

Eugene O'Neill Suffers From a Set Formula: Romance of Fur

Fate Plays Heavy Role in Dramas by Eugene O'Neill

"The Emperor Jones," "Diff'rent" and "The Straw" Show That a Brilliant Playwright Is in Danger of Going Down Into a Formula

By Heywood Brown

THE EMPEROR JONES, DIFF'RENT AND THE STRAW, BY EUGENE O'NEILL. Published by Boni & Liveright.

THREE more plays by Eugene O'Neill, one of the most interesting of native dramatists, are now available in book form. The new volume published by Boni & Liveright contains "The Emperor Jones," "Diff'rent" and "The Straw." The last is to be produced in New York next season, so it seems fair to reserve comment upon it until it has had its place in the spotlight. O'Neill's plays are written primarily to be played rather than read, but for all that they are worth the attention of the book buyer, and they should inevitably be among the possessions of all students of the theater.

To be sure, any one who reads "The Emperor Jones" without seeing it acted by Charles Gilpin will miss some of the flavor of the play, but the reading serves to prove that the success of the piece is not to be attributed solely to the remarkable work of a great performer. It is in itself a vital thing. It is the most ambitious work of any native dramatist seen in New York this year and almost the best as well. Nothing can be put ahead of it except "The First Year" of Frank Craven's, which is, nevertheless, on a lower plane, though its observation of life is wider and more complete. "Diff'rent" as read seems a little less callous than in the playing.

It seems to us that to read these three plays of O'Neill's, one after the



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F. TENNYSON JESSE, whose novel, *The Happy Bride*, is published by George H. Doran Company

A Royal Tour

America as Seen by a Belgian Visitor

ACROSS AMERICA WITH THE KING OF THE BELGIANS. By Pierre Goemaere, authorized from the French by Beatrice Sorohan. E. P. Dutton & Co.

INNUMERABLE volumes have been written by distinguished Europeans on their impressions of this country, but M. Goemaere's account offers an agreeable contrast to the usual premeditated book written on a lecture tour, and was intended for Belgian rather than American consumption. Many of his impressions, of course, have been shared by the majority of European visitors; he notices our love of size and desire for breaking records, and wonders if we, in the rush of our daily life, can find time enough really to live.

There is the familiar observation that there is no American national art, but M. Goemaere sees signs of good taste which are promising. He saw no atrocities such as one sees in German cities. New York, however, is not beautiful, owing to its lack of extravagance, of proportion, but he finds the sky-signs along Broadway a wonderful sight at night. As for Southern California, his account would satisfy the most ardent resident.

M. Goemaere is struck by the number of divorces in this country, but praises American morals. He admits that prohibition has caused moral benefits, but Belgians missed their wine and liqueurs, and were appalled at the universal ice water. Then, do Americans smoke during meals to offset American cooking? He makes one statement we would like to agree with, that the American people seem to know the words of the national anthem.

The book will dispel some familiar legends. King Albert, we are told, did not drive an engine, and did not hold a reporter's job in this country twenty years ago; nor did Queen Elizabeth pawn her jewels during the war, or just escape an attack by a lion in a zoo. These stories developed from the desire of the American press for sensation, a trait that comes in for unfavorable criticism.

The chief gains of the King's visit, in M. Goemaere's opinion, were the increased American affection for Belgium, based on respect instead of pity. Future American help will get to be gratuitous, but will be stimulated by Belgium's efforts toward economic reconstruction. . . . an observation that could well be repeated in other parts of Europe.

A Pre-War Trip

Mr. Paine Follows in Mark Twain's Footsteps

THE LURE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN. By Albert Bigelow Paine.

JUST why the Lure of the Mediterranean, by Albert Bigelow Paine, should be issued in book form by Harper & Brothers at the present moment passes understanding. It is the record of a happy pre-war trip in a slightly modified diary form. It is a pleasantly gossipy travel-lecture type of narrative, chronicling with fidelity impressions of people and places and all the minor occurrences from seasickness on shipboard to the evil-smelling streets of Constantinople and the derivation of Copt.

Published at the present time Mr. Paine's work suffers for several reasons. It is a decade old, a fact which must tell against any work made up so almost exclusively of trivialities. It suffers from a somewhat obvious and half-invited comparison with Innocents Abroad. Only mildly amusing at best, Mr. Paine not only dedicates the volume to Mark Twain, but is constantly reminiscent in his humor of the Clemens brand of rollicking fun, whimsical exaggeration and overstatement until the reader feels that it amounts almost to an unconscious imitation, very diluted. In *Boon: The Mind of the Race*, a pseudonymous satire of H. G. Wells's, the titular character envisages America as "Aunt Dove, the Aunt-Errant of Christendom." If the satire had carried out the idea elaborately to the extent of having Aunt Dove write a book of travel experiences on a Mediterranean trip it is more than debatable if the result would have differed greatly from Mr. Paine's volume. There is something in the book which suggests an atmosphere of respectable ease, tepid baths and warm milk.



