



Blasco Ibanez, who wrote "The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse" and "Mare Nostrum." He is coming here to lecture at Columbia.

"Little Miss-by-the-Day"

It is feared that the title of Lueille Van Slyke's new book will do it more harm than good. *Little Miss-by-the-Day* has an unfortunate smack of the sugary insipidity which we connect with a certain type of juvenile outpouring. This little romance deserves something better. They will be dead souls indeed who miss its charm, which is that of old, old gardens and attics and portraits, and yet because people are not inclined to realize that their souls are dead a good many failing to enjoy this book will place the blame where it does not belong, namely, on Miss Van Slyke.

In the first place let us admit that the

story is probably impossible. Girls, even in eccentric families, do not grow up in Brooklyn without learning the meaning of death. There are far too many accidents taking place all around them for that. Neither do they fail to grasp the latest modes of hair dressing. A young woman in full possession of her wits having once made a trip in any country more civilized than a jungle would never start on another dressed in her great grandmother's clothes. Felicia Day did all of these ridiculous things, and if you wish you may allow them to ruin a delectable story, but you will do much better to pretend with Miss Van Slyke that they are well within the realm of probability and follow along the primrose paths of her selection.

She will lead you to the barred garden in Brooklyn where Felicia's childhood was spent. You will meet the Major, Felicia's grandfather, who was jealous of her complexion and her manners, but beyond that and the desire that she absolutely efface herself did not concern with her in the least. You will meet Felicia's mamma, who nearly always stayed in bed and finally went on a long, long journey. Next you will be taken to the House in the Woods where the Major took Felicia the day after he found her kissing the choir boy over the garden wall. The House in the Woods is one of those rare old places which we find only in books where everything indicating the servants is just as it has been for generations and where the heroine unpacks generations of trunks and unearths gardens that have lain buried for years in spite of the trusty servants.

But the story really begins when Felicia goes back to the old house in Brooklyn and finds it a dilapidated lodging house covered with auction placards. Of course she saves it, and of course the choir boy has something nice to do with the end of the story. But we haven't told you half!

LITTLE MISS BY THE DAY. By LUCILLE VAN-SLYKE. Frederick A. Stokes Company.

THE official history of the Knights of Columbus will be published in two volumes, the first volume dealing with the origin, growth and activities of the K. of C., the other with the war work of the Knights. The second volume will be a memorial of the members of the K. of C. over 50,000—who served in the war against the Central Empires.

Maurice Francis Egan, ex-Minister to Denmark, and John B. Kennedy, K. of C. publicity director, will be joint authors of the book.

"The Doings of Raffles Haw"

MEETING an old friend has its compensations if the friend be entertaining enough, and the characterizations of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, while they have been accused of many grievous faults, have never had the stigma of dullness attached to them. Therefore when *The Doings of Raffles Haw* is picked up and after a casual glance found to contain three stories that appeared at least twenty-five years ago, it is hardly necessary to throw the book down with a grunt of disapproval. True enough the publishers were hardly orthodox in failing to convey the impression that this book was merely a reprint; indeed they seem to intimate otherwise in the jacket blurb where they assert "Raffles Haw is a distinct addition to the gallery of famous Doyle characters." They should have said "was a distinct addition."

But was he, on second thought? Raffles Haw is not a character anyway; he is the leading figure in a fantastic story that comes perilously near to being a fairy fable. And there is such an obvious moral to the tale that it hurts the book. Raffles has discovered how to make gold out of lead (the process is interesting and logical and may be tried by any ambitious reader, as it is fully explained) and builds a marvellous palace, full of bewildering mechanical devices and aids to comfort, in a quiet country district of England. It is his ambition to aid mankind by the

power of his gold. The theme of the tale presents the thesis that unhappiness always follows in the trail of so much wealth. Raffles Haw, with his Midas touch, continually translates perfectly satisfied people to ambitious, grasping, selfish personalities. So there is nothing for Raffles to do but destroy his wonderful invention and die of a broken heart because of his disillusionment.

As a fantastic tale the story has its fine points and gives a fair expression of the bewildering variety of Sir Conan Doyle's inventive faculties. From certain appearances the story may have been written under the influence of that earlier H. G. Wells whose marvellous inventions and logical expositions of supernatural essences pleased our early youth.

The rest of the book is taken up with two of the earlier Sherlock Holmes stories, *The Redheaded League* and *The Boscombe Valley Mystery*. Both of them are familiar to Holmes worshippers, and any comment on them or on the detective himself would be mere redundancy at this late day.

THE DOINGS OF RAFFLES HAW. By SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE. George H. Doran Company.

HERE'S something! Small, Maynard & Co. are publishing Camille Saint-Saens's *Musical Memories*, translated by Edwin Gile Rich.

NEW LITTLE HOUSES

NOVELS
By George Woden
The *New York Sun* says: "The maturity of observation, the careful presentation of character through dozens of apparently insignificant incidents, the subtle restraint exhibited in never letting the situations resolve themselves into striving for sentimental appeal, may well cause the reader to pause in admiration. . . . It is a splendid first novel." Net \$1.90

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The *Boston Transcript* delights in Miss Laing's people, declaring "these are the stuff of which life is so often, and stories, alas, so seldom, made." Net \$1.90

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A picture, "which Mr. Gibbs says is true because it is a part of his own life, of the interweavings of the lives of his associates and his own, of the romance and struggle of a great paper seen from the inside something out of the ordinary."—*Detroit Free Press*. Net \$1.90

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"Fairly drips local color," says the *World*, "miners' talk, prospector anecdotes, queer characters." The humor of the book is a pure joy. A good, old-fashioned story." Net \$1.75

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THE GAMESTERS By H. C. Bailey
The *New York Times* calls it "a gay tale of adventure—rather a tale of many adventures of the maddest kind. Through it all Eve remains as lovely as she is daring." Net \$1.75

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