

The Book Factory

Continued from Preceding Page.

went out of use almost as long ago as "Tell it to Sweeney" and "Skidoo."

T. W. J., in an interesting comment on our paragraph in the *Toronto Star*, writes: "What Mr. Lewis meant was that Babbitt tipped his 'Kelly' or his 'Kady.' 'Kelly,' in the *Standard Dictionary*, is said to mean a high silk hat, but colloquially it is used of any old lid.

"Benny, for an overcoat, is probably older than Harlem. The entertaining Ernest Weekley in his *Etymological Dictionary* calls it archaic, although it is in common enough use to-day. Weekley thinks Benjamin was suggested by the use of Joseph for a woman's coat, which reminds us that one of our favorite heroines, Nancy Lam-meter in 'Silas Marner,' wore one."

Well, we have learned something. And if this item reaches Mr. Lewis he will find it beneficial, too. Perhaps, as T. W. J. says, "bennie" isn't strictly Harle-mese, but we know something that is—the practice of carrying in the "bennie" a close relation thereof—the billy.

"THE BRIGHT SHAWL" AND THE MOVIES.

We note with much interest that Joseph Hergeshelmer's "The Bright Shawl" is being filmed and we think it will prove a very moving picture despite the fact that the hero Charles Abbott is not interested in women. We have a hunch that the movie directors will do something about that.

Our idea of an interesting way to spend an afternoon would be to listen in on a conversation between, say, Rodolph Valentino and a movie director brave enough to tell the Hero of 1,000 Love Scenes to play the part of the cold, passionless Abbott as written.

IN WHICH WE RECEIVE CREDIT FOR THE WRONG THING.

"The note which we had in this column a few weeks ago," writes the conductor of the "Literary Gossip" department in the *Rochester Herald*, "on the difficulties which the collector was likely to face because of the profiteering of either the near-great literary people or their publishers—responsibility has not yet been placed—has been backed up by Mr. Anthony in 'The Book Factory' in *The New York Herald's* book section. Mr. Anthony treats the new device to rob the book buyer satirically in this paragraph:

"Nothing that has taken place in the publishing world in a long time has made us so envious as the announcement that the first edition of Willa Cather's 'One of Ours' consisted of thirty-five copies on Imperial Japan vellum and 310 copies on Perusia handmade Italian paper. We have called the matter to the attention of our publishers, with the result that the first edition of our next book will consist of forty-three copies carved in Connecticut birch bark, seventy-nine copies burnt in Russian handmade leather and 401 copies embroidered, with spun gold, on purple taffeta."

We didn't know there was "a new device to rob the book buyer," though we did think—and wrote our paragraph for that reason—that the pretentiousness that characterized the announcement of the first edition of "One of Ours" was funny enough to be the subject of a comic opera. Not that we don't take first editions seriously. Among our most prized possessions are first editions of "1,000 Selected Irish Jokes," "100 New Card Tricks," "Learn Ventriloquism and Entertain the Family," "How to Become a Forceful Speaker," "How to Raise Mushrooms in Your Cellar," "A Business Directory of New York," "The Liberty Boys of '76," "Recitations for All Occasions," and a number of others.

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Showing next week at this theater: A merry "Open Letter to Edna Ferber," written by a friend of hers. No raise in price of admission.

To make up for the fact that we haven't seen a novel recently that enumerates all the makes of automobiles, The Century Company has published a book by Gene Carr ("Kid Kartoons"). Incidentally, it's a peach of a book.

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