A MINK pouncing on a bird. This illustration is taken from Agnes Laut's book, *The Fur Trade of America* (Macmillan), which contains many interesting stories of animal life

Fascinating Sidelights on the American Fur Trade

Agnes Laut Describes the Thrilling Adventures - Which Are Everyday Events in the Lives of Hunters and Trappers

By William Henry Chamberlain

THE FUR TRADE OF AMERICA. By Agnes Laut. Published by the Macmillan Company.

THERE is an exhilarating and romantic atmosphere about the fur trade that lifts it quite out of the drab category of ordinary business pursuits. The lonely hunters through great forests, the long trips over frozen snows, the constant matching of human wit against those of the wild creatures—all these things lend a certain amount of glamour to the everyday life of the hunter and trapper. The story of the fur trade is obviously well telling, and Miss Laut has told it extremely well.

The book is divided into two parts. The author first discusses the use and value of different kinds of furs. She shows that certain pelts are intrinsically fine, while others are habitually used in the manufacture of so-called imitation fur. The changing fashions and modes in furs are also described.

Several chapters deal with the marketing of furs. Miss Laut traces the progress of the loads of fur from the remote Canadian posts where they are first collected to the great centers of the industry, such as London and New York.

Before the war the dyeing of furs was done almost entirely in Germany, but this branch of the industry has now gained a firm foothold both in England and in the United States. The author shows how the fur markets of the world have been largely transferred from Europe to America.

Most of the exciting stories in the book are to be found in the second part. Miss Laut tells in detail how the experienced hunter stalks the powerful moose and how the trapper goes about catching the cunning beaver. She describes

Without a Clue

Solving a Baffling Murder Mystery

THE CRIMSON BLOTTER. By Isabel Ostrander. Published by Robert M. McBride & Co.

ISABEL OSTRANDER is one of the foremost writers of detective "thrillers," and *The Crimson Blotter* is fully up to her usual standard. A mysterious warning is received at Police Headquarters to the effect that a venerable philanthropist is about to be murdered. Despite a strong police guard which is thrown about the philanthropist's home, the murder takes place as per schedule, and the criminal vanishes without leaving a clue, except for the dagger which is thrust into the old man's heart.

Detective Sergeant McNulty undertakes the task of running down the murderer of the man whom he has vainly endeavored to guard, and Miss Ostrander's story does not have a single dull moment until the climax is reached and the complicated mystery is explained.

Each chapter reveals some new puzzling development, for the crime has been planned with diabolical cleverness and its motives are carefully veiled. On one occasion the detective is kidnapped, and escapes only by the daring device of burning his way out of the house where he is confined.

The author writes with freshness and conviction, and the reader may rest assured of a generous proportion of thrills before the book is finished.

A House of Mystery

QUEENIE. By Wilbur Pinley Pauley. Published by The Macaulay Company.

THIS mystery story is built up about a case of double identity. The plot is ingeniously constructed and there are many thrills before the curious fraud by which a servant has been able to impersonate his employer, live in his employer's house and spend his employer's money, is detected.



CONINGSBY DAWSON, author of the new romance, *The Kingdom Round the Corner* (Cosmopolitan)

The New World

Coningsby Dawson's Romance of a Returned Soldier

THE KINGDOM ROUND THE CORNER. By Coningsby Dawson. Published by the Cosmopolitan Book Corporation.

THE war is over and Coningsby Dawson has turned from writing hymns of battle to his old field of fiction. The shadow of the great conflict, however, lies heavily upon *The Kingdom Round the Corner*. The author is profoundly impressed by the tragedy of the soldier who performs miracles of valor at the front and returns home full of dreams of a new ideal world, only to find that life is moving along in much the same old ruts as ever.

Aside from this shock of disillusionment which comes to him when he sees that the world has not been purified of greed and pettiness and selfishness by the war, Lord Taborley, upon returning to England from the front, discovers some social readjustments which do not altogether please him. Terry, the girl whom he loved, or thought he loved, before he joined the army has become sophisticated in the gay, active, feverish life of war-time London.

Moreover, the war has given all sorts of men a chance to rise in the ranks. Lord Taborley's former valet, Braithwaite, has been made a general. And disconcerting predicament for an English gentleman—Taborley finds that in Braithwaite he has a formidable rival for the love of Terry.

A new element is introduced into the story by the appearance of Maisie Lockwood, a very attractive lady who has lost three successive husbands in the war. Taborley approaches her with an attitude of severe moral reproach in order to rescue a brother-in-law of Terry, who is reported to have fallen into her hands. He finds Maisie much less objectionable than he had anticipated, and is even on the point of proposing himself as her fourth husband, when the first of her former three spouses opportunely returns from a German prison camp.

Taborley is left in an awkward situation. Somewhat ashamed of his infatuation with Maisie, he still feels bound to Terry, but makes the embarrassing discovery that neither of them is really very much in love with the other. The author rescues him from this position by introducing him to Lady Druce, the widow of one of his comrades at the front.

Folk Tales

Entertaining Adaptations From Old Legends

SAVITRI AND OTHER WOMEN. By Marjorie Strachey. Published by G. P. Putnam's Sons.

