

WHAT'S WHAT AMONG THE SEASON'S BOOKS

READING through publishers' catalogues and making lists of books is one thing. Devising a means of making these lists seem to be other than lists, is another. I long ago gave up the attempt; for, after all, when the reader approaches this article he does it, I judge, in order to select, from selected lists, the books of the new crop that he may possibly want to purchase, those he wants to be sure *never* to see, those he might like to draw from the library. With this in mind I offer you lists of those volumes which, after a study of announcement after announcement — beautifully printed announcements some of them, too — seem to me to be worth at least a glance.

Of the novels, I have picked eleven I shall most assuredly read (if I have not already done so) and I'm adding why I shall read them.

"Plumes", by Laurence Stallings (Harcourt, Brace), because he writes brilliantly. I am still interested in the late war, and this is a study, by a man who suffered much in France, of a wounded man and his wife and how they adjust to postwar conditions.

Arnold Waterlow: A Life. May Sinclair. MACMILLAN.

Balisand. Joseph Hergesheimer. KNOPF.
The Old Man of the Sea. Compton Mackenzie. STOKES.

The Old Ladies. Hugh Walpole. DORAN.
Sard Harker. John Masefield. MACMILLAN.

Women. Booth Tarkington. DOUBLEDAY, PAGE.

To-Morrow and To-Morrow. Stephen McKenna. LITTLE, BROWN.

Professor, How Could You? Harry Leon Wilson. COSMOPOLITAN.

The White Monkey. John Galsworthy. SCRIBNER.

The Green Hat. Michael Arlen. DORAN.

Those ten, because whatever their authors write is well done, and whether the story itself be poor or fine the writing of it will be worthwhile. Among this batch of novels we may know that we shall find some of the season's best.

Next come three novels from the left wing of fiction, sure to be interesting, sure to annoy many:

An American Tragedy. Theodore Dreiser.

BONI, LIVERIGHT.

Humpty Dumpty. Ben Hecht. BONI, LIVERIGHT.

The Boy in the Bush. D. H. Lawrence and M. L. Skinner. SELTZER.

Certain authors are being constantly recommended to us by critics and friends, yet somehow we never get to read them, we never seem to know these authors well. Of such, happen to be the five following; but indubitably worth both your attention and mine. Shall we herewith resolve to read them?

Wings. Ethel M. Kelley. KNOPF.

A Passage to India. E. M. Forster. HARCOURT, BRACE.

Entranced. Grace H. Flandrau. HARCOURT, BRACE.

Nina. Susan Ertz. APPLETON.

The Little French Girl. Anne Douglas Sedgwick. HOUGHTON MIFFLIN.

Far from all the books that Mary Johnston and Harvey O'Higgins have written is the sort of book I like; but some of their novels have been admirable pieces of work. This season they offer, respectively, "The Slave Ship" (Little, Brown) and "Julie Crane" (Harper).

Second novels are dangerous points in authors' lives. As a matter of fact, "The Golden Village" is Joseph Anthony's third novel; but "The Gang",

with its sombre brilliance, was in the key of first noveldom to me. Here are four, then:

R. F. D. No. 3. Homer Croy. HARPER.
The Golden Village. Joseph Anthony. BOBBS-MERRILL.
Harvey Landrum. Ridley Wills. SIMON, SCHUSTER.
The Dark Cloud. Thomas Boyd. SCRIBNER.

Three novels, the titles of which have a mystic ring, attract my attention. From what I know of the authors, the first two of them are sure to have the spark of fantasy.

The King of Elfland's Daughter. Lord Dunsany. PUTNAM.
Blind Rastery. Donn Byrne. CENTURY.
Elaine at the Gates. W. B. Maxwell. DOUBLEDAY, PAGE.

Here are three novels most especially recommended by their publishers. The first one of them, a study of race, I happen to have read in proof and found stirring in the extreme.

The Fire in the Flint. Walter F. White. KNOPF.
Sails of Sunset. Cecil Roberts. STOKES.
Some Do Not. Ford Madox Ford. SELTZER.

