny the benefit derived from an effort to live in harmony with the laws established through an obedience to the occultist's statement of the relations of sex and of parenthood.

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African Forests

WEST AFRICAN FORESTS AND FORESTRY. By A. Harold Unwin. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co. $10.

West African forestry can scarcely be called a subject of wide popular interest in this country. But for the small circle of interested experts, Dr. Unwin's book is a mine of valuable information. The author has spent thirteen years in west Africa in forestry work, and his description of the various kinds of trees to be found in this region is thorough, conscientious and scientific. He also discusses the oil beans, seeds and nuts which bulk large in the total of west African products, and takes up the oil palm and palm kernel industry. The work is illustrated by a hundred photographs taken by the author. It has many points of appeal both for the scientist and for the practical business man.

MISS DANA GATLIN, author of Missy, understands the mind of the young girl

Missy Is a Story of Girlhood

Dana Gatlin's Heroine a Sort of Seventeen in Skirts

MISSY. By Dana Gatlin. Published by Doubleday, Page & Co.

SOMETHING similar to the emotions called forth in the masculine heart upon reading Seventeen will be experienced by most feminine readers of Missy, by Dana Gatlin. This Missy is the little girl many of us have seen. Her background is the average small town in the Middle West, delightfully real through Miss Gatlin's eyes. There is something familiar in her home life, even in her relatives. The routine of their lives, the big events, the good times, and even the differences which may result in scoldings or milder reproof, are the common experience of persons born and brought up in the atmosphere of the healthy type of American small towns.

Missy is "different," just as so many growing girls imagine themselves to be. This young lady, however, lacks the self-consciousness and affectation which many little girls assume for a time. She really seems to be different, more imaginative and introspective than some of her companions. These qualities are built on a normal base of good spirits and sanity. She has none of the exotic qualities of the child genius. Missy is healthy and full of life and an all-round little girl with a something that makes her particularly sweet and appealing.

Her reactions to religion are the theme of the first story in the book of Missy. The repentance of the young lady for being a "spy-eye" results in public confession at a revival meeting, which, though relieving to the youthful sinner's soul, is somewhat disastrous to those she has wronged.

In later chronicles Missy takes up romance and succeeds very well as a matchmaker. She goes through the phase of being a "helpful influence" in the life of a youth of her acquaintance, who is naturally very handsome. Her father is one of the most sympathetic persons in her young life.

As Missy grows up she discovers that, although not beautiful like some of her duffer friends, she "has eyes." Her ambition to express herself some way in poetry or music is shunted aside in a perfectly normal way when the opportunity for good times and the admiration of young men interfere with genius.

Miss Gatlin's accounts of incidents in the life of Missy are pretty evenly interesting and well done. The principal, though by no means the only strong point in the stories is that the people, and particularly the little heroine herself, are such real, living persons.

A Novel of the Soil

Story of Southern Ohio Goes to Root of Things

THE MOON-MARK. By Mary S. Watts. Published by The Macmillan Company, New York.

HISTORIANS have derived much material for their histories of the United States from files of old newspapers. The future historian of the life of the nation will go to novels for authentic records of present-day customs and manners and for those more intangible but tremendously vital elements, the mental and spiritual agents in the light to exist and to perpetuate tradition. The writer of the years to come will open, among other novels, the stories written by Mary S. Watts, for in them, netted in the web of prose, are additions of contemporary speech and defined shiftings and stabilizings of social strata. Mrs. Watts is phonographic in her reproduction of dialect, especially in her rendering of the patois of the tenement house and the street, that language chameleonlike in its adaptations of color to the prismatic hues of a temperamental period. She is photographic in her plastering of imagined scenes that we know can be reproduced readily in a myriad American homes of to-day.

