

pace with "The Masses" and "The Liberator". He has now largely given up other interests and pursuits to work steadily on his novels. He lives with his wife and young son at Croton-on-Hudson near New York. Recently a volume of his short plays, "King Arthur's Socks" (Knopf), was published. Shy, with a keen sense of humor and a positive delight in helping young writers, he is as earnest and hard working a figure as one remembers in contemporary American writing.

"The Briary-Bush", less varied than "Moon-Calf", is decidedly profounder. It hovers over the dark waters of the unconscious on perhaps the surest wings an American novel has ever used. Though it has probed difficult natures and knows them thoroughly it does not flaunt its knowledge but brings it in only when it can throw some revealing light upon the outward perplexities of the lovers. Thus it gives depth and timbre to the story, and yet allows the characters to seem actual persons actually walking the world. At the same time, Mr. Dell does not possess a too vivid sense of externality. In both his novels all facts come through the mist of Felix's habitual confusion, and in that mist they lose dramatic emphasis; muted, they are not able to break up the agreeable monotone in which the narrative is delivered. But underneath these surfaces, seen so poetically, there is a substantial bulk of human life, immemorial folkways powerfully contending with the new rebellion of reason."—*C. V. D.*

REFERENCE:

Contemporary American Novelists, p. 166.

FLOYD DELL

Moon-Calf. 1920. KNOPF.

The Briary-Bush. 1921. KNOPF.

A careful workman, a close student of psychology, a sympathetic observer of the facts of life, a fearless realist, he is progressing with steady determination toward a firm place in the front ranks of American writing.

Born in Barry, Illinois, he left school at sixteen to become a factory worker. Later, after acting as a reporter in Davenport, Iowa, he drifted to newspaper work in Chicago, where he was literary editor of the Chicago "Evening Post". At various times he has been associated in an editorial ca-