

Tracing Spiritualism From the Fox Sisters to Sir Oliver

Date of Birth Placed as 1848

Joseph McCabe's History Outlines the Growth of the Cult

SPIRITUALISM: A Popular History. By Joseph McCabe. Published by Dodd, Mead & Co.

MR. McCABE'S history places the birth of Spiritualism definitely at the year 1848, and unfolds the lively panorama of seventy-three years of mesmerizing, haunted houses, table-turning, materializing of spirits, automatic writing, "reporting" of objects by ghosts through solid walls, conversions and recantations of scientists, unsavory scandals and spicy spook gossip.

If he granted the validity of one small spirit manifestation among the endless claims he sifts he would be admitting that there is such a thing as communication with the dead, regardless of the fraud or truthfulness of every other demonstration—an admission that would bring the whole world of modern ideas tumbling about our ears in a fashion that would make Darwinism or the discovery of gravitation seem like puny incidental disturbances. But that is precisely what Mr. McCabe, for one, will not grant. He begins with the little French peasant girl who was charged with an amazing "electric fluid" that sent emanations of power from her—and comments admiringly on the strong leg muscles with which little Angelique made the table go through its "occult" movements.



Quicksands of Youth

By FRANKLIN CHASE HOYT

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Lawrence, possessing such splendid powers as a craftsman in fiction, elects to picture a delicate phase of human life in a passionate and dangerously alluring manner, and has been a puzzle to more than one kindly critic.

The heroine of this novel, Alvina Houghton, reared in a middle-class home in industrial England, restrained from what Lawrence regards a legitimate freedom through the arresting influences of heredity and environment, meets the problem of sex while a nurse in a hospital, is led to a wondering and a perhaps furtive desire to experiment. Later, when her father, on the brink of financial crash, opens a moving-picture "palace," she becomes its pianist. There she meets a troupe of itinerant players who stage a ridiculous bit of mimicry of the noble American Indian—Lawrence intends it to be sincere, but it is funny; she is lured by them, their strange ways and wiles, and finally falls under the sway of one Ciccio, a yellow-eyed Italian with a beautiful nose to his neck. Her affair with this to us repulsive gentleman is tawdry in its cheap licentiousness.

And so the story of Alvina is that of a "lost girl"—the phrase is coined by prim, Methodist Miss Pinnegar, of the novel—and, in progress of forced household developments, it is cruelly logical. Lawrence's hand and mind are too fine to be wasted forever in this pitiful of a degrading sex problem.

One-Act Plays

A Complete Repertory for the Little Theater

FIFTY CONTEMPORARY ONE-ACT PLAYS. Edited by Frank Shay and Pierre Lovine. Published by Stewart & Kidd Company, Cincinnati.

A COMPLETE repertory for the little theater is contained in this excellent collection of one-act plays. The work is a pioneer in its field. No other anthology shows so clearly what is being done in this particular dramatic form all over the world. As Mr. Lovine points out in his introduction, American plays predominate over those of any other single country, both because they are most readily available and because the one-act play has become a popular vehicle of expression for many of our most promising younger dramatists. Many of the American plays are familiar to New York theatergoers through the productions of the Provincetown Players. So far as personal preference is concerned Susan Gaspelle's "Trifles," Eugene O'Neill's "Ile," and Edna St. Vincent Millay's "Aria da Capo" stand out as the best of the native one-act dramas.

The Australian in France

Commander of the Colonial Corps Praises His Men

THE AUSTRALIAN VICTORIES IN FRANCE IN 1918. By Lieutenant General Sir John Monash. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York.

LUDENDORFF spoke of August 8, 1918, as "the black day for the German army." A large part of the success of the Allied arms on that day was due to the heroism of the only purely volunteer army that fought in the Great War, the Australian Corps, and its commander, Lieutenant General Sir John Monash, in his noble eulogistic book gives his men full credit for their spirit, their courage, their endurance in an hour when the fate of Europe shivered in the scales.

