

NOTES

OK REVIEW
By PORTER GARNETT

COMMENTS

A Young and True Poet
("The Star Treader, Etc.," by Clark Ashton Smith)

THE emergence of a true poet usually excites an interest which is more general than genuine. Clark Ashton Smith, whose "The Star Treader and Other Poems," has just been brought out by A. M. Robertson, is a true poet. He is a truer poet than we had any right to infer from the examples of his which have appeared in the news columns of the daily press in advance of their publication. Let us of Mr. Smith's most charming production speak for itself:

CLOUD ISLANDS
What islands marvelous are these
That gem the sunset's tide of light—
How beautiful they lie, and bright,
Like some new found Hebrides!

What varied, changing magic hues
That gorgeously and slowly bill
That blowing, vivid, cold and blue
Their seaward winding valleys fill!
What mystic shadows their peaks receive
Close held by curving arms of land
That out within the ocean reach,
I mark a ferry city stand,
Set high upon a sloping beach
That burns with fire of shimmering sand.

Of sunset-light is formed each wall;
Each dome a rainbow-bubble seems;
And every spire that rises
A ray of golden moonlight gleams;
Of opal fume is every hall.

Alas! how quickly dims their glow!
What veils their dreamy splendor mar!
Like broken dreams the islands fade
As down from strands of cloud and star
The sinking tides of daylight flow.

Here is a poem of a rare and symmetrical beauty which does not falter unless one were to quarrel with the line. That out within the ocean reach. If, however, its beauty seem too frail, let us turn to the splendid sonnet "Retrospect and Forecast," in which we meet the philosophic note. It is

Retrospect and Forecast
Turn round, O life, and know with eyes aghast
The breast that fed thee—Death, disfigureless,
stern;
Even now, within thy mouth, from tomb and
urn,
The dust is sweet. All nature that thou hast
Was once as thou, and fed with lips made fast
On death; whose shining hues always
Kingdoms debased, and thrones that starward
yearn,
All art but shrouds that batter on the past.

Monstrous and dead, what it foeter's abide,
This unresolvable alterity?
Most unlovable find root within decay,
And might devour its flaming hues always?
Sickening, will life not turn eventually,
Or ravens' Death at last be satisfied?

But these poems are not typical of Mr. Smith's muse. They are merely his best. They are the poems that he himself is likely to prefer in a few years. Here is another short poem of exquisite perfection. Two similar lyrics, "The Dreamer" and "A Live Oak Leaf" almost equal it:

PINE NEEDLES
O little leaves, dipped in gray
And set in order straight and clean
How slender they are, how remarkable
Your points against the saplings' day!

Attending Nature's perfect art
Ye fringe the limbed firmament,
O little leaves, how remarkable
To place with beauty to the heart!

The following quatrain is a peculiarly happy expression of a form seldom handled so well.

THE PRICE
Behind each thing a shadow lies:
"Beauty" hath a price as well,
With the moonlight flooded skies
How many stars are lost!

A careful examination of the contents of this little volume is productive of certain definite impressions. The first impression is drawn from the poems—"Nero," "The Star Treader," etc.—which have been placed at the beginning, presumably because they are his most ambitious productions and in many ways the most remarkable. There is no denying their richness and power, but in the last analysis they fail to evoke the finer emotions which it is the function of poetry to excite. If one were to read these first poems only, the verdict could hardly be favorable. Indeed, it is probable that some critics, basing their judgment on these poems, might not even in their distinct limitations, say things that are hasty and unkind.

It is unfortunate that in this first collection of Mr. Smith's poems the dates of production should not have been given. It would then be possible (and interesting) to mark the steps of what is patently a growing talent. It is perhaps unnecessary to add that all true talent must be in a field state of growth. The moment it becomes set it ceases to have constructive value. The more nearly it keeps pace with the forward movement of the art of which it is the expression, the greater its significance and the more enduring will it be.

