BOOKS

By JOSEPH MACQUEEN

Manslaughter, by Alice Duer Miller. Illustrated. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York city.

This sterling American novel of the present day is so powerfully constructed and human in its character work that it is a big story of 1921—and there are only three or four of them.

It is a novel of protest against the display and use of much wealth in the attempt of some people to prove that the very rich are immune from the law. It bares with pitiless severity the silly soul of Miss Lydia Thorne, a good-looking, spoiled young woman who is great only in her inherited wealth, and who seems determined to make all poor, common Americans around her kowtow to her as a near-goddess.

In the first scene in the novel we get a glimpse of the self-willed character of Lydia Thorne when she is a little girl. Her father, a man of wealth, has an iron will. He travels away from home a good deal on business, and leaves his motherless girl to be cared for by Miss Bennett, a sort of governess. Lydia has a pair of Great Dane dogs, and her father, coming home suddenly, orders her not to keep them. "I will keep them," insists Lydia. "Why? Because I want to." That, in one sentence, is Lydia. She has a supreme disregard for others, and is the unconscious incarnation of class selfishness.

Lydia's best girl friend is Miss Eleanor Billington, and one of Eleanor's particular young men friends is Daniel, or Dan, O'Bannon, the young and dashing district attorney of Princess county, Long Island, New York. Dan meets Lydia at the Billington house and lets her understand that he has suddenly and really fallen in love with her. Lydia is amused. Had not the Marquis of Islebro, Englishman, wished to marry her? Was not Bobby Dorset, an old friend and a social idler, in love with her? Had she not refused both men? Lydia preferred to lord it over all.

Now, Lydia was known among her society friends—and they spoke in an amused, helpless tone—as an expert auto driver who usually drove at excessive speed, and in defiance of lives and limbs, or other people.

One day, as Lydia is speeding her car to excess, to keep a social date, a motorcycle policeman named Drummond overtook her. He scolded her. She took off her expensive bracelet, threw it on the road, and said: "It must be yours"—and raced along.

Fate checks her, another day when she is recklessly speeding at a rate afterward estimated by witnesses to be from 40 to 45 miles per hour, and runs down and fatally injures Motor Policeman Drummond. The latter had been a soldier hero in the recent world war, and had returned laden with honors. He died shortly after the accident.

District Attorney O'Bannon, from a stern sense of duty to the responsible office he holds, determines to prosecute Lydia for running down and killing Drummond. Lydia knew Judge Homans, because he had tried her maid, Evans, on a charge of larceny. Here is the judge's description of Lydia:

She came into this room in a hat the color of a flamingo, and her skirts almost to her knees. As bold—I wouldn't like to tell you what my first idea was on seeing her. She was as hard as—I could have told her that some of her own father's methods were not strictly legal, only the courts were more lenient in those days. A ruthless girl.

To her great wrath and wonder, Lydia is indicted by the grand jury, and held to answer for causing Drummond's death. The idea. To arrest her—a society bud, one who looks on all work as something to be despised—a girl of great inherited wealth? Preposterous.

O'Bannon prosecutes the case with vigor. Lydia is found guilty, by the jury, of manslaughter, and Judge Homans sentences her to serve three years and not more than seven years in jail. Her appeal fails.

Lydia goes to jail, and becomes a model prisoner. One of her prison friends is Evans, her former maid.

A new Lydia emerges, slowly.

"Manslaughter" recently appeared socially in a weekly magazine, and its message caused warm discussion—for and against the creation of insolent Lydia Thorne.

In One Man's Life, by Albert Bigelow Paine. Illustrated. Harper & Brothers, New York City.

This is the inspiring record of the successful life of the late Theodore N. Vail, once president of the American Bell Telephone company. He died April 16, 1920.

It has been written of Mr. Vail: "He made neighbors of 100,000,000 people. Bell created the telephone, and Vail created the telephone business." Lord Northcliffe says: "Theodore Vail is the most interesting man I ever met in America, and I believe far the greatest." Toward the end of his life Mr. Vail said: "My bashfulness has been painful to me. I hate to meet a stranger to this day. Once in early days I arrived in New York at night, and discovered that I had no money. There were at least two places where I could have got plenty, but I preferred to walk the streets all night, rather than go and ask for it."

Mr. Paine, who writes this book, was a personal friend of Mr. Vail, during Mr. Vail's latter years, and made a close study of his friend.

