

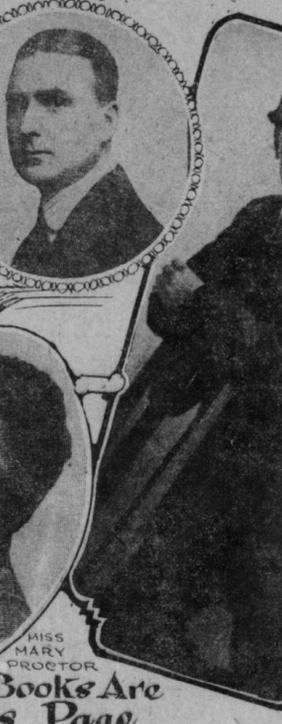
BACKPAGE OF THE SUNDAY CALL

CONDUCTED BY UNA H. H. COOL

"The Haunted Pajamas" By Francis Perry Elliott. Published by the Hobbs-Merrill company, Indianapolis. Price \$1.25.

At the very top of the list of books for summer reading place the "Haunted Pajamas" and you will find that you won't give it away after reading (unless you are sure of another copy), but will lend it to all your friends and bore them by your enthusiasm and chuckles.

The hero of this tale, "Dicky Light-nut," tells the tale. He is a joy, for the author has not for a moment allowed him to get out of character. He is perhaps modeled on Lord Dunsany, with a smattering of Bertie the Lamb and a flavoring of Beau Brummel. He is a perfectly drawn character, anyway, and the reader who can follow his fortunes through this book without real enjoyment is lacking in a sense of humor.



Authors Whose Books Are Reviewed on this Page

"The Princess of New York" By Cosmo Hamilton. Published by Brentano's, New York. Price \$1.35.

Cosmo Hamilton is one of the popular English writers of the day, but few of his books have appeared in America. His newest one is entitled "The Princess of New York" and is not half bad. There are no pages one wants to skip and it is warranted to drive sleep away. The princess of New York is, of course, an American girl (as she looks to an Englishman), but for those who are transplanted to England and pass a month in as exciting a fashion as any one could wish. A chapter of accidents deprive her temporarily of the protection of first her mother and then her fiancé's friend, and the same circumstances place her in the care of some English people of title. These people are almost strangers, the princess, Mammie Stanton, however, has come out in them. They have made their acquaintance crossing from America. These English people are the last end of a good old family, but all the bad traits for generations have come out in them. They make their living by their wits—cheating at cards—plucking rich young men from college—using their son for a decoy—and every possible shady transaction.

Mammie Stanton is the daughter of the American steel king and of course legitimate prey for this family. They plan to marry her to their son, and he proves a willing tool. The unpleasant part of this is that he really falls in love with Mammie, who is sweet and easily deceived. Another young man on the steamer crossing from New York also meets Mammie, and also falls in love, and this complicates matters. Mammie likes him very much, but is inclined to treat him in sisterly fashion, which the adoring lad does not want. The most astonishing and exciting series of adventures follow, started by the family of crooks, unconsciously aided and abetted by Mammie and finally helped out by the brotherly lover. The experiences are frankly melodramatic and some of the incidents are impossible, but they make interesting reading and the love element is sweet and pretty. The book throughout is well written and is a real addition to the list for summer reading.

"Old Reliable"

By Harris Dickson. Published by Bobbs-Merrill company, Indianapolis. Price \$1.25.