Regarding these more ambitious poems of Mr. Smith's, the reader will find the poet's declaration of principles (from which in the poems already quoted he happily departs) in his "Ode on Imagination," which begins thus:

Imagination's eyes
Stretch and discern far
The vision of the greatest star
That measures distance from the earth
To the center of the system's skies.
Its closure of the system's skies
To a tribute yield
To her retarding sight;
And Nature's eyes disclose the radiant stars
Rock-held in furnaces of planet-core
As has already been shown, all of Mr. Smith's poetry is not created upon the conception of imagination expressed in these lines and emphasized in the remainder of the poem. Much of it is in many of the poems he projects his mind beyond the immediate and the human. His thoughts fly on the wings of imagination to where

He stands engulfed
With supermundane crown and vestiture,
Of empires that include
All worlds and overworlds of dream.

In some of the poems he takes an external view of the universe, looking in from space like a "curious god." In others he looks out upon space like an astronomer at the eye-piece of his telescope which lures his vision beyond the stars, yet does not permit him to see the forested hills about him nor the cottage nearby, a child is being born. Now the poet whose imagination takes him in such wide courses addresses himself to our emotions in two ways only—either by an impelling and powerful diction which smoothes his thought, or by the creation through imagery of a high visual beauty. To those who do not react to powerful diction or, considering it only a small part of art to be used sparingly, grant another evocation, he will have little to say. By the same token, he will have little to say to those who do not conceive beauty in terms of supermundane things. The fundamental difficulty with all poetry written in contemplation of infinitude is that the exalted nature of the object contemplated exalts language in the poet's expression; the truest poetry, however, is cast in language so passionate or so beautiful that it infuses passion or beauty into the things of which it treats and which become thereby transfigured. The poet should be able to say, "I speak and my words make beautiful and vital whatsoever they touch." He should not say, "That is sublime, let me find adequate words to describe it."

But as we have endeavored to show in the poems quoted above, Mr. Smith does not always do this. Some of his one may not follow him without becoming dizzy. "The Cloud Islands" has to do with the sky, it is true, but it is of the earth. The poet deals with a simple subject and beautifies and makes it memorable by means of his art.

It will be seen, therefore, that Mr. Smith's poetry falls into two major categories. One is the poetry that transcends the limits of life and matter; in the other he clothes the things of earth with lyric beauty. There is, however, a third category in which fall such poems as "The Futurity." In this he applies the method of the first category to the material of the second. The poem is as aloof as "The Star Treader."

Of the poems in the spatial and stellar vein "The Song of a Comet" is in many ways the best. It shows a freer rhythm and the poet's handling of the words of disturbing unusualness are comparatively infrequent.

It would be idle to allude to the influences detectable in Mr. Smith's work. They are sufficiently obvious to be really important thing is that, in spite of the derivative character of some of the poems—so inevitable in the work of a young poet as to call for no comment—there is abundant evidence that the poet has the independence of modernity in his blood. He shows it in the free rhythms of some of his poems, and it is easy to fancy his being picked up by the great wave which has been sweeping poetry away from tradition with greater swiftness than it has ever moved since the beginning of literature. It is the wave upon which Whitman the pioneer rode so mightily. It is the wave that bore Browning and Meredith and Keats, it is the great of this wave that Massfield rides today like one of his great and beautiful ships. These tests are tempests and the sea that drowns

Others too—singers of the new voice—Davidson, Housman, Dowson, Symonds, Bridges, Middleton, Bynner—have ridden on this wave that sweeps irresistibly on. It is the wave upon which Whitman the pioneer rode so mightily. It is the wave that bore Browning and Meredith and Keats, it is the great of this wave that Massfield rides today like one of his great and beautiful ships. These tests are tempests and the sea that drowns

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THE SLAVE BOY THE GOLDEN MAIDEN THE HAG OF THE ROCK PICTURES FROM "THE SAMPO"

Delightful Finnish Myths

("The Sampo," by James Baldwin)

JAMES BALDWIN has produced in "The Sampo" (Scribner's) a book that will give pleasure to every one into whose hands it may fall, whether they be old or young. The story of the Sampo is a series of related legends drawn from the ancient lore of Finland—a series of myths new to English readers and interesting not alone on that account but by reason of their inherent charm.

Mr. Baldwin's work is based largely upon the so-called "Kalevala," a long poem by Dr. Elias Lönnrot who undertook the task—occupying many years and many of his incidents are in the permanent form—all that was best in the legendary literature of his countrymen. The present version has been admirably adjusted to the requirements of modern readers who will enter through it a new field of mythology unknown up to the present time to all except the professional folk-loreist.

