

quette" (1797) tempt you? It would be interesting to compare Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Main Street" with a more recent product. Yes, it is a suggestive book, and a rather stimulating one, a book worth studying because it will undoubtedly show that you really know very little of your native literature. There is a good bibliography and an index. If it were not so entertainingly prepared, one would be inclined to name it a superlative textbook. I can think of no way to become so quickly informed in regard to our fictional background as to read this study of Mr. Van Doren's.

### *Informative and Readable*

WHAT shall we use as an outline for studying literature next winter at our club?" is a question that is often asked and has all too few replies. "The American Novel" (Macmillan) is one of the best answers. Carl Van Doren is an able critic, and a careful student. Incidentally, he writes well. This study of American fiction from before the Revolution to the present, is for most of its length excellent reading, and it is terse and compact. He gives us, not only the development of various periods, but biographical and critical studies of their more important figures. I like particularly the sketch on Herman Melville, and the more extended analysis of Henry James. It would be amusing to be blessed with enough leisure to sit down with this book and indulge in an orgy of collateral reading. I should like to skim over "Green Mountain Boys" again, and doesn't Hannah Webster Foster's "The Co-