

Books and the People Who Make Them

Concerning Lions as Wild Fowl

By GEORGE GORDON.

IN an essay on William Dean Howells, Miss Edith Wyatt would have us remember that some people reading novels "far from liking a thorough metamorphosis feel a species of alarm before a work of fiction unless it has the quality of unreality." I am almost certain that she is referring to me. We want to know that what we read is make believe and never really happened. We are, so she says, "with superficial, but without essential difference the immemorial audience of Shakespeare's humorous outline, who must be continually told that the stage lion is really Snug, the joiner."

I know that Miss Wyatt is in the majority. She can make shift to see not only through Snug's thin disguise but into his heart of hearts, reading there how he was once disappointed in love or the thrall of some crude ambition. It is the human Snug that interests her, not the actor. His paltry magic, hoping with the hearth rug to evoke before our eyes the limitless sands of Sahara, the threat of imminent death, impresses her no more than the silly convulsions of some more usual hero impress a child.

We, however, thrill to Bottom's feigned roar as never before the caged monarch of the zoo. We read, as men fare across the sea, for the sake of adventure. Stay at homes for the most part, confined to the office, the farm, the bed, we are curious about the far places of the earth, fairylands so awful that not even children dare venture there alone, mythical cities where a guide is necessary. We know that women are not as a rule beautiful or of royal blood; we would have romance thronged with queens more lovely than the dawn upon deserted hills. We know that men ride, sloven in the saddle, to stay approaching fat; we would have knights erect in armor, scouring the forest, the crash of splintering lance swaying the silent trees.

Is there to be no refuge from the sham real life of the average novelist? Art to Miss Wyatt must be true to life as she knows it or it is not art. Yet I would escape from the trivial details of the every day. Where can I go?

And Snug? What if he were not recognized, but mistaken by some literal first nighter for a lion? Would they not tell a shuddering tale concerning him to wake Augustin in his crib and tear the night with Iolanthe's shrieks? How some gallant in the audience, fearing for his inamorata, snatched up a stool and charging upon the stage brained the poor harmless joiner with one mighty blow?

'Tis just as well we be advised by critics that all is makebelieve, for, mark you (as Bottom said), there is not a more fearful wild fowl than your lion living.

Among the "stunts" discussed in *Practical Flying*, by a Flight Commander, published by the George H. Doran Company, are the following:

Making a vertical bank—a term applied loosely to all banks of 45 degrees or over. Spiral descents—which seem to be much like coming down in an elevator. "Zooming," or the sudden jump of the machine several hundred feet into the air after flying near the ground. Nose diving, a trick which is opposite to the zoom. Looping, which is generally done into the wind. Tail sliding and spinning, in which from a fair height the machine is allowed to flutter down some distance. Rolling and staggering, an evolution in which the effect on the machine is to make it stagger and seesaw like a drunken man. The flat turn, a very quick method of turning attained by switching off the engine momentarily and kicking on full rudder, and then centering it. And among other varieties of aerial exercise the "cartwheel," the "Immelman turn," "boot lacing" and the "falling leaf" stunts.

The *Letters of Washington Irving to Henry Brevoort, 1807-1843*, hitherto accessible only in a two volume limited edition, will be republished soon by G. P. Putnam's Sons in a one volume popular edition. The letters give first hand accounts of the War of 1812, the trial of Aaron Burr, the downfall of Napoleon, picture the social life of the time, and are interesting for Irving's wide acquaintance with celebrities.

RICHARD DEHAN'S new tale, *That Which Hath Wings*, concerns the theft of the plans for the War Engine of Clanronald, a secret weapon that could end a war in a twinkling. Several of the characters of *One Braver Thing* reappear. G. P. Putnam's Sons have the book.

It is hardly fair for the publishers to tell us that *Danny the Detective*, a story for boys, is by V. C. Barclay, "who inherits the gift that has made the author of *The Rosary* popular," and then not tell us exactly who V. C. Barclay is. A son?

