

# Library Browsings

Edited by Glen F. Burch

## THE MONTH'S MOST POPULAR BOOKS

### Fiction

- THE PLASTIC AGE, By Percy Marks.
- THE GREEN HAT, By Michael Arlen.
- THE WHITE MONKEY, By John Galsworthy.
- THE LITTLE FRENCH GIRL, By Anne Sedgwick.
- ARROWSMITH, By Sinclair Lewis.
- TOWN AND GOWN, By Lynn Montross.
- MESSER MARCO POLO, By Donn Byrne.
- HEIRS APPARENT, By Sir Philip Gibbs.
- SO BIG, By Edna Ferber.
- ANNETTE AND SYLVIE, By Romain Rolland.

### Non-fiction

- ARIEL: LIFE OF SHELLEY, By Andre Maurios.
- IN DEFENSE OF WOMEN, By H. L. Mencken.
- THE DANCE OF LIFE, By Havelock Ellis.
- THE CREATIVE LIFE, By Ludwig Lewisohn.
- FOOTLIGHTS AND SPOTLIGHTS, By Otis Skinner.

## THE WEEK'S BRIEF REVIEWS

**THIS MAD IDEAL**, By Floyd Dell. In his latest book, Dell adds another figure to his "American gallery of portraits." Judith Valentine, the girl in search of a mad ideal, will live in literature as long as any of the striking characters Dell has created in the course of his career as a writer.

**MR. TASKER'S GODS**, By T. F. Powys. This book represents Powys' attempt at a long novel, and it has been astonishingly well received. In it the author

"tells a story of lust, passion, stupid cruelty, of the ugliness that lies beneath the placid surface of lives as conventional as those of the village clergyman, his son the curate and the pretty parlor maid."

**WILLIAM BLAKE AND HIS WORLD**, By Harold Bruce. Another attempt at delineating the life and work of that strange Englishman, William Blake. In the course of the book, "an illuminating commenting of Blake's work is woven into the story of his career."

There has been, no doubt, a great deal of anticipation as to the successor of "The Plastic Age," a novel which gained recognition last year as one of the season's best sellers. Percy Marks in his new novel "Martha" has found his niche in literature by writing something which is truly more deserving of his ability as an artist in the field of novelists.

There is usually a great deal of speculation on the part of the reader as to whether the second novel of an author will resemble its predecessor in subject matter and plot. In this case, the reader will find that the plot, setting and treatment of theme are entirely different. "The Plastic Age" is a modern college story while "Martha" is the life story of a half-breed Indian girl in California.

The plot, while a hackneyed one, differs from its forerunners (i.e. "Romona", etc.) in that Mr. Marks treats it realistically, whereas previous writers have been more or less romantic in their treatment of it.

"Martha" is truly an American

story which savors of the romance of the West and of its native inhabitants, the Indians. Covelo, the scene of the story, is the birth-place of the author, thus insuring a better understanding of the problems of the half-breed Indian and a more intelligent treatment of their story. Each character is depicted in a very human and life-like way.

Martha, the heroine of the novel, is the daughter of an Englishman and a handsome squaw. Her father deserts her mother and while yet a small child a passing glance of him, a careless visitor viewing the Indian's rites, fires her small soul with the desire to be white like her father. Providence is in her favor as she is brought up by a minister and his wife. This one life-long desire and the problems to which its partial fulfillment give rise, make the novel unusually interesting.

The outcome of the story reaches a logical conclusion entirely consistent with the plot. Martha's child in turn views her errant father a casual onlooker, and the circle is complete.—M. R.

## DEATH IN VENICE: A STUDY OF THE ARTIST

When Thomas Mann's "Buddenbrooks" appeared in translation in this country, its many admirers were wont to say it was far and away the best thing the great German novelist had ever written. But that was before the appearance of his latest work. This book, "includes a trilogy of studies of the artist, exquisitely done; in fact from the point of view of style, it represents Mann at his very best. But while reading the book one forgets the style, forgets who wrote the book, forgets even that it is a book.

