



THE BOOKS: and their Publishers

"THE WILD GESE" by Stanley J. Weyman. The close of the book brings poignant regrets for the announcement that came with it, namely, that

Mr. Weyman declares "it will be his last book, that this work closes his literary career." The book is so full of strong virility, written with such masterly ease and confidence, it is hard to imagine an author laying down his pen at the close of it. Mr. Weyman's admirers can only hope this is but the beginning of many "farewell tours." The story is a wild Irish tale with the scenes laid in Kerry at the time of the reign of George. It takes its title from the sobriquet given by the Irish Catholics to those who came and went and spied and preyed upon the natives and particularly to the Irish, who, having left and returned again, were supposed to be traitors to their country and to their faith. The "wild geese" in this particular instance were the captain and crew of a ship that put into Dingle Bay to land Colonel John Sullivan who was returning to Ireland after two and twenty years' take possession of his ancestral home, recently left him, in trust, by his grandfather for Flavia McMurrough. The old man's purpose in leaving the property thus, which rightfully belonged to the girl and her brother, was that the no-account brother could not get possession of it and squander it to the girl's disadvantage. But, as is so often the case, the girl was the blind worshiper of her brother, and she, the mean traitor that have ever been credited to the Irish character and she realized the coming of John Sullivan which grew to deadly hatred when she realized that he, a despised Protestant, was to be the master of the house, and when the disappointed young McMurrough had so long held away with none to say him nay in his career of beastly lawlessness.

Twenty-two years had taken every vestige of the impetuous Irish nature out of John Sullivan, but his cool, calm and forceful presence, resembled more the English gentleman than the Irish landowner, which irritated still more the Irish civilizer following, and the Kerry folk determined that John Sullivan, one of the wild geese, that must fly to more congenial shores, but they reckoned without their host and then came a series of plots and counter plots, and we of today would very likely characterize as "mean Irish tricks" for they certainly were Irish in plot and execution.

The author never taries in the telling, and the story moves forward with compelling interest. It has situations that are fairly hair raising, and the most astute reader can see no way out of the labyrinth of the author's contrivances to involve his characters in at times, but like the true Irishman, he meets the emergency and leads them through in the most delightfully interesting way. The story is also full of dramatic action, reaching its climax in the most powerful and telling manner. This, however, is not new to the author and his former works will understand and appreciate the present book in his character sketching the author has done excellent work; better perhaps in some of his minor characters than in that of the heroine, which the reader at times must feel is a little too untamed ever to be made amenable to reason or domestic harness. The work is in no way historical and yet it gives one a very fair idea of the condition of Ireland in the early part of the eighteenth century.

Doubleday, Page & Co., price \$1.50.

"The Changing Values of English Speech," by Raley Husted Bell. If speech just such a book as this to wake the average person up to the importance of what language really is, to its use and its abuse, its beauty and its discord, and the dignity which it gives to the present. This does not mean that speech should be confined to the chaotic, disordered or excessively elegant words, that drop and are forgotten, were scarcely clean enough to utter them, for Dr. Bell makes very clear distinctions, while ever and always maintaining the standard of appropriateness.

But the work contains much more than speech in the abstract, and goes much deeper into the subject, beginning way back in the time when the English language had its origin in Gaul. Of its growth the author says: "As for English, the tongue we are considering, it probably reached its perfection several centuries ago. Up to

that time it grew. Since that time it has merely changed." Then follows a chapter on "English," and "Early English," that are full of instructive information.

If it were not too great a task it would be a pleasure to quote some of the author's own language as he points, in such exquisite wording, these changing values of our English language. It would be a task and were only to state in it would be difficult to stop, the entire book is so beautifully written. Except in the few places where the author presents an attractive title, but the one who would cast it aside, after reading the first few pages, would be hard to like to please. To the lay reader it is commended as a fine and entertaining study, but to the literary student or critic it is invaluable. Hind, Noble & Eldred. Price, \$1.25.

"Hearts Are Trumps," by Alexander Otis. The length of time covered by the story is but 24 hours, but if any newspaper reporter ever put in a livelier 24 hours than Bill Plympton, dramatic and musical critic for the New York "Express," did in this particular 24 hours, it is not on record, and no reporter would ever fail to make record of it, if it had happened to him.

The story hinges on a mistaken identity, wherein Bill Plympton is mistaken for a minister. The complications begin on the very first page and continue to the very last, and it's one uproarious laugh from beginning to end.

Anything in the way of a plot is almost lacking, but the reader doesn't mind that, in fact forgets there isn't one in his intense enjoyment of the ludicrous situation of the shirking reporter, who is off on a vacation, and the things he is forced to meet and endure, while masquerading as a minister, a role he unintentionally had to assume. As there is a pretty girl involved the plucky reporter hesitates to reveal his identity, but by hesitating he steps into deeper water, and the reckless youth faces a sermon, a marriage ceremony, and a table grace, while all the time his guilty red necktie insists upon peeping from out the ministerial garb and his checked, English trousers "were loud" they shrieked into the hills, the Berkshire echoes with the racket. The farce grows like a soap bubble and brighter until it bursts of its own great size, and the right man marries the right girl, and the truth works into the brains of the dumb parents.

