

A COWARD WHO DARED

Out of the Great War will come many studies in the psychology of the man under fire. *The Belfry*, by May Sinclair, is a notable one, and it is more than a study of the war in Belgium of which the author writes with sure knowledge; it is also a great novel. Two-thirds of the book is given to making us acquainted with a group of characters, so unusual, so individualized, and so interesting, that we follow them into the war zone with the breathless anxiety of relatives or, at least, of lifelong friends. The central figure, the novelist, Tasker Jevons, who moves heaven and earth to reach the front—just *because* he is afraid to go there—is one of Miss Sinclair's subtlest studies of character. He is by turns, exasperating and lovable; a snob and a genius; a coward and a hero. His incredible courage in Belgium is not more magnificent than his fight against his horror of going there. The man of superior intellect and imagination, who can visualize danger with exceptional vividness, always is at the disadvantage of his qualities, and might well pray to be made stupid when he goes to war. And thru those hurried, incredible war scenes in Belgium, *The Belfry of Bruges* stands as a symbol of a love that greatly dared, of aspiration, and of ultimate peace between warring nations and riven classes of men.

The Belfry, by May Sinclair. Macmillan. \$1.35.

ADVENTURES

White Tiger, by H. M. Rideout, is a tale of the experiences of a lad just out of college, sent by his uncle to the family tin mines of the Dutch East Indies, where follow mysterious adventures in a new setting.

Duffield. \$1.

WINTER PLAYGROUNDS

The Lesser Antilles form a pleasure ground within reach but little visited. *The Isles of Spice and Palm*, A. Hyatt Verrill calls them, and describes with enthusiasm the scenery, the quaint customs and the foreign ways of the Barbadoes, of St. Thomas, of Saba, "strangest of all islands," of Trinidad and Surinam, "quaintest spot in America."

Appleton. \$1.25.

ANOTHER MESALLIANCE

In *The Strangers' Wedding*, W. L. George forgets that most marriages are just that—the union of two strangers; and with a little more patience and a little more love, his ill-assorted couple might have won happiness, as the majority of married folk do. However the distance between an Oxford man and a London laun-

dress is difficult to bridge, and the readjustments are painful processes of growth and disillusionment. The story is cleverly told and is a subtle satire on the English mores it depicts.

Boston: Little, Brown. \$1.35.

CAUSES OF PROGRESS

Dr. Lucius M. Bristol's *Social Adaptation* is a very comprehensive survey of the views of modern sociologists in America and Europe who have considered the question of adaptation to the environment as a means to social progress.

Harvard University Press. \$2.

FROM POLAND

Tales by Polish Authors, translated by Else Benecke. Sienkiewicz is the only one of the four authors represented in this group of powerful, touching stories known to English readers. Two have been Siberian exiles and write of the Siberian life and of the Yakut Indians.

Longmans, Green. \$1.25.

THE MOST INTERESTING AMERICAN

For a thoroly attractive description of Theodore Roosevelt, one that will show those who do not admire him the undoubted and powerful charm he has for his friends and followers, read Julian Street's little book, *The Most Interesting American*.

Century. 50 cents.

FAMOUS ACTRESSES

Forest Izard is the author of two books that will attract lovers of the stage, *Sarah Bernhardt, an Appreciation*, is a critical study of her personality and art. *Heroines of the Stage* contains biographical accounts of Rehan, Terry, Marlowe, Adams, Duse and other favorites of this and the last generation.

Sturgis & Walton. 50 cents and \$1.50.

POETRY WELL CHOSEN

The Leading English Poets from Chaucer to Browning, edited with introduction, biographies and glossary, by Lucius Hudson Holt, is a rather comprehensive order for one book to fill. By a wise recognition of its own limitations, however, this anthology does succeed in living up to its title. Only the best-known poets of the period are included and an unusually liberal amount of each author's work is given.

Houghton, Mifflin. \$2.25.

EVERYMAN'S

The editors of Everyman's Library are amazingly clever in the choice of books that one has wished in vain to find in cheap edition. Among the recent issues is Green's *Short History of the English People*; Margaret, Duchess of Newcastle's, *Life of the First Duke of Newcastle*, a quaint and charming classic; and Penn's *Peace of Europe*, which fits the times. Volumes of Gogol, Balzac and Ibsen are added to the fiction and drama series.

Dutton. Cloth 35 cents, leather 75 cents.

HOLLYHOCKS ALL IN A ROW

Here is a wonderful picture book, with superb colored plates interspersed among near two hundred half-tones. *The Beautiful Gardens of America*, by Louise Shelton, is calculated to turn the head of any townswoman. Gardens of the North—as far North as Alaska—South, East and West are framed in evergreens, set by ponds, punctuated by cactus. It is good to see there is such elaborately ordered beauty here and there in this still rough land.

Scribner. \$5.

THE DIGESTION OF PROTEIN

Not many years ago food chemists and physiologists were content to lump everything containing nitrogen into one bundle labeled "proteids" and assumed to be of equal value. How much fine research work has been done recently in this field may be seen from Prof. Frank P. Underhill's summary of the results in *The Physiology of the Amino Acids*. It is now probably possible to support life entirely on artificial fats, carbohydrates and amino acids made out of the elements in the laboratory.

Yale University Press. \$1.35.