If genuine humor ever makes its way, surely this story will find an appreciative and delighted audience. Zack, a lazy darkey, is the character for whom the book is named, and has apparently earned his title because he can always be counted on as good for nothing and as a source of capital fun. He is a real creation, true as life in his overflowing variety, his fear of his wife, Selina, his pride in his magnificent bulid, his unquarrelsome aversion to work. "A derby hat perched on the southwest corner of his head, a checkered suit flapped round his thin body and a red necktie fluttered at the end of his neck." The author writes at all times with easy, racy picturesqueness. He turns out apt epithets, as the one applied to Nellie, victor over Old Reliable's dog, "Skippy." He ludicrously perverts familiar proverbs, causing black Selina to mutter, "Husband is as husband's does." Selina utters many amusing witticisms playfully to Zack, as "You'd rather tell a lie on credit than do a roof for cash." Here is a story over which one feels no uncertainty. The pages are generally pervaded by the life, humorous spirit of the black folk. Zack and his adventures are the life of the narrative, but incidentally there are interesting glimpses of hardships among the negroes when the cotton crop fails, to the work of labor agents, the wiles of organizers and "tizers" of the work of the grapevine telegraph. The writing is pleasant throughout, such expressions as "the cordial Christmas weather" being an apt example. One of the best things about Mr. Dickson's work is the way in which he has succeeded in imparting the perfection of dialect flavor without making his story hard reading. He has accomplished this, apparently, by avoiding the literal method of phonographic reproduction, which is certain to annoy the average reader, who likes his path made easy, and instead makes Zack talk for the most part ordinary ungrammatical English, with here and there a bold insertion of a word peculiarly characteristic and unctuous. Thus, Zack never says Saturday, but "Saddy," which to any one familiar with the niceties of darkey talk is exactly and precisely right. Now and then especially good negroisms are found, as when Colonel Spottiswoode, in dressing gown and slippers, is described as sitting "amongst a scattering of newspapers and magazines." An altogether original story.

author has so faithfully portrayed in "Aunt Jane of Kentucky"—and especially in the second "Aunt Jane" volume, "The Land of Long Ago." It is a story of love and sacrifice. A lawyer rising from obscure surroundings and about to receive the nomination for the highest office in the state is the hero, and his wife, a plain mountain woman, who did not think she had the education that a governor's wife should have, is the heroine of the story. The problem created by this situation furnishes the author with a motive for some of the best work she has yet done. The story is sure to provoke much discussion and it may do some good. The author's solution of the problem is satisfactory, but readers know it could have been solved otherwise.

"To Love and to Cherish"

By Eliza Calvert Hall. Published by "Aunt Jane of Kentucky," etc., published by Little, Brown & Co., Boston. Price \$1.

Eliza Calvert Hall, the gifted author of "Aunt Jane of Kentucky," has given us in her new book, "To Love and to Cherish," a new idyll of Kentucky, drawing an inspired picture of a man struggling between love and ambition, between duty and inclination. Those who have known and loved Aunt Jane will also love the Judge's gentle wife, who will enjoy the author's realistic picture and will appreciate the disclosure of the "hidden springs" which governed the Judge's decision. "To Love and to Cherish" is a story of political and home life. It deals with the same genuine big hearted Kentucky men and women that the

It was 20 years ago that E. Phillips Oppenheim came to America to marry Miss Elsie Hopkins of Boston. During the intervening score of years this English author has grown steadily in popularity until he is now one of the favorite novelists of the day. So great was the desire of the booksellers throughout the country to see Oppenheim on the occasion of his visit this year that he was invited to be their guest at the annual banquet of the American booksellers' association at Hotel Astor, New York, last month. With a score or more novels to his credit, including "A Maker of History," "Mysterious Mr. Sabin," "A Prince of Sinners," "The Malefactor," "The Illustrious Prince," Oppenheim finds the public as eager for his next book as heretofore, and with the authority in the limelight of American publicity there is every reason to believe that his newest story, "The Moving Finger," will soon be numbered as usual among the best sellers. Oppenheim is now 44 years of age, and having severed all business connections, he lives quietly at his English home in Norfolk county, near the North sea, when he is not traveling. Oppenheim is accompanied by his wife and daughter. They will return to England in about two months' time.

Educational Books From the American Book Co.