Here follow five novels by favorites, with me at least, among the tellers of adventure-mystery tales.

The Passionate Quest. E. Phillips Oppenheim. LITTLE, BROWN.
Shackled. Achmed Abdullah. BRENTANO.
East of the Setting Sun. George Barr McCutcheon. DODD, MEAD.
The Time-Worn Town. J. S. Fletcher. KNOPF.
The Wolves and the Lamb. J. S. Fletcher. KNOPF.

Eight lesser stars of the same constellation, with the exception of Temple Bailey whose romances are usually distinctly within home limits:

Peacock Feathers. Temple Bailey. PENN.
The Show-Off (after George Kelly's play). William Almon Wolf. LITTLE, BROWN.
The Surprising Adventures of Jimmy Lavender. Vincent Starrett. HYMAN-MCGEE.

The Chronicles of a Great Prince. Marguerite Bryant and George McNally. DUFFIELD.
Vultures of the Dark. Richard E. Enright (New York's Police Commissioner). BRENTANO.
The Valley of Voices. George Marsh. PENN.
Moon Country. Gladys E. Johnson. PENN.
The Uncertain Feast. Solita Solano. PUTNAM.

The list of translated novels is not so large, it seems to me, as usual — at least the list of those that look interesting. Five I found:

A Pilgrimage. Johan Bojer. CENTURY.
We. Eugene Zamiatin. DUTTON.
Queen Calafia. Vicente Blasco Ibáñez. DUTTON.
Marbacka. Selma Lagerlöf. DOUBLEDAY, PAGE.
Annette and Sylvie. Romain Rolland. HOLT.

There follows now a long list of novels by popular favorites. Only you can tell which of them you like, which of them you will read. Many on this list are better than merely popular; but I shall leave you to judge.

The Innocents. Henry Kitchell Webster. BOBBS-MERRILL.
The Green Ray. Vance Thompson. BOBBS-MERRILL.
Unity. J. D. Beresford. BOBBS-MERRILL.
The Enchanted Hill. Peter B. Kyne. COSMOPOLITAN.
The Devonshers. Honoré Willsie Morrow. STOKES.
The Golden Bed. Wallace Irwin. PUTNAM.
After the Verdict. Robert Hichens. DORAN.
Ragged Water. Joseph C. Lincoln. APPLETON.
A White Stone. Ruth Comfort Mitchell. APPLETON.
The Green Stone. Harold MacGrath. DOUBLEDAY, PAGE.
The House of Prophecy. Gilbert Cannan. SELTZER.
Laura. Ethel Sidgwick. SMALL, MAYNARD.
The Coming of Amos. William J. Locke. DODD, MEAD.
The Triumph of Gallio. W. L. George. HARPER.

The Glory Hole. Stewart Edward White. DOUBLEDAY, PAGE.
Isles of the Blest. Wilbur Daniel Steele. HARPER.
The Needle's Eye. Arthur Train. SCRIBNER.

Collections of short stories are not usually so plentiful, and especially those that promise such excellence:

Love Me, Love My Dog. Walter Dyer. CENTURY.
Creeping Jenny. Kate Douglas Wiggin. HOUGHTON MIFFLIN.
Iliana. Konrad Bercovici. BONI, LIVERIGHT.
Temperamental People. Mary Roberts Rinehart. DORAN.
Wide Waters. Captain Dingle. BRENTANO.
Elsie and the Child. Arnold Bennett. DORAN.
Three Flights Up. Sidney Howard. SCRIBNER.
Stories from "The Dial". DIAL PRESS.

The increasing popularity of biography and autobiography is witnessed by the fact that there are very nearly as many books of this character that one would like to list, had one the space, as of fiction. Of literary folk writing their reminiscences there are six whose work should be fascinating:

Memories of an Editor. E. P. Mitchell. SCRIBNER.
Recollections of a Happy Life. Maurice Francis Egan. DORAN.
A Story Teller's Story. Sherwood Anderson. HUEBSCH.
Memories and Adventures. A. Conan Doyle. LITTLE, BROWN.
Straws and Prayer-Books. James Branch Cabell. MCBRIDE.
The Wind and the Rain. Thomas Burke. DORAN.