The day of the humorist is certainly not over while Mr. Otis can wield the pen to produce a story like this. The John McBride Co. Price, \$1.50.

"Post Lore."—The vacation, and summer numbers two of this unique and important magazine are particularly valuable in that each contains a drama by Hauptmann, either of which would be worth far more than the price of the magazine, if it did not contain another article.

The one in the summer number is "The Assumption of Hannele," a dream poem in two parts, translated by E. B. S. Bryson. The same number there is a fragment by Ibsen, "Abydos," which is evidently a leaf from his diary which he kept while, by invitation of the khediv, he assisted at the opening ceremonies of the Suez canal. Professor T. B. Thompson writes an appreciation of Ibsen's "When We Dead Awake," and another article of much interest is a biographical sketch of Jose Echegaray, by Nor A. Smith. The closing article is a study program, Shakespeare's "Macbeth," by Charlotte Porter and Helen A. Clarke.

The Hauptmann drama in the vacation number is "Before Dawn," a social drama translated by Leonard Bloomfield. This is one of Hauptmann's strong and startling plays, of which in a preface the translator says: "With the rugged power of German, Hauptmann pushed the naturalism of the time to its extreme limit. 'Before Dawn' depicts the revolting conditions among the suddenly enriched peasants of the Silesian coal district with unrelenting fullness of detail, extreme even for those of a realistic and realistic theories of heredity that were current in semi-scientific circles are used to the utmost as the very basis of the tragedy. In short the play marks an extreme of the past, an extreme which the generation now in the prime of life remember in which their best men took an enthusiastic part." The drama occupies the entire book with the exception of a few pages at the close which are given to a study program on "Authority and Cleopatra," by the authors of "Post Lore." The magazine is \$1 per copy or \$4 per year and is published at 134 Boylston street, Boston.

"The Thoroughbred," by Edith Marcane. The reader, after closing the book, will not be impressed with the appropriateness of the title chosen by the author, for while it in no wise means a reflection upon the merits of the story, it must be said that the pretty well defined streak of yellow runs through every character in the book. It is an offshoot of a fairly young man, in an inferior position, belatedly made the scapegoat for the bank president, and a mesh of circumstantial evidence entangling him. His young wife, who adores him, first saves him from blowing out his brains by a threat to go herself by the carbolic acid route. Then she devises a way to raise the money to buy up the incriminating evidence, but when she finds he has appeared to another woman, and that woman a former sweetheart who happens at that time to be in a position to render him assistance, the wife's jealousy becomes a consuming flame and wall high ruins all that were concerned and in fact did bring useless disaster, but upon a deserving head. Had Ellen

Pulliser been the thoroughbred as her husband chose to idealize her, she would have been more self-contained and not have allowed her passions, which were dangerously near vulgar curiosity and a consuming jealousy to send her off impetuously on an errand that a fine soul would revolt from. Jim, the husband, showed his streak of yellow when he turned for help to the other woman and bound himself to necrosis. But these are flaws in the title, and not in the text of the book, for it is a really very good story, full of action and interesting clear through. It is well written, perhaps a little sensational towards the end, but affording the reader several hours of most entertaining reading. George W. Dillingham, J. K. Gill Co., Portland. Price \$1.50.

Every prospective house or bungalow builder will be interested in the book of "The Delinctor's," Price \$3.00. House," announced for early fall publication by B. W. Dodge & Co. The Delinctor spent several thousand dollars in private and labor to get together the plans and designs comprised in this book. Many of the most prominent architects in the country competed, and the Delinctor series and is beautifully illustrated by the publishers.

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WESTERN UNION WINS OLD SUIT

Decision Against Phone Company for \$5,000,000 After 25 Years.

Boston, Aug. 21.—After pending for 25 years, the famous suit brought against the American Telephone Company by the Western Union Telegraph Company has been settled and Special Master Everett Burdette today will file his decision in the case. The Western Union, according to the decision, is awarded approximately \$5,000,000 against the telephone company.

It is understood that the officials of the telephone company are satisfied with the result of the long contest, though they asked for more damages than was received.

The suit involved the ownership of the American Telephone Company's stock.

Charlie Taft Has Narrow Escape. Salem, Mass., Aug. 21.—It is feared that Charlie Taft, the president's son, had a narrow escape from drowning Thursday when a dory, which he and a companion were rowing was capsized in the bay. The boys clung to the boat and were soon rescued.

Bundy Defeats Henshaw. Newport, R. I., Aug. 21.—Bundy, the Pacific coast expert, today defeated Henshaw three straight sets in the tennis tournament now in progress here. Bundy captured the first two sets by scores of 6 to 2 and the third by 6 to 1.