

Middle Western and South African Themes in Week's Fiction

Twin Adventure Story by Wilson

Eccentric Small Town Humor Interspersed With a War Interlude

THE WRONG TWIN. By Harry Leon Wilson. Published by Doubleday, Page & Co.

THE WRONG TWIN is not a mystery story. The plot unfolds rather rapidly in the opening chapter. From the moment that one of the twins climbs boldly over the fence to pick blackberries in the graveyard, while the other holds back and turns pale, all doubt as to which is the wrong twin may be waved aside. A cowardly barefoot boy has none of the potentialities of a real hero.

And the prophecy holds good. Even when one twin gets himself adopted by the aristocrats of town and the other falls in love with a waitress in the Mansion House, we were not misled. The story could come out but one way. The right twin had to come into his own.

Harry Leon Wilson has shaped his novel to fit the times. Opening with a small-town "Main Street" setting, he later drifts into a war romance against a background of Bolshevik propaganda, and winds up by bringing every one back to the small town again. There is little opportunity for a reader to complain of any monotony.

With a humor that always rings true and a clear understanding of human nature, Mr. Wilson has many times proved that he can perform these literary stunts without any loss of dignity. In *The Wrong Twin* he never fails to note the big moment and make the most of it.

There is, for instance, the moment when Wilbur Cowan, the right twin, comes home from the war. At the station there is no one to meet him—no band, no relatives, no friends. Going up the street he meets old Mr. Dodswell. "Ain't that Wilbur Cowan?" Mr.

Dodswell calls. "How do do, Wilbur? Ain't you been away?"

"For a little while," answered Wilbur.

Passing on up to his house Wilbur finds his faithful dog Frank asleep by the woodhouse. The dog sniffed feebly at the newcomer. "It could be seen that his memory was stirred, but his eyes told him nothing; he had a complaining air of saying one met so many people. It was beyond one to place them all."

When Wilbur goes in to greet his family, they want to know about the war. "What war?" asked Wilbur.

"At supper he meets his father, Dave Cowan, for the first time. "Back?" said Dave. "Back," said his son. They shake hands. After a few preliminaries, his father remarks: "Say, tell us about the war." And Wilbur comes back promptly: "It was an awful big one."

Of such stuff are heroes made.

Political Stories

Mrs. A. S. Burleson Writes Good-Humoredly

EVERY POLITICIAN AND HIS WIFE. By Adele S. Burleson (Mrs. Albert Sidney Burleson). Published by Dorrance & Co.

ALMOST every conceivable way in which a politician's wife can mar her husband's prospects is recounted in *Every Politician and His Wife*, by Adele S. Burleson. Presumably the story is fiction, but the incidents might happen in any politician's family. It is hardly believable that any wife could continue to work against her husband's interests so consistently without intent to do him harm. Nevertheless, each incident is distinctly realistic. The characters are the convincingly every-day human sort.

The stories deal with the blunder of Mrs. Ketcham, wife of a politician. Dan, the husband, goes to a barbecue in the course of one of his campaigns. In his absence Mrs. Ketcham determines to set the press right on her husband's labor policy. In explaining what she has done she says:

"I wanted every laboring man in the district to know that you employ hundreds of laborers on your farm, and—although they are convicts—you pay them the highest!" Naturally the husband interrupts her with an exclamation of horror. His reception by the labor group was explained.

All the way through Mrs. Ketcham does similar things in trying to help her husband along, with an effect that can be imagined. In the end the author is kind to her and makes one move the right move, so that for once in the course of the story the husband really is helped by his wife.

Former Vice-President Thomas R. Marshall writes the introduction to Mrs. Burleson's book.

By One Who Knows Africa

Sir Harry Johnston's Novel at Once Descriptive and Biographical

THE MAN WHO DID THE RIGHT THING. By Sir Harry Johnston. Published by the Macmillan Company.

THERE was no doubt about Lucy Jossling marrying into a disagreeable family. Young John Baines, who was going to Africa to be a missionary, and who was to be joined in that country later on by Lucy, was decent enough, but his father had had table manners. Lucy has little pleasure at a family dinner, before John's departure.

"What could she find to say to that guzzling father, whose face and hands were always close to his plate, except during the brief intervals between the courses, when he threw himself back in his chair, blew his nose, wiped his greasy lips, and passed his fat forefinger around the corners of his gums?"

