

# THE BOOKMAN'S LITERARY CLUB SERVICE

*Believing that clubs will welcome an outline which combines range of subject with an authoritative understanding of the end to be achieved, the editors have brought together representative committees of authors, students, and critics to present for the use of women's clubs an outline which will contain both elements. The divisions of the series are: I. Contemporary American Fiction (see THE BOOKMAN for October, November, December, 1922, January, 1923); II. Contemporary American Poetry (see THE BOOKMAN for March, April, May, June, July, August, 1923); III. Contemporary American Drama; IV. The Short Story. After contemporary American literature has been covered, programs on the historical background of our literature will be given and these will be followed by a survey of the English field.*

*The BOOKMAN programs are formed, not by the editors of this magazine but by a board of advice which has been organized to include names from various lines of literary thought in America, so that the result will represent no one group. The executive committee of advice is as follows: Mary Austin, the novelist; Dr. Arthur E. Bostwick, librarian of the St. Louis Public Library; Dr. Carl Van Doren, one of the editors of "The Century"; Hon. Maurice Francis Egan, diplomat and literary critic; Mrs. L. A. Miller, chairman of literature, General Federation of Women's Clubs; May Lamberton Becker, of the "Reader's Guide" of the New York "Evening Post"; Dr. Joseph Fort Newton, rector of the Church of the Divine Paternity, New York City; Booth Tarkington, the novelist; and Rose V. S. Berry, chairman of the fine arts committee, General Federation of Women's Clubs.*

*The Editor of THE BOOKMAN and his advisers and associates will answer promptly and to the best of their ability any question confronting any literary club. Such questions should be addressed "THE BOOKMAN'S Literary Club Service".*

THE BOOKMAN'S outline of contemporary drama began in the November issue with studies of Augustus Thomas, Owen Davis, Edward Sheldon, and Eugene O'Neill. In December the work of Susan Glaspell, Zoe Akins, Rachel Crothers, Alice Brown, and Zona Gale was considered. And in January, that of Louis K. Ans-pacher, Charles Rann Kennedy, Lewis Beach, George Cram Cook, Theodore Dreiser, Gilbert Emery, Arthur Richman, and Algernon Tassin. The committee has met several difficulties in preparing this outline. In the first place, there are innumerable dramatists whose work should be examined for an understanding of the real theatre of America. Though they may have written only one play, they indubitably belong in any such study list. In the second place, how should these dramatists be divided? After various classifications had proved unsatisfactory, the committee decided

upon a purely arbitrary division. In each group presented we hope that you will find an interesting afternoon's study.

A word of warning. Many clubs when they study the drama are likely to stick closely to what is generally known as "closet" drama, often historical or poetical dramas by intellectuals of one sort or another whose plays have seldom been produced with success. We urge you not to sniff at the commercial theatre. It is, after all, the root of drama. If you would understand the technique of the theatre, you must know Avery Hopwood and George M. Cohan as well as Eugene O'Neill and Percy MacKaye.

For each of the following dramatists we give a selected list of his published plays, as well as the names of any easily procurable magazine articles dealing with him and his work. As a general bibliography the following books are suggested:

## References

- Our American Theatre.* Oliver M. Saylor.  
BRENTANO.  
*The British and American Drama of To-day.*  
Barrett H. Clark. HOLT.  
*The Changing Drama.* Archibald Henderson.  
STEWART KIDD.  
*The Modern Drama.* Ludwig Lewisohn.  
HUEBSCH.  
*The Drama and the Stage.* Ludwig Lewisohn.  
HARCOURT, BRACE.  
*The Twentieth Century Theatre.* William Lyon Phelps. MACMILLAN.  
*Seen on the Stage.* Clayton Hamilton. HOLT.  
*The Theatre of Tomorrow.* Kenneth Macgowan. BONI, LIVERIGHT.

## Anthologies

- Chief Contemporary Dramatists, First and Second Series.* Thomas H. Dickinson.  
HOUGHTON MIFFLIN.  
*Representative American Plays.* Arthur Hobson Quinn. CENTURY.  
*Contemporary American Plays.* Arthur Hobson Quinn. SCRIBNER.  
*Representative Plays by American Dramatists, Volume Three.* Montrose J. Moses.  
DUTTON.  
*Longer Plays by Modern Authors (American).* Helen Louise Cohen. HARCOURT, BRACE.  
*Modern American Plays.* George P. Baker.  
HARCOURT, BRACE.