

Porgy

EXTRACTS from this exquisite atmospheric novel have already appeared in these pages; but I cannot refrain from calling it again to your attention. DuBose Heyward has already made a reputation with his poetry. This, his first prose book, is as lovely a piece of descriptive and dramatic writing, it seems to me, as has been published by a young American this year. It challenges comparison with the prize winning French book, "Batouala", and comes off, I believe, with the honors. Not only does Heyward love and understand the southern Negro, but he has a fine sense of how to bring to bear upon an intensely dramatic story the powers of poetic description. Humor, too, is here, and the soft tones of the little known Gullah dialect. Charleston is shown in all its picturesque color. The sea islands, those mysterious bits of land which were once covered with prosperous plantations and now house forgotten settlements of Negroes, add their eerie charm to the climax of the story. "Porgy" (Doran) is not a Negro problem novel. It is simply a character study done with loving care.

— J. F.