Those who care for unconventional autobiographical narratives should find pleasure in the following:

My Thirty Years' Battle in the Ministry. Stephen S. Wise. BRENTANO.
Uncensored Recollections. Anonymous. LIPINCOTT.
Beggars of Life. Jim Tully. A. AND C. BONI.

The Diary of a Country Parson. James Woodforde. OXFORD.
Louder Please! Earnest Elmo Calkins. ATLANTIC.
The Diary of a Dude-Wrangler. Struthers Burt. SCRIBNER.

Three autobiographies of a perhaps more conventional type are:

Leaves from a Russian Diary. Peterim Sorokin. DUTTON.
Seventy Years of Life and Labor. Samuel Gompers. DUTTON.
A Business Man Looks at His World. Edward A. Filene. DOUBLEDAY, PAGE.

And three theatrical memoirs:

Marie Dressler: The Life Story of an Ugly Duckling. MCBRIDE.
The Truth at Last. Charles Hawtrey. LITTLE, BROWN.
Francis Wilson's Life of Himself. HOUGHTON MIFFLIN.

Eight literary biographies there are, and of varying importance:

John Keats. Amy Lowell. HOUGHTON MIFFLIN.
Life and Letters of John Muir. William Badè. HOUGHTON MIFFLIN.
Henry Thoreau: Bachelor of Nature. Leon Bazalgette. HARCOURT, BRACE.
Clyde Fitch and His Letters. Montrose J. Moses and Virginia Gerson. LITTLE, BROWN.
James Elroy Flecker: A Biography. Douglas Goldring. SELTZER.
Anthony Trollope. Hugh Walpole. DORAN.
Lafcadio Hearn's American Days. Edward Larocque Tinker. DODD, MEAD.
Wolfgang Goethe. Georg Brandes. BROWN.

Five thoroughly American portraits should be of interest as studies in sociology, if not in themselves. They are:

Joshua Barney. Ralph D. Paine. CENTURY.
Woodrow Wilson: The Man, His Times, His Task. William Allen White. HOUGHTON MIFFLIN.
Barrett Wendell and His Letters. M. A. DeWolfe Howe. ATLANTIC.
Joseph Pulitzer — His Life and Letters. Don Seitz. SIMON, SCHUSTER.
Presenting — Morris Gesl. Samuel Spevack. BRENTANO.

And six further biographical narratives of historical significance:

Bare Souls. Gamaliel Bradford. HARPER.
A Life of Christ for Young People. Harold Hunting. MINTON, BALCH.
Magellan. Arthur S. Hildebrand. HARCOURT, BRACE.
Napoleon. Elie Faure. KNOPF.
Marie Antoinette. Hilaire Belloc. PUTNAM.
Wagner as Man and Artist. Ernest Newman. KNOPF.

Somewhat near to the biographical, yet varying a shade in their leaning toward the general, are:

Heroes of the Sea. Chelsea Fraser. CROWELL.
Famous American Naval Officers. Charles Lee Lewis. PAGE.
The Gallants. E. Barrington. ATLANTIC.

Classifying the general list is something like arranging straws in a barn, particularly when so few of the authors are known to me; but from the mass I have been able to pick a few that interest at least the eye.

In science we have:

A Popular History of American Invention. Waldemar Kaempffert (editor). SCRIBNER.
Human Origins: A Manual of Prehistory. George Grant MacCurdy. APPLETON.
Keeping up with Science. Edwin E. Slosson (editor). HARCOURT, BRACE.
The Evolution of Man. G. Elliot Smith. OXFORD.

In politics and history:

Racial Realities in Europe. Lothrop Stoddard. SCRIBNER.
The Political Parties of To-day. A. N. Holcombe. HARPER.
The Causes of Industrial Unrest. John A. Fitch. HARPER.
A Short History of International Intercourse. C. Delisle Burns. OXFORD.
Blockade and Sea Power. Maurice Parmelee. CROWELL.
Public Ownership. Carl D. Thompson. CROWELL.