Unlike the majority of war treatises, reflective and critical, written by superior officers, this book is devoted wholly to the conduct of the men led and commanded rather than to the arithmetical and topographical problems of major strategy and tactics. Monash shows by inference what the American forces might have come to be had they trained the long months of persistent training given to the Australian Corps. For there were similarities in the two bodies of men, in physical make-up and in zeal for individual enterprise under fire. The value of long endurance in the field of war is shown clearly in Monash's regret that in August, 1918, it was proposed to give 6,000 Australians who had served without break for nearly four years a furlough. He considered those men, just as Grant did the seasoned brigades of the 2d and 6th Corps of the Army of the Potomac in 1865, the cream



WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS, in whose honor a memorial service is to be held by the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the National Institute of Arts and Letters

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of his command. For war is not wholly a matter of heroism; it is largely an affair to be met successfully only with a scarred and tested group of fighting men at your desperate centers of action.

Here is Monash's statement of the Australian victory of August 8, 1918: "A hole had been driven on a width of nearly twelve miles right through the German defense, and had blotted out at one blow the whole of the military resources which it had contained. The obligation which was thereby cast upon the enemy to throw into the gap troops and guns hastily collected from every part of his front imposed upon him also an increased vulnerability at every other point which had to be so denuded."

A verifying echo is discovered in the confession wrung from Ludendorff in his Memoirs: "They broke through the Somme and the Luce deep into our front. The divisions in line allowed themselves to be completely overwhelmed."

Perhaps the best brief summary of the qualities of the Australian soldier to be found in this book is the following: "Psychologically, he was easy to lead, but difficult to drive. His imagination was readily fired. War was to him a game and he played for his side with enthusiasm. His bravery was founded upon his sense of duty to his unit, comradeship to his fellows, emulation to uphold his traditions and a combative spirit to avenge his hardships and sufferings upon the enemy."

A Wise Man's Garden

English Author Makes His Garden a Background for Philosophy

A GARDEN OF PEACE. By F. Frankfort Moore. Published by George H. Doran Company, New York.

TO THE literature of flowers, vines and fruits add a book that blends the blossoms of prose and poetry with those of the rose and its fellows, F. Frankfort Moore's "A Garden of Peace" (Doran). The author acquired, a few years ago, an estate in southern England near the Channel and proceeded to transform it into a sympathetic home and shelter for beautiful things of the plant world. Beginning with the remains of an early British castle, that made an imposing corner for his property, he developed a series of little gardens that reflected in their individual integrities the modes of England, southern Europe, even Japan, in arrangements and improvised backgrounds. As Moore says in this book, "You will find great pleasure in realizing your ideas and your ideals if you devote yourself to growth and growth only; all that I do affirm is that your pleasure will be greatly increased if you try by all the means in your power to make your garden worthy of the flowers."

We find in this pleasantly meditative volume of 800 pages a mirror for the intellectual whims and sage comment on men and their writings, of one who loves the old for its charm and welcomes the visible tokens of talent and genius in things said and written by men of to-day. There is a basis of form in life, Moore asserts, "almost every flower is a geometrical study," and such a contention admits no abiding place for the silly composers of modern free verse. Tennyson, and here we agree with this author, has not been equaled by any poet of this century in command of a meter flexible and capable of producing enormous and splendid effects. For Tennyson worked on a ground plan of law, rhythm controlled by a swing and tide as sure as the flow and ebb of the sea.

Fighting the Sleeping Sickness

English Scientist Discovers Way to Exterminate Deadly Tse-tse Fly

A NATURALIST ON LAKE VICTORIA. By G. D. Hale Carpenter. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co.

SEVERAL supposed cases of sleeping sickness, a well known, dread and often fatal African disease, have recently been reported in this country, although it is doubted whether the African disease and that now appearing here are the same. In view of this fact, special interest is attached to Mr. Carpenter's exhaustive study of the habits of the tse-tse fly, which is the chief carrier of the malady. The author gives the following authoritative account of the cause, symptoms and stages of sleeping sickness:

"In a few words it may be said that the cause of the disease is a minute unicellular creature, called a Trypanosome, belonging to the lowest order of animal life, which is, as it were, inoculated by the bite of a blood-sucking fly, the 'tse-tse,' or Glossina.