The novel of 1920 from the pen of this novelist in our midst "taking notes" is The Moon-Mark, which is, in its final analysis, the story of the life to young maturity of a working girl of Cincinnati; it can be no other city. Nettie Stoffel, a Diana in face and in form, has, among other saving qualities, an innate sense of position, a realization of her limitations and a strength to refuse to mount a ladder that must lead her to a social level she cannot tread with ease, even with safety. The romance of her relations with the aristocratic Randon McQuain, beginning with an amusing episode of their childhood and ending in her dressing their engagement, is treated with a fine sympathy, intuitive and gentle. Nettie, bourgeois in home and associations, sees that Randon some time will be aware of the difference between them and be brought to moments, perhaps hours, of chagrin and disappointment. In her charity of true friendship, she tells him to go.

Thomas Hardy an Architect

Thomas Hardy, whose novels and poems of Wessex are published in this country by Harper & Brothers, designed the marble tablet which has just been erected to the memory of the men of the Dorchester, England, postal staff who fell in the war.

Mysteries de Luxe

Sixteen Baffling Stories of Wild Adventure

THE SLEUTH OF ST. JAMES SQUARE. By Melville Davisson Post. Published by Appleton & Co., New York.

THERE has been, since mystical Poe, verbose Gaboriau and clever Doyle, a long succession of writers of mystery stories that usually require the ministrations of detectives ere they end. We had begun to be apprehensive, fearful lest the plot machines of our novelists of the school of the picaresque could grind out ideas, skeletons for the flesh and blood of fact stories, only of a few conventional patterns. We confess to a delightful shiver of pleasure, for we have been reading Melville Davisson Post's The Sleuth of St. James Square. In the sixteen stories of this book there is enough novelty in construction and surprise in outcome to give inspiration for a hundred imitative yarns by lesser souls.

Post, as some one has said with acumen, develops his story along all lines simultaneously. He does not toss you into a mystery and then lead you out or at through stages of enlightenment. He brings in a few characters to shake hands with you, slips in with a situation or an incident that demands solution and then marches along with you to unravelings. In that smokily gaunt story, "The Thing on the Hearth," you are held oblivious of the geography of your room and its furbelows until the book drops to your knees with the words of finality. In "The Reward" and "The Cumbered Foot" there is absolutely nothing, not a shred of clew, in the current of narrative that tells where the thing is going. And so, in tale after tale, the exposure at finis is as sharp as sudden sunlight through rapidly shorn clouds. We call this great art. It is nothing else.

A Colonial Governor

Important Pre-Revolutionary Events Revealed in Biography

HISTORIANS have held to the view that the interval between the English revolution and that which freed us from the British crown, especially when considered in connection with the American colonies, was not one particularly fruitful with progress. It has been called a "no-man's land," sterile and with no road leading to fields of social cultivation and political development. So it is with surprise that we read Professor George Arthur Wood's William Shirley (Columbia Univ.), the first volume of which, extending to 400 pages, is before us.

Shirley's name is forever linked with the famous Louisburg expedition of 1745, that daring and wholly successful, although unprofitable, feat of arms led by the yeomen of Boston. As reviewed by Professor Wood, in the light of recently unearthed information, that event is to be regarded as an index to the fighting Governor's continental policy of a British North America that should shut out France and extend to the Spanish settlements to the South; in short, a foregleam of Pitt's dream of empire.

Tempted to review this genuine addition to American history at length, we are compelled to dismiss it with a concise epitome of its contents. William Shirley was an imperial in the colonial quarters of a Governor of Massachusetts. In this book we are granted a strangely exhilarating survey of the first movements, on American soil, of a policy that within a quarter-century of its inception swung the whole drift of English history into new and broader channels. Shirley thrust at Louisburg carried in its drum-beat a roll that was to sound on the Plains of Abraham and the fields of India.

Ulysses S. Grant

New Edition of Hamlin Garland's Biography

ULYSSES S. GRANT: HIS LIFE AND CHARACTER. By Hamlin Garland. Published by The Macmillan Company. $4.