The book of most interest to readers in the west is "Public Education in California," by John Sweet. In this book we find an interesting account of the origin and development of public education in California, with the author's personal reminiscences of half a century. As principal of grammar schools and of the girls' high school, and superintendent of schools in San Francisco, and as state superintendent of public instruction in California, the author has always been in the vanguard of progress. The early struggles in founding the public school system, the fight against political dictation, the framing of the school laws and the various revisions, the growth of the system during its first half century, and the professional spirit of the teacher as exhibited in the present efficiency of the California schools, are set forth in a very readable manner. (\$1.00.)

Among the many curious adventures which Lieutenant General C. R. Hon. Sir W. F. Butler, G. C. B., records in his autobiography, "Sir William Butler: An Autobiography," is that horrible one of almost being buried at sea alive. It was after the Ashanti expedition on the gold coast of Africa, when all the officers practically came down with fever. General Butler had it worse than most and had reached the climax on board the transport on the way back to England. "I dimly remember people gathered about my cot," he says, "and one good comrade asking in my ear for my last wishes. I remember, too, suddenly declaring that I died a Catholic. Then there is a blank, but not altogether, for I can recollect that after the usual final settings of face and limbs had been drawn—the eyes closed and the sheet drawn over the laid out figure—there was a curious, indistinct idea in my brain that it was not as people supposed; that I was still conscious, and even that I was being carried by invisible hands or being floated on toward a great cloud veil, the passing through which it seemed was to be the final passage out of life. There was no sensation of bodily pain. How long I lay in this condition I don't know, but I remember men coming again about the cot, lifting the sheet and touching me and talking to each other. Then I thought, 'These men are about to prepare my body for the sea, and as in these hot latitudes the time between death and burial in the ocean was a very short one, I felt the extreme horror of the situation and longed to be able to make some sign or movement

BOOKS REVIEWED

- "To Love and to Cherish," by Eliza Calvert Hall. "Half Hours With the Summer Stars," by Mary Proctor. "The Sovereign Power," by Mark Lee Luther. "Old Reliable," by Harris Dickson. "The Princess of New York," by Cosmo Hamilton. "The Haunted Pajamas," by Francis Perry Elliott.

"Half Hours With the Summer Stars"

By Mary Proctor. Published by A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago. Price 75 cents.

Many authors have attempted to make some of the wonders of astronomy into a book for popular consumption, but they are usually so interested themselves in the scientific side of the subject that they fail to make their information either clear or attractive to the average reader. Miss Mary Proctor has named her book "Half Hours With the Summer Stars." It consists largely of articles she wrote for the New York Times during the time when all the world was

searching the heavens for a glimpse of that disappointing visitor, Halley's comet. The author has all the scientific qualifications needed for her work, being a member of English, American and Mexican astronomical societies of note, and having made many observations. She now proves herself as entertaining as she is scientific, for her book is as readable as a novel. She takes a few of the best known constellations and gives a familiar little talk about them; but best of all, she explains how we can find them at any hour of the night and what an assistance a pair

of opera glasses is to the amateur observer. Also, there is a bit of history as to how the various stars received their names and how they were looked upon by our superstitious ancestors. Much valuable information will have been gained when the little book is closed, and all the latest discoveries are mentioned in a way that will impress the reader, and he will learn all sorts of things unawares. The book should be in every country house library, and many readers will be stimulated to a deeper study of this fascinating subject by the perusal of this interesting book.

GOSSIP OF BOOKS AND THEIR WRITERS

The success of her first book, "The Glory of the Conquered," is one of the numerous and successful middle western writers. She was born in Iowa and graduated from Drake university, Des Moines. After two years of newspaper work, during which she "covered" state capital news for a Des Moines paper, she took some graduate work at the University of Chicago, and began her literary career with a number of short stories.

"The Glory of the Conquered" made so thorough a success that she was enabled to go to Paris to live, joining the American colony. When she returned to America, she took up a claim in Idaho, and in a wild country 40 miles from a railroad had something of a contrast to the life of the Latin quarter.