For the home and garden maker, and for those who dabble in architecture and furnishings, there are:

Collector's Luck in France. Alice Van Leer Carrick. ATLANTIC.
Mohammedan Architecture in Egypt and Palestine. Martin S. Briggs. OXFORD.
A Garden Book for Autumn and Winter. Charles Downing Lay. DUFFIELD.
Old Glass, European and American. N. Hudson Moore. STOKES.
American Homes of To-day: Their Architectural Style, Their Environment, Their Characteristics. Augusta Owen Patterson. MACMILLAN.

Distinctly for the ladies:

The Well-Dressed Woman. Anne Rittenhouse. HARPER.
How to Dress Well. Margaret Story. FUNK, WAGNALLS.
Clothes That Count and How to Make Them. Bradda Field. STOKES.

The following list, which at first blush would appear to be an incoherent conglomeration, resolves itself into matter intended to further our well being, mental and spiritual as well as physical:

Why Be a Goop? Gelett Burgess. STOKES.
The Health Book. Royal S. Copeland. HARCOURT, BRACE.
Friends with Life. Anne C. E. Allinson. HARCOURT, BRACE.
Best Sermons of 1923. Joseph Fort Newton (editor). HARCOURT, BRACE.
The Happy Baby. Prepared under the supervision of Dr. L. Emmett Holt. DODD, MEAD.
National Health Series (20 volumes). FUNK, WAGNALLS.
Youth Points the Way. Douglas Fairbanks. APPLETON.

About travel books I am vastly particular, for I am fond of them. They are one way of escape from town and suburb. Ten favorites give us new volumes:

Voyaging. Rockwell Kent. PUTNAM.
Glimpses of Japan and Formosa. Harry A. Franck. CENTURY.
The Land of Journey's Ending. Mary Austin. CENTURY.
The Adventure of Wrangel Island. Vilhjalmur Stefansson. MACMILLAN.
The Pearl Lagoon. Charles Nordhoff. ATLANTIC.
In Brightest Africa. Carl E. Akeley. DOUBLEDAY, PAGE.

The Quest of the River Plate. R. B. Cunningham Graham. DOUBLEDAY, PAGE.
Uncharted Waters. Ralph Stock. DOUBLEDAY, PAGE.
Mr. and Mrs. Haddock Abroad. Donald Ogden Stewart. DORAN.
Everywhere. A. Henry Savage Landor. STOKES.

Ten, less known, write of interesting climes:

In the Land of the Laughing Buddha. Upton Close. PUTNAM.
The Arab at Home. Paul W. Harrison. CROWELL.
Beautiful Mexico. Vernon Quinn. STOKES.
Angkor the Magnificent. Helen Churchill Candee. STOKES.
Gypsy Fires in America. Irving Brown. HARPER.
The Romance of Forgotten Towns. John T. Faris. HARPER.
The River of Seven Stars. Arthur O. Friel. HARPER.
Two Years in the Forbidden City. Princess Der Ling. DODD, MEAD.
Seeing Canada. John T. Faris. LIPPINCOTT.
Among Wild Tribes of the Amazons. Charles W. Domville-Fife. LIPPINCOTT.

Not so many plays are announced for publication, largely because the new season is not yet under way. Two volumes, at least, look interesting:

Six Plays. Rachel Lyman Field. SCRIBNER.
The Selected Plays of Henry Arthur Jones. LITTLE, BROWN.

Six general books on the drama are:

The Contemporary Drama of Russia. Leo Wiener. LITTLE, BROWN.
Playwrights of the New American Theatre. Thomas H. Dickinson. MACMILLAN.
The Actor's Heritage. Walter Prichard Eaton. ATLANTIC.
The Twentieth Century Theatre. Frank Vernon. HOUGHTON MIFFLIN.
Conversations on Contemporary Drama. Clayton Hamilton. MACMILLAN.
The Art of the Theatre. Gordon Craig. SMALL, MAYNARD.