THERE is a common note of fanciful beauty in these stories, which are drawn from the folklore of many countries. Savitri is an Indian princess whose virtue saves her husband from death. The other heroines are women of Ireland and France and Serbia and Japan and other lands—queens, ladies and fairies. The stories are as varied as the national literatures from which they are adapted.

The theme of woman's sacrifice and devotion is emphasized in "The Lay of the Ash Tree" and "The Building of Skadar," while the spirit of pure elfin fantasy predominates in such tales as "The Courtship of Etain" and "The Bamboo Cutter's Story." The author shows excellent taste in her selection of material. All the legends and folk tales which are transformed into stories in this little book make entertaining reading.

Boy Heroes

"INJUN" AND "WHITE" STRIKE OUT FOR THEMSELVES. By William S. Hart. Published by Houghton Mifflin Company.

MILLIONS of movie enthusiasts have been thrilled by William S. Hart's heroic achievements on the screen, and Mr. Hart injects as much action into his books as into his photoplays. This is the second volume of the Boys' Golden West Series. It tells how the two juvenile heroes, Injun and Whitey, go into the mountains on a hunting expedition and encounter one adventure after another. It is the kind of book that can be relied on to appeal to a large audience of youthful readers.

Was Jesus Learned in the Tenets of Hindu Mysticism?

An English Believer in Yogi Philosophy Sets Forth an Interesting Theory of How the Saviour Spent His Early Manhood

By Grace Phelps

THE ADEPT OF GALILEE. By the author of *The Initiate*. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co.

JESUS, according to the occultists, was an adept in the Yogi philosophy, which he studied in India, Persia and Assyria, among the "wise men of the east."

This very interesting belief is set forth in a well-written volume of more than four hundred pages, entitled *The Adept of Galilee*. The author is an Englishman who prefers to remain anonymous, because, as a Yogi himself, he follows the doctrine that "he who would selflessly give to the world must give unbeknown to the world."

Christians who know their New Testament—we confess we had to look it up ourselves—will remember that there is a hiatus of about fourteen years in the stories of the life of Jesus as given in the Gospels, which is covered solely by the bare information that He worked as a carpenter with Joseph. It is this period, from the time He was found conversing with the elders in the Temple until, at the age of thirty, He began his teachings, that is outlined in detail in *The Adept of Galilee*.

We used to think that occultism was some sort of black magic and that a Yogi was an Indian fakir who could throw a rope in the air and then climb it. Just how the occultists and Yogis did their tricks we didn't know, but we were sure they were of devilish origin and something no high church Episcopalian should have anything to do with. This spring, however, we have been deluged with books on every shade of religious and philosophical belief or theory, and if it keeps up we won't have a decent prejudice left. Take the first half of this book, for instance, which tells what the occultists believe and practice.

The occultists, it seems, are Yogis. They are of all nationalities, and the usual Yogis to be seen on the streets of Benares—we mean those that travelers see; we've never been there ourselves, unless in a previous incarnation—are fakirs as well as fakirs. The true Yogi seldom reveals himself, but goes serenely on his way doing good deeds in secret. All of which sounds like orthodox Christianity. Those who are very learned in the science cannot do—duplicate all the "miracles" of Jesus, but only for some good purpose and not to show off. In fact, if they are caught showing off, the Guru, or Master, refuses to teach them further. Powers used for evil or selfish purpose act as a boomerang to the Yogi who misuses them.

The story of Jesus as a Yogi is as beautifully and reverently told as if the author believed—as occultists do not—that He was the one and only Being who ever attained to Christhood. Ravenna of Orissa, a royal prince of India, saw Jesus with the elders in the Temple, and, struck by His wisdom, went to His parents and offered to take Jesus back to India with him to study with the great sages there. They consented, and Jesus spent several years in Orissa in the temple of Jagannath, where he studied the Vedas and the Laws of Manu and the four branches of the Yogi philosophy. From there he went with Lamaas, a priest, to the valley of the Ganges, in order to learn something of the Hathya Yoga, the great Hindoo art of healing.

At Benares he found a great Yogi who was known throughout India for his miraculous powers of healing and his wisdom. He was very old, but because of his Yogi powers he appeared as a young man. After learning all He could from this Yogi Jesus traveled about India and Thibet, putting into practice his powers of healing the sick. Then He went to Persia and there met the three Magi who had brought Him the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh when He was born. He stayed with them for some months and then went to Babylon to study with another sage. From there He turned toward His native land to see His mother. Later He went to Egypt with Rabbi Perachia, a man of great wealth, where, after many trials and temptations, He was admitted to the brotherhood of mystics who were the secret possessors of the highest learning of the world.

Back in Galilee once more, He was baptized by John the Baptist, a Yogi neophyte, and from then on began His life work, which was not to end, if the occultists are to be believed, on the cross. According to their belief, Jesus went into a trance while He hung on the cross, a trance so deep that it appeared like death. Later, after He had appeared to His disciples, He journeyed with the Apostle John and Mary of Magdala to the hills of Lebanon.

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