Miss Gaspell is now at her home in Davenport, Ia., planning a summer trip to Colorado, where she will live outdoors, for the most part, working on her next novel. Next fall she will go to New York for some months. Despite her travels, Miss Gaspell is one of the steadiest of workers. She spent much over a year of the most careful daily work on "The Visioning," and is planning to take absolutely all the time that seems necessary for her next novel.

Charles Scribner's Sons published last month two novels, "The Price," by Francis Lynde, and "Esther Damon," by Mrs. Fremont Older, and several serious publications of more than ordinary importance. The new edition of the letters of Robert Louis Stevenson, which contains 150 letters, to an intimate circle of friends, which have never before been printed; "The Revolutionary War and the Military Policy of the United States," by General Francis Vinton Greene, which marks an attempt to show the development from revolutionary times of a definite and efficient theory of military organization; and "Sir William Butler—An Autobiography," in which the late lieutenant general of the English army, who was also a distinguished author and politician, tells of his own varied life which brought him into contact with so many events and so many men of unusual character.

"My Dear Editor—Turn over; you're on your back. I put Warren in a plow factory because I know what a plow factory is, having spent some four years of my life in one. Don't let anybody josh you. Sincerely, "FUTELLE."

The fortieth edition of Frances Little's "The Lady of the Decoration" is selling.

Miss Susan Gaspell, whose new novel, "The Visioning," is repeating

help to the child in following out the kind of work he has selected. The books are fully illustrated and well printed and bound. (Doubleday, Page & Co., Garden City, N. Y.)

In "Nature Sketches in Temperate America" Joseph Lane Hancock describes animal and plant life from observations taken in the field, and for the first time in an out of doors book the wonders of this life are explained in the light of organic evolution. The reader to whom Darwin is only a name will find here an easy key to a new appreciation of nature, and he will gain, too, a comprehensive idea of just what evolution means. The book contains over 200 illustrations from drawings and photographs. (A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago; \$2.75.)

"The Sovereign Power"

By Mark Lee Luther. Published by the Merriman company, New York. Price \$1.35.

The best romance with flying machines as a sort of submotif is written by Mark Lee Luther. It is a very modern mixture, we should have said a few years ago, of Jules Verne and Anthony Hope, for a strong Zenda flavor pervades the story, though the author has not hesitated to use real places for his stage setting. An American girl, rich, beautiful of course, is the heroine. She is Ann Milburn, and when the tale opens she is touring the continent with her uncle and aunt. She meets Prince Rodoslav, who is causing much excitement and is under secret surveillance for he is the pretender to the Herzegovinian throne. Austria is playing for high stakes in the Balkans, but Russia and Italy think Bosnia and Herzegovina should satisfy her, so they watch each move made by the prince, who is the tool of Austria. The powers who are so worked up about the prince and his affairs hope that he may fall in love with some one, and smash up the plans, and when Ann comes upon the scene it looks very much as if their

hopes would materialize. The prince, however, knows all about the hope, so he lays the case before Ann, and she agrees to a pretended betrothal, while the prince cheerfully pursues his scheming way. This is the outline of the plot. The meeting place is Rheims, the great international aviation field. The prince has a flying machine, so has a young American inventor, who, to complicate matters, has been in love with Ann for a long time, and his suit is favored by her family. The whole story is ingeniously contrived. The political plot is not so real or so complicated that it spoils the romance. The aviation motif is not so prominent that one loses interest in the love story, and altogether it is well balanced and thoroughly well told. The author is still a young man; he was born at Knowlesville, N. Y., in 1872. He has, however, devoted himself to literary work since 1897, and is at present editor of the Smart Set magazine. His style is good, and each piece of work from his pen shows marked improvement.

Brief Reviews of New Books

Thomas Nelson & Sons, New York, have decided to issue the revision pages of their famous loose leaf encyclopedia half yearly, that is, in March and October of each year, instead of once a year. The new revision pages this year bring the encyclopedia up to date on the Andes Tunnel and Railway, Boy Scouts, Conservation of Natural Resources, Flying Machines, Fireproof Construction and Protection, Industrial Education, Cost of Living, New York State Barge Canal, Panama Canal to 1911, the Mexican Revolution to the Middle of March, 1911, etc. These pages are full and complete in every detail and show plainly the character of the books. It is without doubt the most complete and up to date encyclopedia on the market. (351 Fourth Avenue, New York.)