There are a great many episodes in "The Sampo," each interesting in itself and touched with the delightful fantasy of ancient romance. The story tells of the wonderful adventures of Wainamoinen, the wizard minstrel, and of Ilmarinen, the smith, in the Frozen Land or Pohjola which is now Lapland and in the Land of Heroes or Wainola which today is known as the country of the Finns. Wainamoinen promises Dame Louhi, the Wise Woman of the North, that he will induce his friend the smith, who first tempered iron and forged the sky, to make for her the sampo, the magic mill which grinds out all sorts of treasures and gives wealth and power to its possessor. This he does and the sampo produces ceaselessly, flour, salt, and gold. The sampo is locked in the earth and the Frozen

Land becomes the land of plenty. There are many wonderful and strange quests to the Land of Shades and to the home of Wipunen, the Wisdom Keeper, and Ilmarinen submits to strange tests in order that he may win the hand of the Maid of Beauty; such tests as plowing a field of serpents and battling with the Great Pike of Tuonela. The legends tell of how he pursues the maid, how he wins her and how she is finally lost to him. It tells of the Golden Maiden that he would put in her place; of the famine in the Land of Heroes and the expedition to the Frozen Land to obtain some of the magical products of the sampo. Dame Louhi refuses to share the prosperity that the magic engine has brought to her country and so the minstrel and the smith take possession of the sampo and make off with it. They are pursued and in the flight that ensues the sampo is shattered to many pieces. These are carried by the sea to many parts of the earth and to all of these places they bring abundance. One tiny fragment only is retained by Dame Louhi, and so, to the present day, the Frozen Land is meagerly supplied with the grain and fruits that flourish elsewhere.

The phenomena of nature are variously interpreted in "The Sampo," and many of its incidents are in the form of fables in which animals, birds and insects play their parts. There is a freshness about this unusual book which gives it distinction and which will cause it to be remembered. The admirable illustrations are by N. G. Wyeth whose work may be observed here in a phrase differing widely from the western life in the depiction of which the artist made his reputation.

conclusions are set forth with informing detail. The author then takes up what he calls "the practical problem" and discusses the saloon, preventive and educational measures, and the care and control of the drunkard. While the book will have a scientific interest to neurologists and the medical profession generally, it will find many interested readers among laymen.

A Timely Book
"Panama, a Textbook on the Canal Zone and Republic With a Guide to the Pacific Coast from Panama to San Francisco," is the title of a handy volume written and published by Charles Walker Burris of Kansas City. Mr. Burris' book contains 144 pages, which are filled with information under so many different heads that the reader will doubtless find in it all the facts relative to the country, the canal and particularly to traveling, that a guide book may be expected to contain.

There are some notable names on the title page of a series of little leather bound gift books published by the Funk & Wagnalls company. In the collection are "The Misfortune of a World Without Pain," by Dwight Hillis; "The Signs of the Times," by William Jennings Bryan; "The Call of Jesus to Joy," by William Elliot Griffis; "The Latent Energies of Life," by Charles Reynolds Brown, and "The Conservation of Womanhood and Childhood," by Theodore Roosevelt.

Drunkenness
"Studies in the Psychology of Intemperance" (Sturgis & Walton company), by G. E. Partridge, author of "The Nervous Life," is a comprehensive study of the problem of intemperance and the care and cure of persons addicted to drink or drugs. Under the head of "The Intoxication Impulse" he does about the evidence in support of the phenomenon of drunkenness is examined historically and pathologically. Experiments upon animals are considered as well as the study of human subjects under intoxication, and the

author's thorough study of the causes and cures of sleeplessness. Doctor Collins is particular to point out that the requisite quantity of sleep is much less than popularly supposed, and he reduces abundant evidence in support of this contention. There are interesting chapters dealing with dreams, opiates, narcotics and hypnotism, and a final chapter on "Reading as a Soporific," in which various authors are recommended as sleep producers. Among these are Amiel, A. C. Benson and Sir Thomas Browne. The palm, however, is given unreservedly to the "Familiar Letters" of James Howell.