Lucy goes to Africa and on the way meets Captain Roger Brentham, who had thought to marry Sibyl Grayburn, but who finds that she has chosen to wed the aged and wealthy Lord Silchester. In the frankly expressed belief that her husband will soon die and leave her free to wed the captain without being compelled to share the poverty of Brentham's present existence, this plan of Sibyl's is not to be. Lucy has not been long married to John Baines, and has hardly had an introduction to



SIR HARRY JOHNSTON, author of *The Man Who Did the Right Thing*, published by the Macmillan Company, is an authority on Africa, but he writes his novels at his attractive home in England, St. John's Priory, near Arundel. The author's picture and a view of his home are shown above.

A Story of English Country Life

Quarrel of Two Brothers Furnishes Theme for Archibald Marshall's New Novel

THE HALL AND THE GRANGE. By Archibald Marshall. Published by Dodd, Mead & Co.

TO READ one of Mr. Marshall's novels is like visiting the home of an English country gentleman, where the society is well selected, the servants perfectly trained and the lawn carefully mowed.

Mr. Marshall's new novel, *The Hall and the Grange*, is an excellent example of his skill in creating an interesting story out of the simplest materials.

Colonel Eldridge, a squire and a land owner, has been impoverished by the war, while his younger brother, William, who filled an important government post during the conflict, has emerged a distinguished and wealthy man. There is a tendency toward jealousy and extreme sensitiveness on the colonel's side, while William is inclined to be a little careless about hurting the feelings of his older brother.

A quarrel arises over a trivial incident, and the two brothers, despite the efforts of their wives to bring about a reconciliation, are soon completely estranged. However, the love affair between Norman, William's son, and Pamela, the colonel's daughter, is not interrupted by the disagreement of their fathers. And, when the colonel falls seriously ill, the quarrel is forgotten, and the two brothers become good friends again.

A noteworthy feature of the novel is the clarity of the character sketches. The figures in the story are not extraordinary men and women, but they are extraordinarily well drawn. Mr. Marshall is too kindly to be habitually satirical, but he does have a faculty that is often found in satirical writers—the faculty of indicating the salient outlines of a personality by a few vigorous descriptive strokes.

By the Author of "Mrs. Warren's Daughter" and "The Gay Dombey"

THE MAN WHO DID THE RIGHT THING

By SIR HARRY JOHNSTON

THE Man Who Did the Right Thing was Captain Roger Brentham. What "the right thing" was, and how it almost came between him and the aim he had set for his life, is a thrilling romance in which two women and a fine adventure move against a background of brilliant English drawing-rooms and splendid untamed East Africa. It is a tale told vividly by a novelist who knows his Africa as intimately as he does his England, and who can make you feel its spell.

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Death From Two Viewpoints

Materialistic and Occult Studies of Subject Afford Striking Contrasts

DEATH, ITS CAUSES AND PHENOMENA. By Howard Carrington. Published by Dodd, Mead & Co.

FRAGMENTS OF TRUTH. By Richard Ingalese and Isabella Ingalese. Published by Dodd, Mead & Co.

HERWARD CARRINGTON has gone into the subject of death with thoroughness in this new edition of a volume originally compiled ten years ago by himself and J. R. Meader. Mr. Meader has since "solved the problem" of death and left his fellow author to revise the book according to his mortal limitations.

Except in the chapter on the nature of death the author is chary of drawing conclusions. There he discusses the theory of life as a species of vibration, just as light and heat are defined in terms of the rate of their vibration. Assuming that a certain rate of vibration of the nervous tissue or of some ethereal medium acting upon nervous tissue represents the ideal of health, mental or physical disease would be due to either the lessening or raising of the rate of vibration. A slight lessening of the rate of vibration would indicate a lessened amount of vitality—sluggishness, enervation and all that goes with those states. On the other hand, he points out that an elevation of the rate of vibration would induce excessive stimulation, feverish conditions and the like.

In *Fragments of Truth* Richard Ingalese discusses the problem of death and immortality from the standpoint of the occultist alone. According to the author, thinking egos seek to carry out on death as a release it will come as a disagreeable shock to learn that "the broker and the banker are generally at their recent offices long before their former employees appear." It may also come as a shock to the employees.

Besides this first plane, which extends upward from the earth for about a mile there are five other planes—two hell and three heavens. Mr. Ingalese declares that the law of gravity operates after death, as in life, on the metaphysical planes, as on the physical.

Reincarnation is a basic part of the occultist's creed, and Mr. Ingalese cites a series of incarnations of Socrates as a case in point. Socrates, it appears, was also Pythagoras, who has sometimes been called the father of medicine and chemistry. He was also the Count de St. Germain in the eighteenth cen-

Books and Things

Sparkling Comment on Life and Letters in J. C. Squire's Collected Essays

LIFE AND LETTERS. By J. C. Squire. Published by George H. Doran Company.

