

BOOKS OF THE WEEK SEEN IN REVIEW AND COMMENT

CRITICAL REVIEWS OF THE SEASON'S LATEST BOOKS

Mr. Locke Tells a Pretty Story About Pleasant People—Mr. Oppenheim Presents a Spy.

New Fiction by Francis Lynde, Horace A. Vachell, Edwin M. Royle, Richard W. Child and Others.

THE WONDERFUL YEAR. (John Lane Company.) By William J. Locke. (\$1.40.)

It is a pretty romance with pleasant people that William J. Locke spins in The Wonderful Year (John Lane Company) to foster friendly feelings between English and French. The hero has been wounded in a spiritless machine by years of drudgery in teaching. He is persuaded by a philosopher of the Paris Latin quarter to start on an adventure with no thought of the future, in company with a discontented English girl who knows independence. The man enters into the adventure in the right spirit; the girl with less confidence. They travel through France on bicycles, enabling the author to give brilliant descriptions of some places that will be appreciated by those who know them well, and the two wind up in a quaint old inn in a small town in the Perigord district. The innkeeper is a delightful epitome of all that is attractive in the French character; he takes the two travelers to his heart, and while the girl chafes and soon goes back to England, the hero reciprocates, his host's feelings and works his way into the life of the town. He has managed to avoid loving the girl; now he learns what French patriotic feeling is. When his money gives out he becomes a waiter in the inn and is attracted by the host's niece. The manner in which men and women alike burst out in mixed society the things they should keep to themselves is very natural. The excitement of the story turns on the ingenuity with which the spy is foiled and is kept up by his being allowed to go on in his course instead of being arrested when the proof against

him is obtained. The various episodes are thrilling, though the secret service seems pretty omniscient. The assumption that there is truth in the wild accusations made in some quarters against Cabinet Ministers and other men high in station who bear foreign names is not in the best taste in a work of fiction.

THE KINGDOM OF THE BLIND. (Little, Brown & Co.) By E. Phillips Oppenheim. (\$1.35)

The spy fever from which England has suffered is utilized by E. Phillips Oppenheim in The Kingdom of the Blind (Little, Brown & Co.) and, if taken seriously, might easily do harm in that country. The culprit is a distinguished English army officer and at the same time a German spy. He has the knack of making people talk about the things he wishes to know, while the secret service man who is following becomes extremely unpopular through his requests that people shall keep their mouths shut. There is much complaint of the English blindness to the need of caution in military and naval matters. The manner in which men and women alike burst out in mixed society the things they should keep to themselves is very natural. The excitement of the story turns on the ingenuity with which the spy is foiled and is kept up by his being allowed to go on in his course instead of being arrested when the proof against



COSMO HAMILTON AUTHOR OF "THE SONS OF THE CHILDREN" (LITTLE, BROWN)



DAVID LISLE (MRS. MILLERS-WARDELL) AUTHOR OF "THE IMPOSSIBLE" (STOKES)



ALGERNON BLACKWOOD AUTHOR OF "JULIUS VALLENTIN" (DUTTON)

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AFTER THE MANNER OF MEN. (Charles Scribner's Sons.) By Francis Lynde. (\$1.35.)

In a pleasant story told entertainingly, After the Manner of Men (Charles Scribner's Sons), Francis Lynde makes a young man who has been very rich undertake to develop a mining district in the mountains of the South. He has little faculty for reading men or handling them and makes determination take the place of intelligence. When things begin to go wrong he suspects the people around him, the Southerners who have been swindled out of their lands by a promoter, the mountaineers, the agents of a corporation that seeks to monopolize the coal lands and a professor in an academy near by whom he regards as his rival in love. He also muddles his love affairs with much thoroughness. He is helped by a friend who is a charming fellow besides being extremely rich, and who uses the sense and tact that are lacking in the hero to help that young man out of his scrapes. The hero grows violent as he meets with violence; he is not to blame if he fails to discover the melodramatic cause of some of his troubles. "Through the author seems to admire the methods of primitive man, we prefer the more ingenious tactics of the sophisticated wealthy friend; he is always kind and thoughtful and uses his brains in fighting. Some interesting people come into the story, and of course there are attractive young women also."

In the course of time his wife dies and he loses his money; he then goes to France, studies painting and does pretty well at it, but that does not satisfy him, so he turns at last to writing. Then he meets the sweetheart of his boyhood, who has been married unhappily for many years to another, and tries to get her to elope with him. She sends him instead to his native village, where he finds that the disgraced would kill the man who has been a father to him. He discovers, too, that he had left behind him a son, now nearly grown to manhood, whose life he would ruin. His real work all the time was in the village he had left. There are vivid descriptions of the sea, of life in many phases in California, of Concombre and the arid colony. The hero is amiable and manly in his drifting, he is a gentleman throughout, but it is difficult to discern much development in his character till the very end. It is realistic, probably, that he should blunder along as he does. It is an interesting and well written book, a "human document." It may be that it has not the snap or humor of "Quineys."