For the Sleepless
"Sleep and the Sleepless" (Sturgis & Walton company) is a treatise by Dr. Joseph Colling which should prove a boon to those who suffer from insomnia. It deals scientifically, but not technically, with the phenomenon of sleep and presents the results of the

BRIEF NOTICES

"Prayers for Little Men and Women," by John Martin. "Royal Auction Bridge," by R. F. Foster. "The Humane Idea," by Francis H. Towley. "Our Country Life," by Frances Kinsley Hutchinson. "A Valiant Woman," by M. F. Sangster. "The Mother Book," by Margaret E. Sangster. "Himself," by E. B. Lowry and Richard J. Lambert.

"Prayers for Little Men and Women" is the title of a well printed and interestingly decorated and illustrated book by John Martin, which is the name under which Morgan Shepard, formerly of San Francisco, writes. The prayers, of which there are 80, are in verse, and beside containing new interest for the child contain simple and sound moral lessons. Published by Harper & Brothers.

The rules and methods of expert play in the newly developed game of Royal Auction Bridge have been written by R. F. Foster, well known as an authority on Bridge. Published by the Frederick A. Stokes company.

Francis H. Rowley, president of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, has put his knowledge of man's attitude through the ages toward other animals into a little volume entitled "The Humane Idea." The author draws his information from many sources, among which classic literature figures largely. The book is published by the American Humane Education society.

In "Our Country Life" (McClurg), the author, Frances Kinsley Hutchinson, tells how she and her husband devoted 10 years to the perfection of the methods and materials of a successful and happy country life. There is much in the book about gardening and more about natural history in a variety of phases. Persons owning country houses will derive both pleasure and profit from this relation of experiences.

Under the title of "A Valiant Woman" (Crowell) "M. F." the author of three striking books—"The Journal of a Recluse" and "Klarity"—writes authoritatively and suggestively upon vital phases of the problem of education. It criticizes effectively the modern practices in the teaching of English and discusses frankly the questions of socialism, suffrage and marriage.

Margaret E. Sangster has produced in "The Mother Book" (McClurg) a work that should have a wide appeal. As the dominant figure in home life the mother of the family stands in a relation to society which warrants the care and thought which Mrs. Sangster has devoted to her congenial subject.

A handy volume entitled "Himself" by Dr. E. B. Lowry and Dr. Richard J. Lambert (Forbes) deals with sexual hygiene for men. It gives clearly and completely the knowledge essential to every man's health and success. The authors are recognized authorities on the subject.

Best Seller in Disguise
("The Bride's Hero," by M. P. Reve)

THE Frederick A. Stokes company, publishers of "The Bride's Hero," by M. P. Reve, announces that the author in reality a well known producer of best sellers who is trying the experiment of pseudonymity in order to find out how much a mere name counts with the fiction reading public.

The story ought to capture the popular taste because its interest and readability are apparent at the outset, and well sustained to the end. Persons looking for a story with which to pass the time agreeably will find it in "The Bride's Hero." The author has chosen a method of presentation which makes for movement and intimacy in the telling of his heroine's tale. The story is cast in the form of a young woman's diary and begins with an entry made in San Francisco. We catch here a glimpse of the city and learn that the heroine is named Sandra. Her romantic attachment for an English nobleman whom she has never seen, but to whom she has been attracted by his brilliant reputation as a scholar, Sandra—such is the heroine's name—goes to England, and as fate would have it she meets Sir Miles Culver, her hero, on the day before his engagement to another woman is announced. The marriage does not take place, however. Sir Miles, brother also loves the singer and she him with a love that proves stronger

than discretion. They attempt an elopement and the singer is killed in an accident to the automobile. The brother is smashed up and it becomes necessary if his life is to be saved that an enormous sum be expended for the services of specialists. Sir Miles, who is devoted to his brother and knows nothing of his duplicity, is in no position to meet this expense and contemplates disposing of the family estates.

This is Sandra's opportunity. She is rich and her friend, Lady Meldon, suggests to her that she save the situation by marrying Sir Miles. Although Sandra loves him her motive in consenting to the arrangement is an unselfish one. She wishes to make it possible for Sir Miles to save his brother's life. The baroness submits to the "arrangement," and Sandra becomes Lady Culver. Her husband treats her with formal indifference and his brother hates her cordially. How in the end the indifference of one and the hatred of the other drive Sandra, constitutes the better part of the story, rising at times to an intense but restrained dramatic. The fact that restraint is at times thrown aside in a manner which is almost impossible for one to take certain episodes seriously, does not prevent the story from being, on the whole, both vital and entertaining.