J. C. SQUIRE is one of the most popular and influential critics in Great Britain and the present volume of essays gives an excellent idea of the characteristic qualities of his thought and style. He conveys the impression of a man of profound literary erudition, whose work is, however, altogether freed from the charge of academic stiffness by the wide range of his interests and his ever saving grace of humor.

The author is, generally speaking, a conservative in his literary tastes. He has words of appreciation for such well established classics as Pope and Jane Austen and Dr. Samuel Johnson. He defends the character of the learned doctor against the aspersions of unfriendly critics and observes that "his common sense was such as to deserve the name of genius."

The author is willing to accept Whitman only with large reservations. He feels that the few works of the American poet which have survived are those in which he employed poetic rhythms and achieved genuinely artistic effects. He is frankly skeptical about the literary significance of the long lists of names, places and objects which Whitman likes to hurl at his readers in large masses.

The author is an ardent admirer of Joseph Conrad. His essay, "Mr. Conrad's Masterpiece," is probably the best review of Lord Jim that has been written.

Mr. Squire's book reveals the secret of his wide popularity. He combines sound scholarship with excellent humor. He proves conclusively that literary criticism, in the hands of a skillful writer, can be made one of the most entertaining subjects in the world.

Southern Studies

Mountain Whites and Their Struggles

OUR SOUTHERN HIGHLANDERS by Horace Kephart. Published by the Macmillan Company.

MOUNTAIN WHITES is the term usually given to the people Mr. Kephart describes in this book, which was published in 1913 and has now been reissued. How unfair is the opprobrium cast by this term is set forth in full detail by the author, who, while he does not minimize the ignorance of these 4,000,000 inhabitants of Appalachia, yet points their good qualities and possibilities with equal vigor.

Mountain-locked as they have been for generations, the Southern highlanders represent the purest American stock. The struggle for existence never ceased up for them as it did for their fellow settlers on the sea coast and in the rich valleys, and in consequence life is as hard and conditions are as primitive as they were in Daniel Boone's time.

The razorback hog is literally the backbone of the mountaineer's existence. The discussion over W. H. Hudson's preference of the pig to a dog as a companion was first written, but unwittingly the author throws light on Hudson's choice. He declares that the razorback has a mind of his own. "Anybody," he writes, "can see that when he is not rooting or sleeping he is studying devilment. He shows remarkable understanding of human speech, especially profane speech, and even an uncanny gift of reading men's thoughts, whenever those thoughts are directed against the dignity of pig-ship. He bears grudges, broods over indignities and plans redresses for the morrow or the week after. If he cannot get even with you he will lay for you unsuspecting friend."

In spite of all this the razorback maintains his place in the affections of the mountaineer, who depends on him to provide the calico that makes the women's clothes and the men's shirts and the other store products for which he is traded.

Just how shockingly primitive is the state of the mountaineers, in these days of the Freudian interpretation of dreams, can be shown by the following story which the author relates. With a party of four he had set out on a bear hunt and they were having breakfast the second day.

"Waal, who dreamt him a good dream?" "I did," affirmed the writer. "I dreamt that I had an old colored woman by the throat and was choking dollars out of her mouth."

"Good la!" exclaimed four men in chorus. "You hadn't better a-told."

"Why? Wasn't that a lovely dream?" "Hilt means a she-bear, shore as a cap-sinootin' gun; but you've done spilt it all by tellin'. Mobby somebody'll get her to-day, but you won't—your chancet is ruined."

Commercialism is destroying such primitive innocence and ruthless change is knocking at the door of every mountain cabin. Some of the changes are for the good, but the author points out the danger in the frank statement of the invader that he has come to exploit the mountain folk. For patriotic reasons he begs that vocational schools should be established and the people be given a chance to work out their own salvation with their own leaders before they are engulfed by the tide that is already upon them.



THE WRONG TWIN

by Harry Leon Wilson

"Harry Leon Wilson sets his stage quickly. We hate novels with long approaches through ancient elms to the manor house. Mr. Wilson gave us all we needed to know about Newborn Center with speed and ingenuity on pages 1 and 2. "Now, Newborn Center is modern and grows callous," he writes. "Only the four players on the circle circled the second nine of the new course, and of glance. Even this was a glance of resentment, for his partner at that instant eyed the alignment of a three-foot putt and might be distracted. The annoyed player flung up a hostile arm at the thing and waved it from the course. Soon—this successor to 'Rugby or Red Gap' is a tale no lover of good humor or a good story will miss.

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—flung up a hostile arm at the thing and waved it from the course. Seemingly abashed, the machine slunk off into a cloud bank.

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