The Vails settled in Long Island, N. Y., in 1647. Theodore N. Vail—at first he was called Lewis—was born in Ohio, and when a youth employed as a telegraph operator, the first thought came to him of faster mail communication.

It was in 1876, as narrated on page 94, that Thomas Watson and Dr. Bell succeeded in making sounds intelligible along a private "telephone" line installed in a house. One of the first to realize the commercial uses of the new telephone was Mr. Vail, who, in spite of many rebuffs, got funds and, with hard-working associates, placed the infant telephone venture on the way to success.

What Mr. Vail did to make the telephone business what it is today, and other activities of his long and busy life, are faithfully recorded in these 361 pages. This modest biography is decidedly worth careful reading.

Words We Misspell in Business, by Frank H. Vizetelly, LL.D. Funk & Wagnalls.

Both industry and learning have been expended in the preparation of this helpful book, which will be found a treasure in the schoolroom, business office and, in fact, every room where a letter is written or copy prepared for the printer.

The pages are 249 and the words selected for explanation and illustration are in alphabetical order. The book shows 10,000 terms, with correct forms and divisions as used in printing and writing, also rules governing the orthography of English words, the formation of plurals and tests for spelling.

A Young Girl's Diary, translated by Eden and Cedar Paul. Thomas Seltzer, New York City.

A note from the publisher says: "This book is intended for parents, educators and members of the medical and legal profession only." This is well.

The book is a curious, psychological one, and dealing as it does with sex

—Pirie MacDonald, N. Y.

The late Theodore N. Vail, a biography of whom is a new book of interest.

—and adolescence in the lives of children whose inner experiences are related—it should not fall into the hands of child readers.

Sigmund Freud, the distinguished Viennese psychologist, after examining the book, writes: "This diary is a gem. Never before, I believe, has anything been written enabling us to see so clearly into the soul of a young girl, belonging to our social and cultural stratum, during the years of pubertal development."

The girl's message (apparently genuine), is divided into four portions: From the ages 11-12, 12-13, 13-14 and 14-14½ years.

From an entry on page 16 it appears that the name of the girl narrator is "Fraulein Grete Lainer, Lyzealschulerin." It is assumed that she is, or was, a girl in Austria, of middle-social parentage. The name of the author is not stated.

A Tale of a Walled Town, by R8266. —— penitentiary. J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia.

A book of poems quite out of the ordinary, one which rouses at once one's admiration for such splendid poetry, and pity that a real poet such as this writer is must languish in prison to suffer for the offense he committed.

There are 65 poems in the collection, many of them exquisite in thought and finish. The poet tries to hide his identity, and his address. But from hints he drops in his poems, one guesses he comes from the region of Philadelphia, and that he is a prisoner in the Eastern penitentiary in that city. Several of his poems are addressed to Philadelphia people, and the poem "The Spirit of McKentyville"—it has a ring of courage in the making of a new man—is a warm eulogy of the loved penitentiary chief of that name. It is easy also to detect the religious denomination to which our poet belongs, and which has given him unspeakable comfort.

An introduction, by William Stanley Braithwaite, states that our poet stole to satisfy his wife's hunger for luxuries, and that he was sent to jail for several years. Released, he found his wife in love with another man, and then, for revenge, he committed the deed that landed him for a long term of years in the penitentiary.

The poems show that our poet is a man of education, and that his poetry has the divine fire that comes from within.

The poem, "A Tale of a Walled Town"—24 pages of it—is as great a poem as Wilde's "The Ballad of Reading Gaol." The poem "R. S. V. P., July, 1917," a war bugle call, is a noble message.

The Ruin of the Ancient Civilization and the Triumph of Christianity, by Guglielmo Ferrero, J. P. Putnam's Sons, New York City.

This is a learned book of historical importance, written by one who is accepted as an authority on the history of Rome. The translation is made by Lady Whitehead.

The historical summary covers the periods between the death of the Emperor Severus in the year 235, and the close of the reign of Constantine in 340. Ferrero gives his opinion that the condition at the close of the recent war in Europe in 1918, is in many respects similar to that of the Roman world at the close of Constantine's reign.

Ferrero thinks that the recent world war killed monarchy and that continued government by democracy is doubtful. He thinks also that "the greater part of Europe may soon fall into a long anarchy" (p. 207).