The Salary Question
("How to Get Your Pay Raised," by Nathaniel C. Fowler)

"HOW to Get Your Pay Raised," by Nathaniel C. Fowler Jr. (McClurg), is an extremely judicious and full setting forth of factors of material success. The author has dealt with practical questions in his other works, "How to Save Money," "Starting in Life," "Practical Salesmanship," "Gumption," and brings to his present treatise the fruit of his wide experience and a remarkable faculty for presenting his subject in a variety of minor aspects as well as in those of more general significance. Thus we find a well ordered discussion of the many influences that tend to increase or decrease the wage earning ability of the individual, which in their sum may be regarded as the underlying principles which lead to promotion.

Every aspect of the problem is dealt with successfully and the author's conclusions—frequently in the form of advice—are a few of the chapter headings will give an idea of the way the problem is approached. Here are some of them: "Pay Raising Luck," "Asking for Increase," "On Time and Absence of It," "Watching for the Prospects," "Asking for More Work," "Making It Easier for Your Employer," "Knocking," "Doing the Unrequired," "Concentration."

In Mr. Fowler's opinion the way to get an increase of salary is to deserve it, and his book is designed to show how this may be done. Not the least valuable and interesting part of the book consists of 100 pages in which 69 "Americans of distinct mark and great success" state in letters to the author what contributed to their first raise in salary and to subsequent promotions. Advice is cheap and usually futile, but "How to Get Your Pay Raised" is much more than a book of advice; it is a book from which any one—particularly young men—will derive benefit.

Novels and Short Stories

A CRY IN THE WILDERNESS, by Mary E. Waller—A dramatic story of a girl's life in the wilds of Canada, told with the skill which won recognition for the author's "The Wood Carver of Lympus." (Little, Brown; \$1.50.)

by a succession of incidents which make for suspense and entertainment. (McClurg; \$1.25.)

THE WINDS WILL, by Albert Britt. A novel to command interest in plot and characterization. The farm boy, Christopher Duran, meets the responsibilities of a life for which he is unprepared. Three interesting women play their parts in his career, which is skillfully developed along unusual lines. The story has in it much more than a vivid picture of American life. (McClurg; \$1.50.)

THE MINOR CHORD, by Joe Mitchell Chapple—A grand opera prima donna of international fame writes her biography, which begins with her childhood in the west and traces her wide ranging experiences of her professional career and her inner life. (Chapple Publishing company.)

HELL'S PLAYGROUND, by Ida Vera Simonton—A study of the conditions of society on the French Congo coast, which features a slave trader, a young French aristocrat, the demoralizing influences of life among the African natives, and a personal note enters bravely. The story is one of large purpose told with uncompromising frankness. (Mottat, Yarn; \$1.50.)

MISS WEALTHY, by Elizabeth Neff—A suspenseful and gripping story of a good fortune to fall into the hands of an unsuspecting and good hearted Miss Wealthy, who, in her zeal as deputy sheriff, makes a curious mistake and a number of amusing complications which are satisfactorily explained at the end of an entertaining narrative. (Stokes.)

ADRIAN SCROOP, by Rowland A. Dyer—A tale of extravagant and diverging adventures in the lives of a millionaire and his daughter. Unusual and highly entertaining. (Dodd, Mead; \$1.25.)

A WALL OF MEN, by Margaret Hill McCort—The story deals with the stirring incidents connected with the fight in Kansas against the slave holding policy. John Brown is one of the characters in the story, and the massacre at Lawrence is among the historical episodes incorporated in the narrative. (McClurg; \$1.50.)

THE HONEY POT, by Norval Richardson—The cleverly and cleverly conceived story are laid in Mexico, where an attractive senorita plays with the affections of three Americans. The spirit of comedy prevails throughout the lively narrative. (Page; \$1.)