"A common history given by patients who suffer from sleeping sickness is that they have been in a country where they were much bitten by tse-tse flies, and that after a few days a painful swelling has appeared on the neck, accompanied by high fever. The swelling may appear to be on the point of becoming an abscess, but does not do so, and gradually subsides. It is probable that this represents the site where the fly which was the cause of the infection actually bit. The fever may subside in a few days, and recurs at irregular intervals lasting weeks or months. It often reaches a high point attended with delirium.

"There is a good deal of headache, debility and languor and vague pains in the legs. An interesting feature is the appearance of an erythematous rash, mainly on the chest and back. There is great wasting and enlargement of the glands of the neck. Another interesting feature is puffiness of parts of the face and body. This oedematous swelling is a particular feature of the diseases of animals, which are, as will be seen, so very closely connected with sleeping sickness.

"This condition may go on for years and has been known to disappear altogether with an apparent cure. It is known as 'trypanosomiasis.' Next comes the stage to which the term 'sleeping sickness' more properly applies. The drowsiness becomes accentuated, so that the subject takes no interest in his surroundings and does not trouble to eat, though he will eat food if it is brought to him and he is fed. The fever continues irregularly, the eyes become more puffy, the lips and tongue tremulous, the wasting more and more pronounced, until death finally supervenes with the patient in a state of coma. At the last there may be mania and convulsions.

The disease appeared on a large scale in the province of Uganda in 1901 and spread havoc for several years. After five years the number of victims is estimated at 200,000. The British government attempted to combat the epidemic by removing the natives from the areas which were chiefly infested with the flies, and this policy proved comparatively successful. During the period from 1905 to 1917 there were only 30,000 deaths from this cause in the whole of the Uganda Protectorate; and the mortality is steadily decreasing.

Mr. Carpenter sought out the tse-tse fly in one of its chief lairs, the islands and shores of the huge African Lake Victoria, the second largest lake in the world. He outlines the natural history of the insect in considerable detail and suggests a feasible method of exterminating the pest by encouraging it to breed in particular localities and then destroying the eggs.

The author does not confine himself to a description of his special task. He tells a fascinating story of his canoe trip through Lake Victoria. There is an account of a tropical storm that might have come out of the pages of a Conrad novel. The author is a keen observer of the numerous birds and beasts of the region. He devotes a long chapter to the subject of insect coloration, relating many extraordinary instances of protective and mimetic colors which help to save the insects from their enemies.

Full of luxuriant vegetation and inhabited by many different species of animals, the country about Lake Victoria is a paradise for the naturalist. Mr. Carpenter gives a picture of the wild beauties of this Central African lake that should gain and hold the attention of his readers, whether they be naturalists or not.

There is no reason, in Mr. Carpenter's opinion, to fear a spread of sleeping sickness beyond Africa. The disease is not contagious, and the insects which carry the infection are confined to certain more or less definite regions in tropical Africa.

To Honor Howells

A Memorial Meeting to Be Held Tuesday

THE eighty-fourth anniversary of the birth of the late William Dean Howells will be celebrated at a meeting in his honor, arranged by the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the National Institute of Arts and Letters. Howells was president of the Academy from its inception to the date of his death, May 11, 1920.

By special invitation of the trustees of the New York Public Library the meeting will be held in the Stuart Gallery of the library on Tuesday afternoon, March 1.

Several prominent figures in the world of literature will make short addresses at the meeting. Augustus Thomas will speak on Howells, the Dramatist; William Allen White, on Howells, the Essayist; Jesse Lynch Williams, on Howells, the Humorist; Brander Matthews, on Howells, the Writer, and Robert Grant, on Howells, the Novelist.

Henry van Dyke will speak on The Traveler from Altruria, and other addresses will be made by William Milligan Sloane, president of the Academy, and Hamlin Garland, acting secretary.

A Handbook of English

Handbook of English Composition

HANDBOOK OF ENGLISH COMPOSITION. By Luella Clay Carson. Published by the World Book Company.

THE second revised edition of Handbook of English Composition, by Luella Clay Carson, is a neat vest pocket reference of exceptional completeness, considering its size. The many laws of punctuation, capitalization, spelling and all, which every one is supposed to know but over which many a dispute arises momentarily, are given in the little book. It carries a foreword by H. W. Scott, editor of The Portland Morning Oregonian.