THE rugged, austere figure of Ulysses S. Grant is humanized for us in this new edition of Hamlin Garland's excellent biography. The author states the purpose and achievement of his work quite adequately in his introduction:

"This book is not to be taken as a military history of General Grant. It is not, perhaps, everything that is understood by the word 'biography,' but it tells the story of Ulysses Grant from his birth to his death. It is an attempt at characterization. It has not been my intention to set down all the significant words and deeds of General Grant, nor to analyze all the official acts of President Grant, but to present the man Grant as he stands to-day before unbiased critics. If I succeed in making the reader a little better acquainted with his great and singular character I shall feel that my larger purpose has been carried out."

So the author gives us not an exhaustive political and military record of Grant's career, but rather a series of intimate sketches of Grant's personality as it is revealed in the many episodes of his active life. Like Lincoln, Grant was a product of the frontier. He was born in a cabin in a little Ohio village. The author shows Grant a typical country boy, driving a team when he was only eight years old, entering West Point and experiencing the rough discipline that falls to the lot of the plebe, serving in the Mexican War, oscillating aimlessly between various civilian pursuits.

Then comes the picture of the years of glory, of the mighty war in which Grant proved the final architect of victory. The military hero becomes President; his later years are clouded by the unfortunate bankruptcy which came as a result of his own inexperience and the knavery of some of his friends, but they are ennobled by the unconquerable will and the heroic resignation which he displayed in the midst of suffering and sorrow.

Mr. Garland is no blind hero worshiper; he frankly admits that Grant made serious mistakes in the Presidency by appointing corrupt and incompetent men to responsible posts and clinging to them even in the face of decisive evidence as to their unfitness. But he justly contends that most of the accusations hurled against Grant by his political opponents were either false or grossly exaggerated. The comparison frequently drawn between Grant and Julius Cæsar was certainly ridiculously unjust to both men. And very few will dispute the author's assertion that Grant's place in American history is beside Lincoln and Washington, among those who, in the fine French phrase, "have deserved well of the Republic."

Leadership

MANPOWER. By Lincoln C. Andrews. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co. $2.00.

THE qualities that mark the successful officer in war are equally essential for the efficient performance of the peace-time tasks of industrial construction. General Andrews outlines the qualities which contribute to the making of that more or less intangible achievement of personality commonly known as leadership. The author emphasizes the fact that the days of slavery are over and that the truly great leader relies upon example and persuasion rather than upon brute force. The business executive should find much material for profitable reflection in General Andrews's work.

Uses of Chemistry

CHEMISTRY AND CIVILIZATION. By Allerton S. Cushman. Published by Richard G. Badger. $2.50.

DR. CUSHMAN, who is director of the Institute of Industrial Research at Washington, describes the manifold contributions of chemical science to civilization. He shows how chemistry has been pressed into service to enlarge the scope both of industry and of war. Taking up the question of the probable future development of chemistry he discusses radium and radiography, chemistry and the invisible spectrum, and the Einstein theory in relation to chemical science.

The Foreign Policy of Japan

A. M. Pooley's Study of Especial Interest to America

JAPAN'S FOREIGN POLICIES. By A. M. Pooley. Published by Dodd, Mead & Co.

IN JAPAN'S FOREIGN POLICIES, an American edition of which has been issued by Dodd, Mead & Co., A. M. Pooley, formerly Reuter's correspondent in Japan, exhibits a pronounced anti-Japanese bias. An earlier work by the same author, Japan at the Cross Roads, was not allowed to be circulated in Japan.

In Mr. Pooley's view Japan's foreign policy is relentlessly nationalistic and imperialistic, aiming at domination of China and the Far East. Nippon, he says, is the Germany of the Pacific. Though an Englishman, he deplores the British-Japanese alliance and declares that the Japanese are at heart anti-British.