Charles Scribner's Sons are publishing a new edition of *The French in the Heart of America*, by John Finley; a new edition of *Heart of Europe*, by Ralph Adams Cram; *Lovers of Louisiana*, by George W. Cable; *On Furlough*, by Florence Olmstead; *The Admirable Critchton and Quality Streets* by J. M. Barrie; *Psychology and the Day's Work*, by Edgar James Swift, and a new edition of *Treasure Island*, illustrated by George Varian. They are also bringing out *A Food Guide for War Service at Home*, which has been prepared under the direction of the United States Food Administration in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Education. In his preface Mr. Hoover says: "By following the suggestions for food conservation herein contained every one can render his country an important war service." The price of the book has been placed at 25 cents, to bring it within the reach of every one.

Harper & Brothers are publishing *Sylvia Scarlett*, by Compton Mackenzie; *My Lorraine Journal*, by Edith O'Shaughnessy, and *Land's End*, by Wilbur Daniel Steele.

John Godfrey Saxe has just published the final edition of his treatise or manual on the New York election laws. The book is written so that it may interest the layman (or laywoman). It is the most comprehensive work that the author has yet attempted. It contains a complete chapter on constitutional law and a discussion of the franchise, woman suffrage, residence, enrolment, nominating, registration, voting, crimes against franchise, corrupt practices and procedure in the election cases. It explains the various political subdivisions of the State and sets forth the history of election laws since 1777. It discusses the theory of direct primaries and the arguments for and against them. It discusses the Massachusetts ballot and further proposed election reform, at the head of which the author places the restoration of the State convention for nominating officers to be voted for by all the voters of the State.

The author has written a new chapter on the marking of the ballot, based on his experience as counsel for the successful contender in the Hearst-McClellan and Delchanty-McIntyre litigations; and to this he had added over thirty diagrams showing ballots as they are marked and marks as they are made.

The book may be obtained by writing to George C. Kalle, 30 Broad street, New York city.

Reginald Farrer, author of *The Void of War* (Houghton Mifflin Company), is an English writer, a novelist before the war, and the author of *The Rock Garden, Through the Ivory Gate*, &c. John Buehan of the British Foreign Office selected Mr. Farrer to write a book which would cover the entire fighting front, from the English Channel to the Adriatic.

There are sixty-two titles by William Dean Howells on the Harper & Brothers list.

American Pep, by A. Stone, which the Robert J. Shores Corporation is publishing, is a first novel dealing with the risks and adventures of munition workers. The story revolves around S. H., or Sky High, the new American explosive which is used in depth bombs.

Elizabeth Hasenowitz, whose autobiography, *One of Them*, has just been published by the Houghton Mifflin Company, was one of the signers of the labor protocol which Louis Brandeis drew up in 1916. She has since then been employed by many labor commissions as an investigator, and is at present doing factory inspection work.

Macmillan Company's Books for the Fall

THE Macmillan Company's list of fall publications includes the following fiction:

- Joan and Peter*, by H. G. Wells.
- In the Heart of a Fool*, by William Allen White.
- The Spinners*, by Eden Phillpotts.
- Once on the Summer Range*, by Francis Hill.
- Skipper John of the Nimbus*, by Raymond McFarland.
- The Red One*, by Jack London. Short stories.
- A Chance to Live*, by Zoë Beckley.
- The Bishop and Other Stories and The Chorus Girl and Other Stories*, by Anton Chekov, translated by Constance Garnett.
- The following books for young folk:
- Everychild's Mother Goose*, by Carolyn Wells.
- The Boy Who Knew What the Birds Said*, by Padraic Colum.
- The Story of the Pilgrims for Children*, by Roland G. Usher.
- Isabel Carletow's Friends*, by Margaret Ashmun.
- The Loyalty of Elizabeth Bess*, by E. C. Scott.
- Girls of '64*, by Emilie Benson Knipe and Alden A. Knipe.
- That Year at Lincoln High*, by Joseph Gollomb.
- The Pirate of Jasper Peak*, by Adair Alden.
- Under Orders: The Story of Tim and "The Club"*, by Harold S. Latham.
- The Boy's Own Book of Great Inventions*, by F. L. Darrow.