A Story of Old Egypt

The Man in the Jury Box

THE MAN IN THE JURY BOX. By Robert Orr Chipperfield. Published by Robert M. McBride.

WHEN a man with many enemies is found dead hours after the crime was committed, and a number of contradictory clues point in various directions, there is a problem for the sharpest witted detective. The Man in

Sisters in Law

A brilliant, intimate novel of two women and a man in San Francisco society and out of it. "Apart from and above the crowd of living American women writers stands Gertrude Atherton," says the Cincinnati Enquirer, "rich in those rare qualities of sane imagination, originality and courage. . . . She has never been better than in 'Sisters in Law.'"

"It's the best thing Mrs. Atherton has done, to our mind," says the Louisville Times. "The more we think about the book the better we like it. It grows on us."

"Mrs. Atherton has woven her romance with rare deftness that draws the reader from page to page. . . . Its characterization is firm, spirited and convincing."—N. Y. Sun.

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Tales of Aegean Intrigue

By J. C. Lawson, Naval Intelligence Officer

The Athenaeum says of it: "Mr. Lawson tells his stories modestly and vividly, and one has to be very biased not to feel the thrill of romance in a true story about a real Sherlock Holmes and a real spy. But Mr. Lawson is not merely a spinner of yarns; in a modest way he took part during 1918 in the making of a secret-service agent in Suda Bay he was a pawn in a great game played between Mr. Venizelos, King Constantine and the Allies, a game in which perhaps the final moves are now being made at Athens."

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the Jury Box is a long and complicated story; the plot is skillfully constructed, and the suspense is admirably maintained until the last chapter. Mr. Chipperfield shows himself a clever craftsman. The processes of tracking down the crime are analyzed with notable ingenuity and convincing realism. Those who enjoy good detective stories will make no mistake in taking up The Man in the Jury Box.

Lessons in Meditation

LESSONS IN MEDITATION. By Edith Armstrong Talbot. E. P. Dutton & Co.

ONE of the most important parts of religion, thinks Mrs. Talbot, is meditation, but it has almost dropped out of contemporary religious life. In these lessons she indicates a line of thought to be followed, illustrated by quotations and interpretations from the Scriptures, leading to a state of spiritual peace and joy. Mrs. Talbot is non-sectarian throughout, but leans on ancient and modern mystical writers and present writers of the New Thought school, in which she varies from some of the familiar ecclesiastical dogmas, notably in the minimizing of the penitential side of Christianity. Opinion of Mrs. Talbot's conclusions, however, will depend on the reader's personal point of view.

Chips of Jade

CHIPS OF JADE. By Arthur Guiterman. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co.

CHIPS OF JADE, which avers that it contains "Chinese Proverbs with More Folk Sayings from Hindustan and Other Oriental Countries," has a peculiarly Occidental flavor. But whether or not these axioms hail from the Orient or from Mr. Guiterman's agile mind, East and West (Mr. Kipling notwithstanding) may well meet on such shrewd sayings as these:

"If Right, though Right without a Flaw, Is All you have, don't go to Law."

And—

"My Father was a Scholar!" brags the Fool;

"My Mother was a Mare," proclaims the Mule.

Additional Attraction

The delay in the appearance of Henry Cabot Lodge's The Pilgrims of Plymouth, which Houghton Mifflin Company is bringing out in a special limited edition of 500 copies this month, is because the publishers decided to increase the personal interest of the book by asking Senator Lodge to autograph every copy. He has consented to do so, and the book will soon be on sale.

A Plea for Religion

EVOLUTION AND SOCIAL PROGRESS. By Joseph Huxelien. Published by F. J. Kennedy & Sons.

THE teachings of materialistic evolution are strenuously combated in this plea for the acceptance of Catholic faith as the basis of human life. The author contends that atheism prepares the way for tyranny, revolution and every conceivable moral evil. He quotes from the works of St. Augustine and other church fathers to show that the theory of evolution, conceived as a working out of the divine plan, is quite orthodox. But he severely condemns all scientific research which takes no account of the fundamental principles of the Christian religion.

A Baffling Crime

The Man in the Jury Box

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