

# Psychiatrist Writes 1,000 'Self-Sonnets'

Dr. Merrill Moore Author of 'M' Poems And 50,000 Other 14-Line Verses

The reading matter in a doctor's room has been the butt of more than one joke, but the medical profession seems to be trying to remedy that by writing its own books. Never before have doctors figured so prominently in book news, what with best-selling novels about doctors, famous surgeons' biographies and autobiographies.

Now comes a new variation—Dr. Merrill Moore's "M: 1000 Auto-biographical Sonnets," published recently by Harcourt, Brace and Company. Merrill Moore is the most prodigious writer of sonnets extant, or so the publishers claim. At the age of 34, he has already written more sonnets (about 50,000 at the latest count) than any other man who ever lived; and this book of one thousand sonnets is, so far as his publishers know, the largest of its kind ever produced. Though the writing of poetry has always been of vital interest to him, it actually has been an avocation.

The majority of his time and interest has been taken up by his vocation, medical work. He is assistant visiting neurologist at Boston City hospital, and has staff connections with other Boston hospitals. Since 1935 he has been engaged in private practice of psychiatry.

A member of the fugitive group, Merrill Moore is also the author of "The Noise That Makes" and "Six Sides to a Man."

### TWO WHO WRITE

The New York home of W. E. and Helen Woodward was a hive of industry for several months recently, for both practice the writing trade and both have regularly scheduled books for publication. Mrs. Woodward's "It's an Art: Advertising and Advertisements," was published by Harcourt, Brace, and Mr. Woodward's "Lafayette" was published by Farrar and Rinehart.

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# The Emerald Reader's Page

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## Slapstick and Subtleties Of George S. Kaufman Provide Varied Hilarity

### Chapter 5 on the Ingratating Funnymen Who Is at Home Writing Sophisticated Patter or Broad Humorous Dialogue

By LLOYD TUPLING  
Upon winning the 1932 Pulitzer prize with "Of Thee I Sing," Francis Ferguson, bookman drama editor, said of George S. Kaufman, "If there is a growing point in the theater, Mr. Kaufman is at the tip of it. Mr. Kaufman works with his feet on the ground. He is the author of a string of hits, which are hits first, and good plays second, if at all.

"When he sets out to crack the he brings his audience with him. He knows what the traffic will bear, he advances slowly and ingratiatingly; and he surrounds himself with excellent collaborators."

Politics have more than once been the target for Kaufman wit. The current "I'd Rather Be Right," which he co-authored with Moss Hart, carries the gentle lampooning of politics much farther than did "Of Thee I Sing." In "I'd Rather Be Right," which incidentally is the twenty-third Kaufman hit in 18 years of writing, they crack at Roosevelt, the cabinet, and the supreme court right out loud—but not too loud.

Oh, You Frances!  
It will be a long time before I forget a certain remark passed by Madame Perkins when all the members of the cabinet were rehearsing a radio program with which they wish to swing a bit of public opinion behind New Deal legislation. It was the lot of the good Madame to give some of the latest Washington gossip.

Madame Perkins: What U. S. Senator and someone else recently occupied a bed once occupied by George Washington? What ex-president, now residing in California, still owes the Washington hand laundry one dollar and twenty-four cents?

In this production we see more straight satire and less of the musical style employed in "Of Thee I Sing." Mr. London appears as the Roosevelts' butler, Mother Roosevelt keeps bobbing in and out bearing a large cake and always headed for a celebration of F.D.R.'s birthday.

All in all, "I'd Rather Be Right" is much more amusing and less nonsensical than its forerunner. In it the technique of the earlier production is improved—the base is more concrete.

In 1935 Kaufman collaborated with Katherine Dayton, noted student of Washington society, in "First Lady," a tale of teacup politics. It was based on what might have been the feud between Dolly Gann and Alice Longworth which for more than a decade kept Washington tongues clacking.

The play was straight comedy melodrama without the musical accompaniment of Kaufman's other two political yarns. "First Lady" had no slapstick; it was sophisticated and smooth.