The following illustrated books:

- The English Fairy Book*, by Flora Annie Steele. Illustrated by Arthur Rackham.

The Children's Homer: The Adventures of Odysseus and the Tale of Troy, by Padraic Colum. Illustrated by Willy Pogany.

Gitanjali and Fruit Gathering, by Rabindranath Tagore. Illustrated by Indian artists.

The following poetry, drama, essays:

- The Poems and Plays of John Massfield: Volume I., Poems; Volume II., Plays.*

Can Grande's Castle, by Amy Lowell.

The Drums in Our Street: A Book of War Poems, by Mary Carolyn Davies.

English Literature During the Last Half Century, by John W. Cunliffe.

The English Poets, edited by Thomas Humphrey Ward.

The English Villages: A Literary Study, by Julia Patton.

The following books on music, art and drama:

Contemporary Composers, by Daniel Gregory Mason.

Holiday edition of *Beethoven and His Forerunners, The Romantic Composers, From Greig to Brahms, and Contemporary Composers*, by Daniel Gregory Mason.

The Art of Florence: An Interpretation, by H. H. Powers.

The Theatre of the 20th Century, by William Lyon Phelps.

The Foundations of Classic Architecture, by Herbert Langford Warren.

The following books of travel:

The Village: Russian Impressions, by Ernest Poole.

Under Sail, by Felix Riesenberg.

Highways and Byways of Florida, by Clifton Johnson.

Along French Byways, by Clifton Johnson. Reprinting.

The Blue Guides: London and Its

Environ, edited by Findlay Muirhead.

The following biography and history:

- The Life of Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield: Volumes V. and VI.*, by George E. Buckle in succession to W. F. Monypenny.

The Arguments and Speeches of William Maxwell Evarts, edited by Sherman Evarts.

The History of Spain, by Charles E. Chapman.

The Pilgrims and Their History, by Roland G. Usher.

Imperial England, by Cecil F. Lavelle and Charles E. Payne.

Pathfinders of the West, by Agnes C. Laut. Reprinting.

The following war books:

The War and the Future, by John Masefield.

A Brief History of the Great War, by Carleton J. H. Hayes.

What Can I Do in Aeronautics? by Henry Woodhouse.

Don'ts for Soldiers, by Major Harlow Brooks.

Winning and Wearing Shoulder Straps, by Lieutenant-Colonel Charles F. Martin.

A League of Nations: Some Chapters in the History of the Movement; Volume II., by Theodore Marburg.

The following books on public affairs:

- The Blind, Their Condition and the Work Being Done for Them in the United States*, by Harry Best.

Our National Forests, by Richard H. D. Boerker.

Efficient Railway Operation, by H. S. Haines.

Budget Making in a Democracy: A New View of the Budget, by Edward A. Fitzpatrick.

American Cities: Their Methods of Business, by Arthur Benson Gilbert.

Preparing Women for Citizenship, by Helen Ring Robinson.

The Selection and Training of the Business Executive, by Enoch Burton Gowin.

The Ideal Diet, by E. V. McCollum.

The following books on religion and philosophy:

The Twentieth Century Crusade, by Lyman Abbott.

Patriotism and Religion, by Shailer Mathews.

The Course of Christian History, by W. J. McGlothlin.

History of the Religion of Israel, by George A. Barton.

A Book About the English Bible, by Josiah H. Penniman.

The History of Religion, by E. Washburn Hopkins.

The World Within, by Rufus M. Jones.

Commentary on the Epistle of Paul to the Romans, by Edward Increase Bosworth.

Modern Religious Movements in India, by J. N. Farquhar. Reprinting.

The Next Step in Religion, by R. W. Sellars.

The following Rural Manuals:

Manual of Tree Diseases, by W. H. Rankin.

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A Manual of Home-Making, by Martha Van Rensselaer, Flora Rose and Helen Canon.

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