

ZOE AKINS

The Magical City. FORUM, Vol. 55 (1916),
p. 507.

Déclassée (and Other Plays). BONI, LIVER-
IGHT.

Greatness. Included in *Déclassée and Other
Plays.*

One of the most successful of our women
playwrights, Zoe Akins started her career in

literature writing poetry. Her first play was a poetical drama, "The Magical City", one of the finest things of its kind in our native literature. She is at her best in fantastic comedy, with a note of whimsical sentiment. She writes her plays constantly and rapidly. As soon as she has a scenario in mind, the actual spinning out of the dialogue is simple.

Zoe Akins was born in Humansville, Missouri. She was educated at home and in private schools. She lives now in New York City, and any season which does not bring forth at least one of her plays, and generally more, is a most unusual one.

REFERENCES:

(Interview.) J. Van Doren, THEATRE MAGAZINE, February, 1922.

RACHEL CROTHERS

A Man's World. BADGER.

The Three of Us. FRENCH.

He and She. Included in *Representative American Plays.*

Nice People. Included in *Contemporary American Plays.*

This writer of occasionally brilliant social comedies has been much interested in the ordinary problems of American family life. Her plays are likely to be argumentative in tone, yet they present fairly faithfully the set of characters which she uses often, the upper middle class family.

Rachel Crothers was born at Bloomington, Illinois, and was graduated from the Illinois State Normal School. She lives now in New York City, where she produces and directs her own plays.

ALICE BROWN

Children of Earth. MACMILLAN.

One Act Plays. MACMILLAN.

Alice Brown is better known as a novelist and a writer of short stories than as a playwright, although her "Children of Earth" won the Winthrop Ames \$10,000 prize in 1915. Her mood is completely New England. She writes psychological studies of the

farm folk she knows; and their little trials and troubles, after reaching great proportions in finality, form the basis for her tragedies.

She was born at Hampton Falls, New Hampshire, and was educated in private schools. A gentle, quiet woman, she seems now definitely a part of the Boston tradition, quietly and thoroughly of New England. Her latest published book is a long narrative poem, "Ellen Prior" (Macmillan).

"A New England play ['Children of Earth'] possessing strength of conception and merit of style, but its frame is less satisfactory than its spiritual content."—SPRINGFIELD REPUBLICAN, May 4, 1915.

"Miss Brown's dramatic writing in general is not 'literary'; that is to say, not closet drama. Characterization, dialogue, situation, suspensive interest, and genuine climax make her work practicable drama."—Richard Burton, LITERARY REVIEW, December 3, 1921.

ZONA GALE

The Neighbors. Included in *Wisconsin Plays.* HUEBSCH.

Miss Lulu Bett. APPLETON.

Zona Gale is primarily the novelist, but several of her books are so complicated that they seem almost to be plays in themselves. She has a fine sense of the dramatic. Her own dramatization of her novel, "Miss Lulu Bett", won the Pulitzer Prize for the best play of 1920. She is at work on several other plays, among them a dramatization of "Faint Perfume".

Miss Gale was born at Portage, Wisconsin, and was graduated from the University of Wisconsin. She was for some years a journalist both in the west and in New York City. Her "Friendship Village" stories proved successful; but it was not until she wrote "Birth" and "Miss Lulu Bett" that the critics gave the highest praise to her work.

REFERENCES:

The Literary Spotlight. Anonymous. BOOKMAN, April, 1923.

Literary Club Service. BOOKMAN, January, 1923.

(Life and Work.) K. Sumner. AMERICAN MAGAZINE, June, 1921.