Stories Editors Buy and Why, compiled by Jean Wick, Small Maynard & Co., Boston.

Miss Wick has done competent literary work in this helpful book of 362 pages, and answers just the kind of queries that perplex young and untried writers of fiction. The stories meant by Miss Wick are short stories of fiction, such as are published in American magazines.

First, 13 short stories are printed, stories that have been selected with care, from various current American magazines of large circulation, such as the Century, Metropolitan, etc. These stories run through pages 4-299. From page 307 to 362 are replies from various magazine editors showing just why they buy their fiction stories and what their preferences are in that direction.

Ireland Unfreed, by Sir William Watson. John Lane Co., New York City.

In paper covers, these 21 short poems were written, it is stated, in the early months of the present year. It seems, most of the poems have not previously appeared in print and that several have appeared in London newspapers.

The poetry is fiery and emphatic and teaches independence for Ireland.

An Introduction to the Science of Sociology, edited by Robert E. Park and Ernest W. Burgess. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago.

Our editors belong to the department of sociology, University of Chicago. This admirable book of 1040 pages represents a collection of readings selected from first-hand research of various writers to illustrate the concepts and principles of sociology.

The Bald Face, by Hal G. Evarts. Illustrated. Alfred A. Knopf, New York city.

Nine stories of wild animals, and told with a charm that appeals. Mr. Evarts brings the reader into a wonderland of natural and wild life. "Bald Face" is a grizzly bear.

Oregon, by John B. Horner, Litt D. Illustrated. The J. K. Gill Co., this city.

This is a new, revised and enlarged edition of a book that already has been received with favor throughout the United States as a trustworthy and excellent account of the history of Oregon, and Oregon's great men and literature. It also is accepted as a textbook on Oregon. The typographical appearance of the book is excellent, and it is good to know that the engravings, printing and binding were all done in this city.

The pages are 366, with index. Much of the latter portion of the book is new and has been written in the light of recent historical events.

It is a matter of record that the Oregon legislature, February 25, 1919, highly commended Professor Horner's work as an historian, and recommended that clubs, chautauqua organizations, high schools, colleges and universities place greater emphasis on the history of Oregon, with especial reference to that portion covering her statehood.

Our author is professor of history and head of the department of historical research, Oregon Agricultural college.

Washington Close-Ups, by Edward J. Lowry. Illustrated. Houghton, Mifflin Co., Boston.

Mr. Lowry possesses the ability to write brightly and interestingly, but without malice or a desire to get even—and he reproduces those qualities to a marked degree in the various character sketches of notable people around Washington, D. C., and narrated in these 275 pages. Mr. Lowry saw service as a reserve officer in the recent war in France.

Among the public men Mr. Lowry describes are: President Harding, Vice-President Coolidge, Senator Johnson, William Jennings Bryan, General Pershing, Secretary Hughes, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Herbert Hoover, Senator Borah, Admiral Sims, Justice Taft, and others.

Some portions of this book recently appeared in magazine form.

Madeline McDowell Breckinridge, by Sophonisba P. Breckinridge. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago.

Our author, who is a relative of the late Madeline McDowell Breckinridge of Kentucky, has done admirable public work in writing this biography. In this manner, the life work of a great American woman is presented to the people of the nation. It is a life of great deeds, of noble inspiration.

Mrs. Breckinridge, who was a descendant of Henry Clay, died last year. Mrs. Breckinridge was called "Kentucky's most useful citizen." She was a fine public speaker, developed educational and recreational opportunities for the children of Lexington, Ky., worked in the campaign to prevent and cure tuberculosis, and helped woman's suffrage.

Clifford and John Almanack, by Clifford Raymond and illustrated by John T. McCutcheon. The Reilly & Lee Co., Chicago.

A timely and amusing book. This almanac is calculated for 1922, but is said to be "good for any year."

The pictures are in Mr. McCutcheon's best and well-remembered style. The writing by Mr. Raymond is attractive, and the typographical appearance of the book is quite creditable.

Mrs. Favorell, by William Dean Howells. Harper & Bros., New York city.

Quite a literary treat, and an unexpected one. It is a most readable novel written by this noted American novelist, a story that has never previously been published in book form. It was written in 1875, when it was printed in the Atlantic Monthly under the title of "Private Theatricals."

The heroine is Mrs. Farrell, widow, an exasperating flirt who has highly developed dramatic sense. Her treatment of her men friends is a revelation.

