

## BOOKS THAT MAY HAVE ESCAPED YOU

1. "*Old New York*" by Edith Wharton (Appleton). Among these novelettes is one of Mrs. Wharton's finest stories, "*The Old Maid*".

2. "*The Green Bay Tree*" by Louis Bromfield (Stokes). A first novel that has both charm of style and vividness of characterization.

3. "*Edge of the Jungle*" by William Beebe (Holt). Mr. Beebe has never written a more fascinating volume than these early essays.

4. "*The Romantic Lady*" by Michael Arlen (Doran). Stories of equal charm with those in "*These Charming People*".

5. "*The Three Black Pennys*" by Joseph Hergesheimer (Knopf). A Hergesheimer story that should be read by everyone interested in American literature.

### *The Romance of a Soldier*

IT is difficult to write of "*Balisand*" (Knopf) in terms of other novels of the season; for, to my way of thinking, Hugh Walpole's "*The Old Ladies*" and this latest volume of Hergesheimer's are the outstanding pieces of fiction of the year. "*The White Monkey*" is a good Galsworthy; "*Arnold Waterlow*" is a good Sinclair; but neither of them shines with quite the glamour of "*Balisand*" or "*The Old Ladies*". As I suspect "*The Old Ladies*" of being Mr. Walpole's finest work, I suspect "*Balisand*" of being Mr. Hergesheimer's. It is a story of early American days, of Federalist and Democratic-Republican, of Washington in the background, and of Jefferson. It is the story of the old soldier who fights for

his ideals and lives to see himself and his ideals become old fashioned. There is no more tragic picture — and here it is painted with lavish and delicately traced colors, with pistol shot and Negro chant and the scent of jasmine flowers. Richard Bale of Balisand has a magnificence that is rare in modern fiction. There is something Elizabethan about his proportions. He is the incurably romantic throughout the ages. He once ruins a girl — and the memory of her haunts his life and accomplishes his death. Old fashioned in his chivalry, he dies for the sake of his old fashioned ideal. Other characters move around him, richly caparisoned, as only Hergesheimer can clothe them; but Richard Bale towers above them. He is stubborn, he is perverse, he is petulant, he is a drunkard — but he is a hero! Old Virginia is a romantic place, and its romance has never seemed more vivid than in "*Balisand*".