The less said about "Love's Pilgrimage," by Upton Sinclair, the better. The size of the book will fortunately stop many people (653 pages), and if it is sized to the digest, it is not so likely to finish. It is not that the book is unclean; it is unnecessary. No good can be accomplished by dwelling upon certain parts of life and nature in the morbid way which this author does. The sex question is almost an obsession with him, and he has certainly struck high water (or low water) mark in plain speaking in this book. Some of the socialistic ideas are very well and clearly written, but the book is too dull and dreary to hunt for the few good spots in the mass of wearisome detail. The publishers tell us the book contains the "naked truth" and it is false claim; it is naked and unblushing. (Mitchell Kennerly, New York; \$1.25.)

"A Study of Southern Poetry," by Henry Jerome Stockard, is essentially a text book, planned for use in the schoolroom and the study. Himself a teacher of literature and a poet, Professor Stockard has brought to his work the two essential qualities of the actual needs of the teacher and sympathy—understanding of the poetry he presents. His choice of material is broad and representative; his treatment of the material is logical, concise and practical. The work opens with a brief and thorough treatise on the art of poetry, a theme too rarely treated in textbooks of poetry. The work of each poet is prefaced by a short biographical sketch, each selection characterized and followed by questions for study and for the use of the teacher. To facilitate the study of the poems, the lines are numbered, an admirable plan, as every teacher knows. The book is well printed and bound. (Neale publishing company, New York; \$2.50.)

The New Hesperides," by Joel Elias Spingarn, contains the best work of this poet and scholar. There are poems of different and varied themes—love poems, poems expressive of American aims and aspirations and others suggestive of the author's literary and intellectual interests. The author holds the chair of comparative literature at Columbia university, and the title poem, "The New Hesperides," was read before the Society of Phi Beta Kappa 10 years ago at that institution. (Sturges & Walton company, New York; \$1.)

Thomas Lane Carter has written a book of short stories called "Out of the Sun," which are something new under the sun. He knows his Africa well and though all the tales are set there, they are as different as 11 tales well can be. A particularly good one is "Ab Sin's Sin." Ab Sin is an astute Chinese gambler, suave, keen, resourceful, whose ridiculous death discounts his reputation for cleverness. "Me and Rhodes" introduces us to Bub Tub, an old prospector of infinite tongue, who yawns about African adventure deliciously, and you believe him though you know he is lying and he knows you know. All the tales are interesting, some are gawwesome, but all readable and well written. (Neale publishing company, New York; \$1.50.)

Joel H. Watkins has prepared a little booklet entitled "Cotton Figures" and has made it so clear that a novice may lead his first cotton in the most appropriate style. An experienced leader will be delighted with the book, for he will find a number of new and beautiful figures which will add to the attractiveness of the ballroom. Fifty figures were contributed by well known leaders and only 24 of the very best and simplest have been selected. The book is a dainty little pamphlet with paper cover. (Neale publishing company, New York.)

"The Children's Library of Work and Play" has become an absolute necessity in order to meet the needs of the manual training movement, a movement increasing by leaps and bounds, and now easily the most important feature of the modern educational program. The volumes in this library are not textbooks, but are designed to serve as a

It is 15 years since the first appearance of Charles F. Lummis' "Gold Fish of Grau Chimu," and the anniversary is celebrated by publishing it in a dainty little illustrated edition, which will please alike the old admirers and the new friends. At the same time and from the same firm comes a shorter story by the same author, entitled "My Friend Will," which is one of the best bits of work from the pen of this virile western writer. Both books are well illustrated and the illustrations adapted for gift books. (A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago; 75 cents each.)