The Contents of the New Testament, by Haven McClure. The MacMillan Co., New York city.

Mr. McClure, of the University of Chicago, is secretary of the English council of the Indiana State Teachers' association. He shows in this able and instructive book the results that follow when present-day methods of literary and historical research are applied to New Testament documents, and points to an orderly arrangement in the readers' mind of the contents of the sacred book mentioned.

NEW BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Herapath Property, by J. S. Fletcher, an English mystery novel of gripping interest. (A. A. Knoff, N. Y.).

Patrons of Chance, by Henry Herbert Knibbs, a splendid, healthy novel of the open, featuring Arizona and a strong man and his little boy as heroes. (Houghton-Mifflin, Boston).

Rose and Rose, by E. V. Lucas, a fine English novel, with likeable femininity—with characterization that is a triumph. (Doran Co., N. Y.).

Peter Binney, by Archibald Marshall, an excellent, high class English novel, featuring home and university life. (Dodd-Mead, N. Y.)

Alias Richard Power, by William Allison, a powerful, realistic, moving English novel with a really charming heroine. (Doubleday-Page, Garden City, N. Y.).

Edge of the Jungle, by William Beebe, honorary curator of birds and director of the tropical research station of the New York zoological society, a fascinating interesting study, consisting of a series of essays of scientific, educational importance, dealing with insects and other jungle elements and scenes in the wilds of British Guiana. (Henry Holt & Co., N. Y.).

Famous Dogs in Fiction, edited by J. Walker McSpaddon, nine famous stories of dogs—stories selected from writings of authors of ability, 265 pages. (Crowell Co., N. Y.).

Dick Arnold of the Varsity, by Earl Reed Silvers, an exciting, healthy novel for boys, picturing a baseball hero in a college nine, and in Blessed Cyrus, by Laura E. Richards, a charming and entertaining novel of rural New England life. (Appleton & Co., N. Y.).

Zodiac Town, by Nancy Byrd Turner, a charming holiday book for Children—the pictures are the first American work of a talented young English artist, now located in Boston. (Atlantic Monthly, Boston).

Vivid, lurid, painted Ascalon—

—a dust hole in the daytime—a sink-hole of uproarious vice at night.

A stranger came there to grow wheat—and sowed more lead than wheat. But he found there enough good in the heart of one woman to purify even Ascalon.

A wonderful picture of the stark ruthless brutality of the old days on the Santa Fe trail.

Trail's End

By G. W. OGDEN

AT ALL BOOKSTORES

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The American Indian Fairy Tales

P. F. Volland Company, Publishers

Books reviewed on this page may be procured at GILL'S Third & Alder Sts.

THE LITERARY PERISCOPE

BY JENNETTE KENNEDY.

LOVERS of animal stories and the out-of-doors will be interested in a new collection by Hal G. Evarts—"The Bald Face and Other Animal Stories," dealing with the otter, the prairie dog, the mountain lion, the grizzly, moose and others. The volume is handsomely illustrated with pen and ink drawings and contains the wilderness lore which adds a charm of stories of wild life.

* * *

Another new book in the literature of golf is "The Open Championship," by two golfers in collaboration, George Duncan, who deals with the technique of the game, and Darwin, the golf instructor who writes in a light essay style of the various well-known players and their mannerisms, with other interesting sidelights on the game.

* * *

The author of "Red Pottage," "Hand on the Latch," "Danver's Jewels" and several lengthy novels, Mary Cholmondeley, has just published a volume of short stories, "The Romance of His Life and Other Romances." They are cleverly written, imaginative and original.

* * *

Owen Johnson had more purpose back of his ten-year-old story, "Stover at Yale," than simply writing a readable college yarn. In a recent article by him on "Who Will Lead?" Mr. Johnson definitely states that our modern system of education is directly responsible for the decadence of the historical American strain." In other words, the second and third generation of "good families" who have built their strength on hard-earned financial power—by merely enjoying inherited wealth lose their grip on leadership. In his new novel, "The Wasted Generation," Mr. Johnson carries on this theme. He predicts that if the class of powerful associations, a measure of wealth and great opportunity for achievement, fail to grasp the helm of affairs, "leaders will emerge from the mass."