PEACE AND QUIET. (Harpers.) By Edwin Milton Royle. (\$1.35.)

The title of Edwin Milton Royle's Peace and Quiet (Harpers) is sarcastic, for his Princeton hero is in hot water throughout. His adventures suffer from being told in the tone of boisterous humor which is supposed to be characteristic of college undergraduates. As to his exploits in college, Princeton men must decide whether they have any historic foundation. After a picturesque career in college the young man is drawn into the sophisticated wealthy friend; he is always kind and thoughtful and uses his brains in fighting. Some interesting people come into the story, and of course there are attractive young women also."

THE TRAIL OF THE PEARL. (Harpers.) By Garrard Harris. (\$1.)

Though the young hero's good fortune after he starts out to emancipate himself in Garrard Harris's The Trail of the Pearl (Harpers) belongs to the realm of fairy tales rather than real life, his adventures are exciting and will hold the reader's attention till the youth disposes of the pearl he has discovered. The author makes use of the story, however, to describe the life of the lawless mountaineers of Kentucky and Tennessee. The characters are depicted with photographic accuracy and through them an insight is given into the deplorable condition of the dwellers in the mountains.

A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS. (Harpers.) By Grace Livingston Hill Lutz. (\$1.50.)

It is a school teacher's romance that Grace L. Lutz has written in A Voice in the Wilderness (Harpers). The young woman in judiciously steps off the train in the Arizona desert many miles from her destination, and finds some unpleasant experiences under shelter with a band of apparently respectable cowboys, who nevertheless subsequently turn out to be sound theologians. She diffuses her sweetness over them as she does over every one. One youth sees her safely to the town where she is engaged to teach. There she is pestered by an unmanly and athletic clergyman, who later preaches an unorthodox sermon, is made to recant by the cowboys and is then ducked and run out of town.

The teacher wins her scholars to her by her sweetness, but arouses the enmity of one girl, whose beau shows attention to the stranger. The girl hires a drunken Indian to lead her into the wilderness; the teacher falls into the trap but is rescued in the nick of time by a gallant cowboy whose conduct throughout is unexpected, in spite of the author's imputations as to the wickedness of his past.

TUMBLEWEED. (The Bobbs-Merrill Company.) By Alice M. Colter. (\$1.35.)

The vision of the impulsive little girl whose "father is the wind," with which Alice M. Colter's Tumbleweed (The Bobbs-Merrill Company) begins is charming and poetical and she continues to be attractive in her later adventures, even if she then becomes the usual heroine of girl's stories. As the story goes on the inspiration of the wind becomes more and more literary reminiscence, though it is described daintily with some outbursts of poetic feeling. Her letting her fancy run on the aesthetic instructor seems uncalled for, while his epigrammatic essays in fiction may appear reprehensible to some unless they are the product of the young woman's imagination. The love making with which the story ends, on the other hand, is pretty in spite of the literary quotations. It is an interesting study of the psychology of the young girl.

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PORTRAITS OF THE SEVENTIES. (Charles Scribner's Sons.) By George W. E. Russell.

In the preface of his Portraits of the Seventies (Charles Scribner's Sons) the Right Hon. George W. E. Russell

frankly declares that he has no intention of disclosing matters entrusted to him in confidence, even if it were done many years ago, so that the reader need not be disappointed if he meets with no political or social revelations. He also tells a good story of Justin McCarthy's against himself, of which the point is his flaunting his relationship to Lord John Russell and unconsciously keeps the fact that he was that statesman's nephew steadily before our eyes. In his book he gives brief impressions of statesmen and other famous men he had to do with and of many distinguished women, telling in a chatty way much that may be found in reference books intermingled with entertaining anecdotes, but at the same time saying what he thought of the men. In his case familiarity seems to

have bred contempt and he does not hesitate to tell the faults he found with them. Mr. Gladstone was no friend to him, Lord Hartington was selfish and unmanly, John Bright a demagogue and so on; not that he is ill natured at all, but simply a bit contemptuous. To the ladies he is invariably polite. His point of view is hardly that of a serious politician; it is rather the somewhat disdainful manner in which a man of fashion to whom society is everything regards the men who stoop to do the work. To him Cardinal Newman, for instance, is not the saint his admirers make him out to be, but a rather peevish old man, jealous of Manning and angry because his services have not been rewarded by home. It is an interesting book and is illustrated with portraits.