The first story "Death in Venice" is the account of a successful writer, Aschenbach, who, in the last years of his life, falls under the sway of an infatuation for a beautiful Polish youth, the sublime infatuation of an artist. Aschenbach's struggle with himself, his attempt to dispel the web of sublime beauty with which he enwrapped the beautiful youth, by becoming acquainted with him, is all vividly presented with a master touch. There is a dramatic moment when the aged writer discovers that "he did not want sobriety: his intoxication was too precious. For who can explain the stamp and the nature of the artist? Who can explain this deep instinctive welding of discipline and license? . . . and there is a beautiful description of the sunrise in Venice. Aschenbach sits shivering in his room in front of his window early in the morning, unable to sleep, waiting for the sun to rise. "Sky, earth, and sea still lay in glassy, ghost-like twilight; a dying star still floated in the emptiness of space. But a breeze started up, a winged messenger from the habitations beyond reach. . . . And that first sweet reddening in the farthest reaches of the sky and sea took place by which the sentience of creation is announced. . . . strewn of roses began there on the edge of the world. . . . Purple fell upon the sea which seemed to be

simmering, and washing the color toward him. . . the splendor caught fire silently; with godlike power an intense flame of licking tongues broke out. . .

"Tristan," the second of the trilogy, is the story of another writer, a queer middle aged man called Kippel, and his influence upon the life of the lovely and fragile wife of a merchant, a typical German Babbitt. This strange author is attracted to the merchant's wife, in much the same way that Aschenbach was attracted to the Polish boy, because she appeared to him the essence of beauty. Only he talked to her. This strange relationship reaches its climax one evening when he asks her to play. . . . The setting, oddly enough, is in a fashionable sanitarium in Southern Germany.

The third story "Tonio Kroger" is acclaimed in Germany, Mann's greatest piece of fiction. And it probably is. Here one sees the development of the artist sketched, surely and swiftly, from early boyhood to manhood and success, a description here, a significant incident there, and lo, the picture is complete. The reader finds himself more completely in sympathy with Tonjo than with any of the preceding characters, possibly because he is young, and struggling with life. There is something about the image we have of the miserably happy boy standing in the corner of a gay ballroom facing a drawn blind, while near him stands the girl who in his youthful heart he adores entirely unconscious of his existence. And we are inclined to nuzzle with him that "happiness is to love, and perhaps to snatch deceitful little moments of nearness to the object of love." When, in a conversation with a girl-artist friend some time later, he declares "that good works originate only under pressure of a poor life, that those who live do not work, and that a man must be dead in order to be totally a creator," we are not so sure we understand, but we are all sympathy.

## ARROWSMITH: THE IDEALS OF SCIENCE

In Arrowsmith, while Sinclair Lewis limits his figures to the medical fraternity, he has by no means narrowed his canvas. If he has not given us an exhaustive survey of the profession, he has at least assembled a broad variety of types. What Zola and Trollope have done for the healers of souls, Lewis seems to have attempted for the healers of bodies. The reaction of these personages to environment and to circumstances is developed naturally. We run the gamut from the venal to those who compound ideals with convenience, while the more intransigent and widely differing characters of Gottlieb, Wickett and of Arrowsmith himself, afford some relief from the rest.

With Arrowsmith we may feel it highly improbable that any one in-

dividual should be called upon to defend his ideals of scientific integrity on so many stages, convenient as it may be for purposes of a thesis, and though the situations taken singly are not unconvincing.

To a layman at least, the large body of medical detail seems convincing too. Without it, overabundant as it may seem, the book would lack reality. Whether or not there is a thesis, the author has drawn no conclusion in words. We may decide for ourselves whether he launches his characters with failure predestined; whether real success or permanent loss is the outcome of compromise; whether a higher type of courage than that of the inconsequent Leora is touched upon. At any rate Sinclair Lewis with Arrowsmith has taken a big step forward.—The Scribe.

Theodore Amstutz, Silverton; Walter Maurice Beckstrom, Eugene; Donald Randolph Cook, Helix; Harmon Fairfax Crites, Springfield; Ted Roosevelt Gillenwaters, Goldendale; Boyd Conger Homewood, Eugene; Clayton Earl Hughes, Hood River; Charles Edward Jost, Roseburg; Earl Wallace Smith, Eugene; Lee Alanson Withrow, Elmira, Louis Harold Carlson, Echo; Herschel Edgar Kidwell, Pilot Rock, and Levi Ankeny, Walla Walla, Washington.

The last three named will receive their commissions upon the completion of the summer training period to be held at Camp Lewis, Wash., from June 13 to July 23. Lieutenant Colonel Sinclair, head of the University R. O. T. C., has been appointed executive officer of the appointed executive officer of the University of Oregon training unit will attend this summer's encampment, according to the report turned in to the war department.

## BIOLOGISTS LEARNING BIRDS BY THEIR NOTES

### Spring Brings Forth Many Species for Study

Classification of birds by sight or sound is part of the work done by the field class in biology, conducted this term by Dr. Ralph R. Huestis. Last Saturday morning about twelve species were seen or heard in an hour and a half.

