

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"; 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, which began in the November issue, consists of studies of the following playwrights:

November: Augustus Thomas, Owen Davis, Edward Sheldon, Eugene O'Neill.

December: Susan Glaspell, Zoe Akins, Rachel Crothers, Alice Brown, Zona Gale.

January: Louis K. Anspacher, Charles Rann Kennedy, Lewis Beach, George Cram Cook, Theodore Dreiser, Gilbert Emery, Arthur Richman, Algernon Tassin.

February: James Forbes, David Belasco, Eugene Walter, Elmer Rice, Jesse Lynch Williams, George M. Cohan.

March: Avery Hopwood, Langdon Mitchell, George Scarborough, J. Hartley Manners, George Ade, Mary Roberts Rinehart.

April: George S. Kaufman, Marc Connelly, George Middleton, George Kelly, Philip Barry, Frank Craven.

May: Winchell Smith, Austin Strong, Jules Eckert Goodman, Booth Tarkington, A. E. Thomas, Cleves Kinkaid.

June: George Broadhurst, Philip Moeller, Margaret Mayo, Cosmo Hamilton, Roi Cooper Megrue, Eleanor Gates, Clare Kummer.

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. Then, how should these dramatists be divided? After various classifications had proved unsatisfactory, the committee decided upon an arbitrary division.

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.

For each of the following dramatists we give a selected list of his published plays, as well as magazine articles dealing with him and his work. As a general bibliography we suggest:

References

- Our American Theatre.* Oliver M. Sayler.
BRENTANO.
The British and American Drama of To-day.
Barrett H. Clark. HOLT.
The Changing Drama. Archibald Hender-
son. STEWART KIDD.
The Modern Drama. Ludwig Lewisohn.
HUEBSCH.
The Drama and the Stage. Ludwig Lewi-
sohn. HARCOURT, BRACE.
The Twentieth Century Theatre. William
Lyon Phelps. MACMILLAN.
Seen on the Stage. Clayton Hamilton.
HOLT.
The Theatre of Tomorrow. Kenneth Mac-
gowan. 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 Drama-
tists, Volume Three.* Montrose J. Moses.
DUTTON.
*Longer Plays by Modern Authors (Ameri-
can).* Helen Louise Cohen. HARCOURT,
BRACE.
Modern American Plays. George P. Baker.
HARCOURT, BRACE.