AN IDENTITY DISCLOSED

The author of "The Impossible Mrs. Bellew" has not been suspected of being anybody but David Lisle. But it now turns out that "David Lisle" is a woman. Where are the sharp critics who usually ferret out the feminine style under the masculine pen name? David Lisle has many other books published in this country since 1912, but has gone unchallenged. The Stokes Company have just made known that she is Mrs. Villiers-Wardell. They say, however, that they were out of the secret, too—they had no idea she was not a man till she had been on their list two years and her second novel had been accepted.

Mrs. Villiers-Wardell, like the impossible Betty Bellew herself, is an Irish woman, born in County Cork, and "all Irish," she declares, "in upbringing and sympathy." Since the death of her husband, though she has lived on the Continent, and so has come at first hand by the sparkling, sophisticated background she draws into her novels. She knows the literary and art sets of Paris and Rome, and the cosmopolitan crowd of the Riviera, which she has used to stage "The Impossible Mrs. Bellew." She is fond, however, of out of the way places, the Pyrenees in the dead of winter, or Andalusia, where she often travels; southern Spain, in fact, she knows more intimately than most Spaniards, and her "Spain of the Spanish" is the standard book on modern Spain that no cultivated Spanish gentleman's library is correct without. Every year she goes back to this favorite country. Occasionally she has time to go only as far as San Sebastian, sometimes she spends a week in Sevilla or Granada, and the country round in the full glory of mid-summer when all other foreigners have fled and southern Spain is at its best.

It is David Lisle's Irish blood, she thinks, that makes her like Americans as

an Englishwoman never likes us. She also fits the American public rather than the English and hopes for her future in this country. Something of these tastes in people comes out in the last novel of hers, where all the unpleasant characters are English, the Americans are all pleasant, the hero is Irish, and the English hero is tempted by a Spanish grandmother in her mother's side into a pleasant mixture not "quite English."

Mrs. Villiers-Wardell is a familiar kind of person, it is said—one of the proofs of which, of course, is her choosing to write under a man's name. She is also said to be charming to look at and charmingly Irish in her animation and friendliness. She is reserved about her work, however, and feels that her three novels are only beginnings. Yet her success is pretty solidly on its feet—and she has made good more quickly than most writers. Her first novel, "A Painter of Souls," was sent to a well known London publisher without introduction and was accepted almost at once. Stokes set up the American publication immediately, and contracted for the author's next work. It seems safe to guess, however, in spite of the disclosure of her name, that "David Lisle" will stick. Mrs. Villiers-Wardell as the name she began to write with.

"Poetry" for October.

Poetry for October, for the second time only in the history of the magazine, is given over to a single poem, and the poem is illustrated, something which has never before been attempted in this pages. The work is a poetic drama in one act called "Grottoesque." It is by a young Chicago playwright and poet, Clifton Head, and is already known in Chicago through its production at the Chicago Little Theatre last November.

2nd Large Edition

"Enoch Crane" himself is the life and soul of the book. A delightful, old-fashioned gentleman, courteous and chivalrous, capable of the fiercest kind of indignation."—New York Times.

F. Hopkinson Smith's LAST NOVEL ENOCH CRANE Planned and begun by the famous author of "Peter" and completed by his son F. Berkeley Smith

"Enoch Crane himself is one of Hopkinson Smith's happiest creations—a true New Yorker of an older generation."—New York Tribune.

"Enoch Crane" is one of those delightfully odd characters whom it pleased Hopkinson Smith to conceive for his readers."—Boston Advertiser.

"A story of very great charm."—James L. Ford in the New York Herald. Illustrated. \$1.35 net. Charles Scribner's Sons Fifth Avenue, New York

JULIUS LE VALLON

By ALGERNON BLACKWOOD. Loutie Collier Wilcox says: "The book is destined to reach a wide audience among those whose interests are not nailed down to the small adventures of three score years and ten on this earth." The New York Times says: "Mr. Blackwood's distinction over most other writers who deal with the unknown is that the wings of his imagination are spiritual rather than material." The Boston Transcript says: "Few modern writers have Mr. Blackwood's clear imaginative insight. . . His stories have in them a plausible quality that summons us to their aid." Price \$1.50 net. Postage extra. Any Bookstore. E. P. DUTTON & COMPANY, 681 Fifth Avenue, New York

THE TRIUMPH OF TIM. (George H. Doran Company.) By Horace Annesley Vachell. (\$1.40.)

It is a queer succession of adventures through which Horace Annesley Vachell puts the hero of The Triumph of Tim (George H. Doran Company) while he evolves into authorship and at last finds himself; they read like episodes in a real life. The boy has a knack of getting into bad messes at critical moments; beginning in an English village, he bungles things at school, is expelled and later gets into trouble about a girl. He runs away to go around the Horn to California; there, after tramping around for a time, he works on a ranch, marries, and goes into land speculation.

BOBBANK. (Henry Holt & Co.) By Richard Washburn Child. (\$1.35.)