"The work of classifying birds is a most interesting one at this time of year," said Dr. Huestis, "as many new birds are coming in every day, and the class expects to identify 30 or 40 species during this quarter." Birds are identified as easily by their note or song as by sight, he pointed out, and this proves of great value to students who are interested at all in birds as the course soon teaches them how to identify birds in this manner.

The course in field biology offers four units of credit and consists in one laboratory, one field trip, and two lectures a week. The course is not limited to the study of birds but takes up amphibians, reptiles, fish and other biological specimens. In the laboratory stuffed specimens are studied as aids to the field trips.

The course is an upper division subject, but students who have not had prerequisite work in biology may be admitted, Dr. Huestis said.

## CALIFORNIA CLUB TO MEET AT COLLEGE SIDE TONIGHT

The California club will hold its first meeting of spring term tonight, at 7:30, in the College Side Inn. Arrangements for the picnic and dance to be held sometime this term will be made. Membership cards may be obtained at the meeting from Noreen Burke, secretary. A new treasurer will be elected to fill the office left vacant by Grace Pederson.

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## TWENTY SENIORS EARN ARMY COMMISSIONS

### Rewards Granted for Four Years Local Training

Twenty seniors, graduating this June, will be granted second Lieutenant's commissions in the officers' reserve corps. These men will hold regular army commissions as second lieutenants in case of war, and will have completed four years of service in the University Reserve Officers Training Corps.

Men who will receive commissions are: Charles H. Newell, Jr., William Russell Burton, Elmer Norton Calef, Frederick Highes Clayton, William Rainey Poulson, Carl Harold Skoog, all of Portland; and W. Norman Larabee, St. Helens;

## FIVE MEN TO RECEIVE WRESTLING SWEATERS

Five varsity wrestling sweaters have arrived for Ford, Wingard, Davis, Leavitt and Cartwright, who will be awarded their letters.

Letters are awarded all wrestlers who win one conference match. Last year four men were able to win a letter. As wrestling is a minor sport the letter is smaller than the one offered for major sports.

To-Ko-Lo, men's sophomore campus honorary, will hold a luncheon today at 12 noon, at College Side Inn with a faculty representative as the principal speaker. This will be one of the regular luncheons of the society held at intervals during the school year. Members, alumni, and pledges, will attend the meeting today, Pete Brooks, president of the organization, has announced.

**PATRONIZE EMERALD ADVERTISERS**

## CAMPUS TO ENTERTAIN PARENTS NEXT MONTH

### Mothers' and Fathers' Day Will Be Combined

May 9 and 10 have been set as the days for Mothers' and Fathers' week-end on the campus. A committee consisting of Bill Poulson, chairman; Roy Bryson, Pauline Bondurant, Jean Harper and Beatrice Peters has been appointed by Randall Jones, president of the student body; to prepare the program, issue the invitations, and provide entertainment for the mothers and fathers here that week-end.

Plans are incomplete as yet, but there will be the Junior Vodvil, on Saturday night, and on Sunday, a vesper service is planned. This will be arranged by the regular vespers committee for the week-end. There has been much discussion over the advisability of having a Fathers' day, never before held, at a separate time from Mothers' day regularly held every spring. But the social calendar is so full that no time could be found. Then also, many parents would desire to come together and the combination of the two days makes this possible. Students are urged to especially invite their parents here for these two days.

**PATRONIZE EMERALD ADVERTISERS**

**Lemon "O" Barber Shop** Up-to-date Hair Cutting Bert Vincent, Prop.

## Suspect Convicted of Robbery in Moot Trial By Lawyers Last Night

(Continued from page one)

specifies must exist the defense claimed that he was not guilty of robbery.

The verdict that was passed upon the carefree Mr. Short was based upon the fact that he had drawn a weapon and had thereby indicated intent to intimidate, which is unlawful.

The facts of the case as brought out in the trial are as follows: At 8:30 on the evening of October 9, 1924, four men, including the accused and the states chief witness the aforementioned Armand DeMerit, had had, to use witness Paul Patterson's words, "a drinking bout," and had later gone to the College Side Inn for a few hands of poker. After Short had won one game and lost another, he (according to his own statement) detected signs of fraud and immediately pulled out two guns, declaring, "The game's up. I've been cheated. You're a bunch of crooks." He ordered them to stick up their hands and "shell out." He was not arrested until three days afterward. In the mean time, according to the testimony of "Doctor" MacGregor, which the defense introduced, he had been suffering from delirium tremens.

## PIANO JAZZ

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