* * *

The romantic true story of Lolita Armour, the little crippled daughter of the Chicago packer, who was so marvelously cured by a great German surgeon whom her father brought to Chicago, inspired the popular juvenile story, "Maida's Little Shop," by Inez Haynes Irwin. The child heroine is also a cripple, left slightly lame after an operation by a German specialist and permitted by her father to manage a small shop to give her an interest in life. Now a sequel to this story is being published. "Maida's Little House," where a small house on her father's country estate suggests possibilities for further delightful and interesting experiences for Maida and her friends.

* * *

The third novel of a young writer, Michael Sadleir, has been called by Charles Hanson Towne "as fine as Wuthering Heights." It is the novel "Privilege," which already has had five editions printed in six months. It is the story of the retrogression of an ancient English family, and the manner of his portrayal has aroused the admiration of the critics.

* * *

William Le Queux believes it is the "local color" in his novels which have made him "the most widely-translated author in the world. He says an Australian visiting Europe had told him that he used Mr. Le Queux's novels as guide books for Roumania, Turkey, Serbia, Hungary, Russia, Spain, Italy and France and found places and people accurately described.

* * *

"The Heel of Achilles" is a new novel by E. M. Delefield, the author of "Zella," who writes under the pen name of Mrs. De La Pasture. This novel is biographical in style, dealing with a heroine whose dramatic instincts and self-centered interest cause her to imagine herself "the heroine of every situation."

It has been called "a clever and discerning piece of work, and all the better for not being quite so relentless as her other character studies."

* * *

The Forsyte family whom Galsworthy has carried through two books, "The Man of Property" and "In Chancery," still hold the center of the stage in his latest novel, "To Let." This story concludes the series and deals with the romance of two younger Forsytes, Fleur and John Forsyte, who are distant cousins.

* * *

A translation of Romain Rolland's Cherambault" has been made. This is a war novel which deals with the problem of the individual versus the mass instead of presenting the political phases of the war. The subtitle calls it "the story of an independent spirit during the war."

* * *

A story of Polish people in America is Harold Waldo's "Stash of the Marsh Country." The scene is laid in lower Michigan in Detroit and vicinity and the story is written largely in dialect.

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An unusual story of the Philippines has been written by an army officer, Charles Goff Thomson, in "Terry: a Tale of the Hill People." The author presents a vivid picture of life in "the islands" and the romance involves a New England "girl he left behind him" and a Spanish girl whom the "hill people" had kidnaped as a child.

* * *

What next? "My neighbor is perfect" is the theme of "The Day of Faith," by Arthur Somers Roche. The New York Tribune declares that Governor Thomas C. McRae of Arkansas was so inspired by the vision this novel aroused of a world in which one could say "My neighbor is perfect" that he made a proclamation setting aside November 1 as a legal holiday, to be known as the Day of Faith. Citizens of the state were urged to declare their belief at noon on that day!

* * *

"Sapper," the pseudonymn under which the war-story "Michael Cassidy" and "Mufti" were published, is the pen name of Cyril McNeile, who is about to issue "The Man in Ratcatcher." His "Bulldog Drummond," a novel which has been dramatized in England, is to be produced on the stage in New York this month.

* * *

A forthcoming novel by Sir Henry Johnston is to be called "The Veneerings."

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The Gossip Shop is authority for the statement that many editors were at the stage production of "Main Street" and that copies of the book were sold in the lobby. It probably was "good business," but it sounds horribly commercial.

* * *

Joanna Godden is the central figure in Sheila Kaye Smith's new novel and the author is said in this character to have created a human being, not simply to have drawn the portrait of a model heroine.

* * *

Hugh Walpole is certainly trying to keep pace with the voluble H. G. Wells in the matter of book production. With his "Thirteen Travelers" hardly cool from the press, he is publishing November 11 a romantic story, "The Young Enchanted."

Stockings to Have Fur Tops.

NEW YORK.—These rolled-down stockings that the young women have been wearing have been giving the orthodox quite a jolt. They got another the other day when a New York girl returning from Paris exhibited some lacy frills with which Parisians are crowning the rolls. It's getting a bit late for such summery frills, but a fur top for stockings is now under consideration for the coming winter.

Value in Kisses Drops.

Boston Transcript.

She (pouting)—You don't value my kisses as you used to. He—Value them? Why, before we were married I used to expect a dozen in payment for a box of candy, and now I consider only one of them sufficient payment for a new dress.

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The Boy Columbus

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