A somewhat elaborate introduction describes the Illinois town on the Mississippi in which the eleven stories contained in Richard Washburn Child's Bobbank (Henry Holt & Co.) are supposed to happen and the elderly citizens who are accustomed to meet in the back room of the hotel and talk over old times. Each story is put in the mouth of a different narrator, thus securing variety in the dialect and the point of view. Most of them are humorous and all are interesting. In them there is no mistake; the author's effort to jot down before it is forgotten a plumb in American civilization that is passing away.

A DIVINE EGOTIST. (Dodd, Mead & Co.) By Vingie E. Roe. (\$1.35.)

In A Divine Egotist (Dodd, Mead & Co.) Vingie E. Roe endeavors with some success to strike the exalted tone in language and imagery that is suited to the lofty ideas of her high strung heroine, only occasionally lapsing into ordinary English and even slang. The heroine is a woman author with sufficient wealth to do as she pleases; she has assembled on her estate a colony of dorettes, human and animal. Her infallible instinct for goodness in the fallen does not act in the case of the respectable man she is engaged to, with whose desire to bring her to her senses the reader may sympathize. She engages in a campaign to reform the politics of her town and picks out as her instrument the least advisor of the corrupt politician who rules the place, a talented Southern

Cap'n Gid

By Elizabeth Lincoln Gould As a "type" Cap'n Gid is part and parcel of quaint New England. But the Cap'n refuses to conform to "type" in many ways—and that makes him enjoyable. He falls in love when he's far from young—and this story of his romance is filled with the cheer of life that keeps your eyes glistening. At All Bookstores, \$1.00 Net Penn Publishing Company Philadelphia

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THE ASHES OF MY HEART BY EDITH BLINN Illustrated. Net 1.35 A powerful love story filled with thrills and fearless in its expose of the deadly opium evil that is fast fastening its poisonous fangs into the tender vitals of the human race. MARKWELL PUB. CO., Inc. 145 W. 45th Street, New York.

A Nation-Wide Poll Showing How Union Labor Will Vote

To sense the trend of union labor sentiment in the coming Presidential election, the editor of THE LITERARY DIGEST addressed a letter to the presidents, vice-presidents, and secretaries of labor organizations, representing practically all branches of industry, in every State of the Union. The letter asked for an expression of opinion as to the sentiment of their unions toward the different Presidential candidates. About five hundred replies, from thirty-two States, have been received.

In this week's number of "The Digest" dated October 7th, the result of this poll is given. Many interesting statements from labor leaders are quoted, and this feature of the "Digest" will be read carefully by workers in every branch of industry.

The article, in the opinion of many people, quite definitely answers the question "Will Organized Labor Vote Solidly?" It is handsomely illustrated with reproductions of original photographs.

Among some of the other striking features in "The Digest" for October 7th are:

"American Business Bursts Its Jacket"

The President and Leaders of His Party Assert That the Highest Peak in American Business Has Been Reached Under Democratic Administration, and This Without Counting War Importations or Exportations

- The Zepelin Raids on London
New York's Traction Strike
India's Six Invasions
Our Future Hybrid Race
A Government Show on Wheels
The Medical Fee System of the Future
The Birth of Our Popular Songs
Opposite German Views of Atrocities

- Negro Labor Coming North
The War Caused by Coal and Iron
Germany's Luxurious Trenches (Specially Illustrated)
Who Started the War?
Sterilizing Oysters
Conquering Heavy Roads in France
French and Belgian Art Losses
A Study in Rural Religion

Many Interesting Half-tone Illustrations, Cartoons, Etc.

A "Movie" Film That Girdles the Earth

From week to week the columns of THE LITERARY DIGEST present a complete moving-picture of the world's events, happenings of every sort in all lands, skilfully condensed so as to make a reel of actual, vital news that exactly meets the requirements of the busy man or woman of to-day. And you can be absolutely sure that nothing is colored

or distorted in the least. Each fact is recorded for you without fear or favor just as it occurred. This constantly changing film represents all shades of opinion, all diversities of thought. It is uniform in one respect only, its impartiality. It holds the mirror up to life and leaves you to judge for yourself.

October 7th Number on Sale To-Day---10 Cents

'Tis a Mark of Distinction to Be a Reader of The Literary Digest FUNK & WAGNALLS COMPANY (Publishers of the Famous NEW Standard Dictionary). NEW YORK

The Sun Fall Book Number

will appear Next Saturday, the 14TH of OCTOBER

Among other interesting features will be the following

SYMPOSIA

- (1). The freedom of authors, based on the recent attacks on Dreiser.
(2). Publishers—"What's in a Name." (The importance of titles).
(3). The day of incompetent playwrights.

To which many persons, authors and publishers will contribute.