Mr. Pooley is ardently pro-Chinese. He believes that America and the European powers alone can preserve China's integrity and uphold the "open door" policy. To the Japanese, of course, it seems strange that a European should criticize Japan's desire to get a political and economical foothold in China, as Japanese policy is only modeled on earlier Far Eastern policy of Great Britain, France, Russia and Germany. Moreover, the Japanese think that they have a superior claim in the matter of exploiting China, since they are China's nearest neighbor and have a close kinship with the Chinese in language, race and culture.

Japan wants to set up a Japanese Monroe Doctrine in the East, and has good precedents for such an aspiration. It is of little use for European nations, or for America, to challenge that policy on moral or sentimental grounds. The issue is one of *Realpolitik*. It boils down to this: Is it expedient for Europe and the United States to allow Japan to create a hegemony over eastern Asia?

Mr. Pooley goes to the root of the difficulties between Japan and the United States. He says that the disputes about immigration, naturalization and land ownership are trivial. Japan excludes foreign immigrants, practically prohibits naturalization and makes alien ownership of land extremely difficult. She has no justification for complaint of American treatment of Japanese nationals in this respect, except that we give other foreigners privileges which are denied to her subjects.

"The real problem," says the author, "is whether or not the Japanese are to become masters of the Pacific and the dominators of Oriental politics. Every other question which has arisen between the States and Japan from 1906 to the present time is, in fact, a local and subsidiary one."

The author thinks the United States is right in refusing naturalization to Japanese, because they are not assimilable. They would retain their old allegiance, he says. Prince Katsura admitted in 1912:

"Japanese who go abroad remain Japanese subjects and no form of naturalization would alter them."

Mr. Pooley bitterly denounces Japan's Chinese policy during the World War and evinces no words about the Shantung settlement. These perhaps too pungent remarks about America's role in the settlement are of interest to Americans:

"In November, 1917, by the Lansing-Ishii agreement, Japan obtained from America a recognition of her special rights in China. Those rights are unspecified. Nobody can doubt that the rights meant included those in Manchuria, Mongolia, Shantung, Fukien and the Yangtze. Mr. Wilson certainly knew of the secret agreements [those between Great Britain, France, Italy and Russia, on the one hand, and Japan on the other], as also of the published ones, because on March 1, 1918, Mr. Balfour so stated in the House of Commons. It is true that on August 19, 1919, Mr. Wilson stated to Senator Johnson that he did not know of them until after the armistice, but the evidence is overwhelming to the contrary. In any case, we give Mr. Balfour precedence over President Wilson on a question of veracity. "It didn't really matter whether or not Mr. Wilson knew or did not know. To refuse Japan's demands at the Peace Conference would certainly have entailed war with Japan. President Wilson, who was not too proud to threaten war with exhausted Britain over the allocation of the German tonnage in American ports, was much too wise to risk a war with Japan, especially with his battle fleet on this side of the Atlantic.

"The whole affair is a drastic example of how not to be a President! If a Foreign Minister or a Premier had laid down the fourteen points and drafted the gospel of the League of Nations, the business would have worked out quite otherwise. Foreign Ministers and Premiers often have to eat their words, or, if their moral stomach revolts there against, they resign and some one else takes their place and digests the meal. It is their business. But when the head of a state is called on to do so it is very different, especially when he is an elective head, on whose success or failure depends far more than any single item of policy. The head of a state should never make a pronouncement, except in his electoral campaign, when his expressions are necessarily more in the nature of saintly aspirations than practical politics."

Mr. Pooley seems to want to invite comparison with Mr. Keynes and Dr. Dillon as a Wilsonian satirist.

A Prose Poem

ROMANCE and beauty are the outstanding characteristics of The Stars in the Pool, by Edna Kingsley Wallace (Dutton). The witchery of fairyland creeps into this quaint tale of the wooing of the Princess Rosehart. Beautiful in conception, the idyll is adequately sustained by the author's marked gift of literary expression. The delicate imagery will haunt the reader as a delightful memory for many days.

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