

Library Browsings

Edited by Glen F. Burch

OSSENDOWSKI'S LATEST WORK, PAEAN OF HATE

Ferdinand A. Ossendowski is a Pole. Since 1772 the greater part of Poland has been at the mercy of the Russians and has received her share of the bad treatment handed out by the old regime to its subject peoples. In his youth Ossendowski was in an atmosphere of hatred of Russia and of all things Russian. When the revolution and the Peace of Paris gave Poland her freedom, it also gave Ossendowski his chance. His first book, "Beasts, Men and Gods," was very critical but seemed to be the writing of a fair, serious critic. Now comes "The Shadow of the Gloomy East."

Ossendowski throws aside all restraint, all good feeling. He pours out the pent up hatred of the Pole for the Russian in 200 pages of the most destructive criticism. He spares no part of the Russian society. He curses equally the old regime, and the new. The upper classes are as bitterly assailed as the most ignorant, he would say the most savage, peasant.

The book treats at great length the freak religious sects such as those who worship the devil and those who flog themselves as a means of worship and gives the impression that all Russia is a strict adherent to all the different types. He exposes witches, wizards, derishes, corrupt clergy and religious imposters like Rasputin. No mention is made of the beauty of the Russian Orthodox worship described by the more thorough observers.

Ossendowski sees, creeping out of what he considers the foul mess known as Russia, a monster born in the East which will be "the first harbinger of the approaching doom of mankind." Words almost fail him when he tries to describe what he sees for Russia in the future. He predicts that Russia will continue until all that is wreckable is wrecked until she is exhausted by her orgy of horror, until the whole land is incapable of supporting life another instant, then she will throw herself on the mercy of the rest of the world and cry for mercy and you can almost hear Ossendowski's foot strike her face as he kicks her back into chaos.

The apparent purpose of the book is to blacken Russia from her earliest times to the present, to paint her people as a race of demons and one feels when reading it that he has succeeded only in writing a rather good horror tale and that the black from his pen has splattered him as badly as it has his subject.

T. G.

THE TATOOED COUNTESS A PICTURE OF THE "DAME GALLANTE"

She was fat. Not much has ever been said in favor of the fat wo-

man. Perhaps it is better so. But the disadvantage of being a fat woman is somewhat ameliorated by being a fat Countess. Being a fat Countess is a whole lot different from being a fat woman. The distinction in this matter is very broad, even wide. (Ah, unhappy pun.) And yet it might have been only her double chin that brought upon her the appearance of being fat.

Well, the Count dies. And the fat Countess goes back to live in the middle west, in the old home town, (Orchestra plays "Swanee River" here), in the village where she had lived in the years ago before she had gone to Italy, as little Ella Poore, and married the Count. She bids a colorful farewell to Tony etc. etc.

In the old home town a little girl, speaking in relative terms only, loves a little boy. But the Countess—she is so continental. She knows lots and lots of Italian words. And smokes a distinguished cigarette. The home town tea parties actually give her a head ache. For diversion, she turns to the little boy. And the little boy sings love's sweet lullaby (Ta-ta, Little Girl!) And the little girl, who is really a sincere old maid, regrets the loss of the little boy who has reached the mature age of seventeen. But that isn't the big point in the story. The big point is the fat Countess.

"The Tattooed Countess" by Carl

Van Vechten, has already reached a sixth printing. So far it has taken a new printing every two weeks. It is a critical book in the career of Van Vechten as a novelist. After Alfred A. Knopf had read the manuscript of the novel he wrote: "This book is as amusing as anything that has come from his pen, it shows him as much more than the amused and perhaps cynical on-looker of, say, 'The Blind Bow-Boy'" (Indulging in a slatternly thrust Kenelm Digby has just called the latter book "The Blind Booby").

But Knopf didn't know what the critics would say. Van Vechten is supreme as the "amused and perhaps cynical on-looker" (a pretty dodo, by the way), but as the interpreter of the American provincial life of a generation ago he is not a grand master. And again: beside a paragraph of clever thinking, careful writing, his exuberance gives away to a flatulent cloud of gaseous words. Van Vechten has a particular genius. He has made

a tremendous picture of the "dame gallante." But he has somewhere cheated himself and his audience with "The Tattooed Countess."

P. M.

In her estimate of the book Gertrude Atherton, looking through a horizon of her own which is clouded with harmones, Brown-Sequard, endocrines and Steinach, places too much importance upon Gareth, the

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OBAK Wallace, Publisher

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Volume 4

SATURDAY, A. M.

NUMBER 13

INVESTIGATORS OUT What Is in the Student's Mind?

At last the investigators are on the trail of the poor hard working student. The chief topic of their research now is the occupation of finding out just what the average student thinks about. To aid in this great work a machine has been invented to give the exact content of the mind. Startling results have already been obtained.

A report of the work done thus far has been given out and a few of the tabulated results are given herewith. The report includes the name and the thoughts which have been found to occupy the thinking regions of the person named.

Fred Wilcox: Fords, girls, Fords, girls, girls, Fords, Girls.
Bill Dills: (Censored).
Katherine Greaf: Supper, dinner, lunch, tea, breakfast.

Harold Brumfield: KKKKKKK
KKKKKKKKKK
George Godfrey: \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$
\$\$\$\$\$cecece.

More results are expected to be reported in the near future. Watch for them in Obak's Column.

reward the defeated candidates? Obak has a new brass rail, that fits the uncertain foot right smartly. And incomparable malt milks and the same mellow smokes.

There's one thing in this bleary-eyed old world. Just look at Frank Loggan. You can't keep a good man down. And it seems to us, though our data is uncertain, that the new manager got his start by hanging around Obak talking us out of smokes.

One of the co-eds, the one with the bob cut, was heard to remark that now that women were entering the ambassadorial profession we could expect an end of secret diplomacy.

Say, you sworn voters of Jalmar Johnson, look into this matter of free stogies. Maybe they're from Obak's. (See page 2, Friday's Emerald.)

Well, it's hot. And nothing clever stirs the brain of the mighty editor. We'd better quit. Anyway we don't get paid for this. We wish we were addicted to poetry, and we could rave on about the birds, and trees, and everything, and nobody would know the difference.

Didja notice the incense at "Hassan" last night? And Ed Bohlman leaning in ecstasy over the bronze bowl. You can't fool, Ed. He knew the aroma of Obak's specials.

CELEBRATE THE ELECTION WITH DIXIE FLYER SPECIAL



Isn't it about time to celebrate the election? The winners are joyous. The "also rans" are sort of downhearted. Dixie Flyer ice cream special is just the thing for them all at Sunday dinner. Its tropical combinations of Dixie Flyer special, pineapple and Hawaiian delight ice creams will add just the summer tinge appropriate to the season. Order now at regular ice cream prices.

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Danner Robertson

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enough to make a cat laugh



on the way Charley's Aunt with Syd Chaplin

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