STEPHEN MULHEW, by Howard B. Seitz—A biographical novel in which the evolution of a character is minutely studied. He emerges a striking character under influences and experiences which reflect interesting phases of American life. (Cosmopolitan Press; \$1.50.)

OLD TIME AND YOUNG TOM, by Robert J. Burdette—A collection of genial and humorous discourses dealing with age and youth and many other things. A personal note enters pleasantly. (Bobbs-Merrill; \$1.25.)

A BUILDER OF SHIPS, by Charles M. Sheldon—A story of how a man rises from the wreck caused by his own weakness. It deals with the career of a ship builder whose ambition leads him into difficulties from which with the aid of religion, he emerges. (Doran; \$1.20.)

HOFFMAN'S CHANCE, by William Caine—A story of artistic life with a Bohemian atmosphere. The hero is a musician and plays a part in the pursuit of his ambition are related in an interesting narrative of the London art world. (John Lane; \$1.25.)

A LIVING LEGACY, by Ruth Underwood—The characters are American types and the story is an interesting narrative of Philadelphia life. The plot is erected upon a young man's guardianship of the charming daughter of a dead friend and presents an interesting picture. (Winston; \$1.25.)

THE STREET OF TWO FRIENDS, by F. Berkeley Smith—The author, who has lived for 20 years in the artist quarter of Paris, tells true stories of the picturesque life which he knows so well. His point of view is intimate and sympathetic and his style captivating. (Doubleday, Page; \$1.50.)

THE SIEGE, by John S. Williams—A love story of the civil war written from the southern point of view and dealing with historical events through which a thread of romance is woven. (Cosmopolitan Press; \$1.20.)

BROKEN ARCS, by Dorell Eglis—This author, well and favorably known in England, has written a psychological novel of unusual strength and significance. It reflects modern life and is distinguished by keen observation and character study. (Kennerly; \$1.35.)

THE CAVERNS OF CRAIL, by Thomas Sawyer Spivey—The author has made ancient Persia the scene of this story of adventure and intrigue. (Cosmopolitan Press.)

THE LOCUSTS FEARS, by Mary Helen—Life in the Philippines is described in this story with detail and interest. The plot has to do with the career and complicated love affairs of a trained nurse. (McClurg; \$1.25.)

THE CRADLE OF THE DEEP, by Jacob Fish—The hero, a charming and a Frenchman escape from a shipwreck only to be thrown upon their resources on a desert island. How the Frenchman dies and how the others are rescued after adventures such as can occur only when the facilities and restrictions of civilization are removed make a story that will be followed with interest. (Page.)

MEADOWSWEET, by Baroness Orczy. This refreshing story appeals by reason of the interesting character portraits it contains and on account of the well managed plot in which a charming woman wins the reader by the way she influences the characters of those about her, especially a sister whose jealousy and disloyalty complicate the lives of both.

THE ENCHANTED BURRO, by Charles F. Lummis—Tales of romance, adventure and mystery, two of which deal with California and others with Mexico, Peru and other parts of the two Americas. (McClurg; \$1.)

THE TIME LOCK, by Charles E. Walk—A mystery story or rather a story of many mysteries in which the reader's interest will be aroused by a strange disappearance and kept alive

SHORTER REVIEWS

A New Interpretation

There is no denying the interest of this little volume by Dr. Isador H. Coriat, entitled "The Hysteria of Lady Macbeth" (Mottat, Yarn; \$1.25). In it the author attempts to apply conclusions drawn from researches in abnormal psychology to an interpretation of Lady Macbeth's character. Not content with presenting an hypothesis upon which certain analogies between scientifically observed phenomena and the actions of Shakespeare's woman may be created, Doctor Coriat declares that Lady Macbeth is affected with a "typical" hysteria. Although there will be many to say that the author claims too much for this theory, he has essayed a new form of literary criticism which is filled with suggestion and interest.

Drunkenness
"Studies in the Psychology of Intemperance" (Sturgis & Walton company), by G. E. Partridge, author of "The Nervous Life," is a comprehensive study of the problem of intemperance and the care and cure of persons addicted to drink or drugs. Under the head of "The Intoxication Impulse" he does about the evidence in support of the phenomenon of drunkenness is examined historically and pathologically. Experiments upon animals are considered as well as the study of human subjects under intoxication, and the

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