The wide divergence between the type of comedy in "First Lady" and that in "I'd Rather Be Right" might indicate a facile ability that can take any kind of comedy and make it click.

I am inclined to accept the second viewpoint, for in the three plays which Kaufman wrote alone—the comedy melodrama, "Butter and Egg Man," and the musicals, "The Cocoanuts" and "Strike Up the Band"—he proved his ability in both fields, although similar products have been improved by collaboration.

Just as the political setting described in "Of Thee I Sing" needed restating in the more recent "I'd Rather Be Right," so did the theme of "Once In A Lifetime," a crack

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### Breaks Ground



Starting construction preliminaries for the first newspaper mill in the south is E. L. Kurth, president of the \$6,000,000 project at Lufkin, Texas. Southern publishers, contracting for the mill's entire paper output over a five-year period, sight a step toward breaking foreign domination of the American newsprint market.

### Gestalt Psychology Simplified in Source Book of Articles

Of interest to followers of Gestalt is the recently-published "A Source Book of Gestalt Psychology," which condenses and simplifies for English readers the essential contents of the 35 most important articles published in Germany between 1920 and 1929 by the leading exponents of Gestalt psychology (Koffka, Wertheimer, Koehler) and their associates.

Vital though this source material is to students, its several thousand pages of scientific German and the inaccessibility of many of the original publications have previously kept English-speaking readers from becoming properly acquainted with it.

Willis D. Ellis of the University of Arizona has prepared the book, and Professor Kurt Koffka has written a special introduction.

### Taking Notes?



Maybe Henry Kance, above, the president's stenographer, was merely drawing circles and squares. Senator Bennett Champ Clark, Missouri, says Kance was taking notes.

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### Street Scene

A. VIGNETTE  
By SALLY MITCHELL  
She was delicate and tiny and grey, and it seemed, as she hurried down the cold deserted street, that a single gust of wind could actually blow her away.

As her nimble little legs carried her hurriedly on her way, feminine intuition prompted her to glance over her shoulder, and for a moment her heart stood still. She gasped. That brute! He was after her again!

She must hurry, hurry! He mustn't catch her on these deserted streets alone. It would mean her life, and she had so much to live for. Those little babies. They needed her so. She must run, faster—faster—

Presently she chanced another glance backward. He was gaining on her. Oh! Why must he torment her so? Why must he make life so miserable? What had she done, that she must live in a world of constant fear? These and hundreds of other questions raced through her mind as she ran.

Suddenly, an alleyway. She darted swiftly down it and into the first opening she could find. Ah, now she was safe! He couldn't find her here.

And so, once again, the insignificant little mouse had outwitted Tabby, the cat.

SECRET TO BE TOLD  
Esther Forbes, author of "The General's Lady," is co-author, with Seth Kling, of a new play which will open on Broadway soon. Called "What Every Woman Wants," it will star Francine Larrimore and be produced by Lee Shubert.

### Newspaperwoman Writes Second Popular Novel

Mildred Gilman's new novel, "Divide by Two," is the story of a child of a divorced couple, of the many problems and unhappinesses that result from separation of the child's parents.

Mildred Gilman is that newspaper woman, now retired, whose fame as a sob sister in the twenties is still bright. She it was who covered murders and stalked hidden diaries. Her first assignment was going to sea to interview the survivors of the ill-fated Vestris.

One of her last was in Germany at the time of the Reichstag arson trials, when she interviewed Goering who, she relates, dressed in blue velvet robes and attended by a lioness, emulating the ancient conqueror Julius Caesar. Fox Studios made a picture from "Sob Sister," a fictionalized account of her journalistic experiences.

Miss Gilman, who now lives in Connecticut and has three sons, is married to Robert Wohlforth, secretary to the LaFollette committee for the investigation of the suppression of civil liberties.

NEUTRALITY AND PEACE  
A. Whitney Griswold's "The Far Eastern Policy of the United States, 1898-1938" discusses the problem of neutrality. It is an authoritative study of forty years of American diplomacy in the Far East.