Volumes of poetry that should merit fairly serious scrutiny are seven. In the order of my preference they are:

Heliadora. H. D. HOUGHTON MIFFLIN.
The New Spoon River. Edgar Lee Masters. BONI, LIVERIGHT.
Honey Out of the Rock. Babette Deutsch. SELTZER.
Spring Thunder. Mark Van Doren. SELTZER.
Lores and Losses of Pierrot. William Griffith. DUTTON.
A Pilgrim's Scrip. Cale Young Rice. CENTURY.
Poems for the New Age. Simon Felshin. SELTZER.

Three lighter volumes for lighter moods are:

Songs of the Open. Grantland Rice. CENTURY.
So Much Velvet. Franklin P. Adams. DOUBLEDAY, PAGE.
In Earthen Bowls. Nellie Burget Miller. APPLETON.

And the anthologies:

Modern American Lyrics. Stanton A. Coblenz (compiler). MINTON, BALCH.
Roll and Go, Songs of American Sailormen. Joanna Colcord. BOBBS-MERRILL.

Of general and critical books on poetry I should like to mention:

Poets of America. Clement Wood. DUTTON.
The Way of the Makers. Marguerite Wilkinson. MACMILLAN.
Aspects of Modern Poetry. Alfred Noyes. STOKES.
The Poetry of Walt Whitman. William Lyon Phelps. MACMILLAN.

In the field of the essay, let us glance first at the Americans. Here are volumes from some of our most brilliant critics and chatters:

Points of View. Stuart P. Sherman. SCRIBNER.
Travels in Philadelphia. Christopher Morley. DOUBLEDAY, PAGE.
Definitions (Second Series). Henry Seidel Canby. HARCOURT, BRACE.
My Dear Cornelia. Stuart P. Sherman. ATLANTIC.
The Procession of Masks. Herbert S. Gorman. BRIMMER.
A Poet's Proverbs. Arthur Guiterman. DUTTON.
Literary Lanes and Other Byways. Robert Cortes Holliday. DORAN.

Materia Critica. George Jean Nathan.
KNOPF.
Prejudices (Fourth Series). H. L. Mencken.
KNOPF.

From English writers we have essays philosophical, historical, and literary:

Impressions and Comments (Third Series).
Havelock Ellis. HOUGHTON MIFFLIN.
Pencilings. J. Middleton Murry. SELTZER.
In Praise of England. H. J. Massingham.
DUTTON.
Ding Dong Bell. Walter de la Mare.
KNOPF.
A Gallery. Philip Guedalla. PUTNAM.

Of special interest perhaps for BOOK-MAN readers are the general literary volumes:

Genius and the Short Story. Frances Newman. HUEBSCH.
The Reader's Guide Book. May Lamberton Becker. HOLT.
Patriotism in Literature. John Drinkwater. HOLT.
Modern American Writers. Ernest Boyd (editor). MCBRIDE.
The Genius of Style. W. C. Brownell. SCRIBNER.
The Literary Spotlight. Anonymous. DORAN.
Portraits: Real and Imaginary. Ernest Boyd. DORAN.
One Thousand Best Books: A Household Guide to a Lifetime's Reading. Asa Don Dickinson. DOUBLEDAY, PAGE.

"Humor" as a classification is often dubious, but the following give promise of containing that elusive quality:

Sixty Years of American Humor: A Prose Anthology. Joseph Lewis French (editor). LITTLE, BROWN.
Twisted Tales, A Book of Parodies. Christopher Ward. HOLT.
Distressing Dialogues. Nancy Boyd. HARPER.
The Family Album. Arthur "Bugs" Baer. A. and C. BONI.

Classify for yourselves, if you must have pigeonholes:

Lions 'n' Tigers 'n' Everything. Courtney Ryley Cooper. LITTLE, BROWN.
Dr. Little's Dog Book. George Watson Little, D. V. M. MCBRIDE.
Advertising Copy. George B. Hotchkiss. HARPER.

Last of all, since the chilly season is upon us, I commend to you, by way of preparation for indoor sports:

The Book of Hobbies. Charles W. Taussig and Theodore A. Meyer. MINTON, BALCH.
The Cross Word Puzzle Book (Second Series). SIMON, SCHUSTER.

— J. F.