CHEVALIER VISITS  
Haakon Chevalier, translator of Louis Aragon's recent novel, "Residential Quarter," is visiting New York. He reports that Aragon will be attending the International Writers' congress which is to be held either in Mexico or New York this spring.

The total tidal shoreline of the United States in statute miles, including mainland and islands, is 21,862 miles.

The first watches with coiled springs came into use in the 17th century.

### The Many and The Man

By JOHN MASEFIELD  
Poet Laureate of England  
The brick and prosperous and clever people, The educated and the ruling class, Unanimously said, "He is an ass; Bees in his bonnet; jackdaws in his steeple."

The doctors said, "He isn't mad; but odd." Societies for Birds and Beasts, though loath, Summoned him up, for cruelties to both. The Church deplored his attitude to God.

With pity and contempt men stopped to look; With missiles and abuse boys stayed to mock; But still the vessel prospered in the dock, As Noah, plank by plank, the gopher took.

The weather-prophets said, "He isn't sane." The Herd, as ever, pressed upon its Man . . . And then, a month after the rain began, Wisdom approved him . . . it began to RAIN.  
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### 'Sailor on Horseback' Held Lively Reading

### Irving Stone's Biography of Jack London Tells of Novelist's Rise From High School In Oakland, California, to World Fame

By JOAN JENNESS  
In 1875 San Francisco rocked with the news printed in the Chronicle that Professor W. H. Chaney, well known Irish astrologer, had driven his wife Flora from their home because she had refused to destroy her unborn infant. This child became known to millions as Jack London, author, sailor, adventurer. Several days after the article had appeared in print Flora Wellman confessed that she and Professor Chaney had never been married. Professor Chaney never admitted that he was the father of Jack London as so many people thought.

Flora supported her son by holding psychic seances in her home until she married John London, a farmer from New England, who gave Jack his name and a good home for several years.

Flora was a woman completely without affection, and she found little time to spend with her son. The only love that Jack ever remembered was given to him by Mammy Jenny, his colored nurse and Eliza London his step sister.

Sundays Spent Cramming  
At the age of 14 John London's health failed and Jack became the sole support of his family. He worked in factories and mills earning a few cents each day. The hours were long and he had to walk several miles to and from the factory, but he always managed to read several chapters of his favorite books in what spare time he had. His Sundays were spent in libraries cramming into his head all of the knowledge that he could gain from the works of the famous authors of that time.

The sea always had a fatal fascination for London; when only a small boy he sailed into the San Francisco bay in a small fishing boat. He would have chosen to be a sailor instead of a writer if Flora had not insisted that he bring in a steady income.

Irving Stone seems to delight in bringing out the rowdy side of London's character and then pointing out to the reader that with a little pressure or urging London could change from a drunken, irresponsible boy to a steady one, who could step in and take over the responsibilities of his dependents.

London was 17 years of age when he finally realized that if he wanted to be a successful writer he must concentrate solely on his stories and forget the poverty which surrounded him.

First Article \$5  
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### Laughton Biography Sophisticated

### Elsa Lanchester Relates Anecdotes In Gay Life of 'Captain Bligh'

In "Charles Laughton and I," Elsa Lanchester's memoirs of the careers of this world-famous pair, the early life of Charles Laughton is sketched by his wife. His first theatrical efforts, which he pursued diligently despite his family's efforts to get him into the hotel business, were with an amateur group in England. He now believes, according to his wife, "that he must have been very unpromising in these productions. . . . Nobody made any particular comment to the effect that he was even adequate."

He persisted, however, and attended the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art "where thinking about acting ceased to be a crime and became a cardinal virtue."

Charles Laughton and Elsa Lanchester married in 1929, and from there on Mrs. Laughton's book tells an intimate story of their life together—of chasing ants from their country cottage, of Charles' terror of Vesuvius, of dieting to get thin in Hollywood, of acting in the Comedie Francaise, and of the new British motion picture company in which Laughton is co-partner, director, star actor, and (says his wife) chief bookkeeper.

"Charles Laughton and I" is copiously illustrated with photographs from the stage careers of its two principals, informal snaps taken by Mrs. Laughton, and linocuts also by Mrs. Laughton.

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