

Contemporary Americans" (Univ. of Chicago) takes first place immediately, in my opinion, among books available on that subject. It covers a wide field ably and sanely, and with amazing brevity. Mr. Boynton has crammed an unbelievable amount of information into this work—biographies, bibliographies, and an index. He not only discusses specific people such as Willa Cather, Edith Wharton, Booth Tarkington, etc., but he considers biography, drama, the short story, criticism. You will find many minor points over which to quarrel with Mr. Boynton; but do not let this fact warp your vision of his excellent background and viewpoint. He is aware of what's going on. He knows all sides of the picture, or rather, appreciates them, with a little more tolerance than Mr. Van Doren. Perhaps that is because, residing in the midway of America, he can look east and west and not be dazzled at the same time by the intellectual gaudiness of his own town.

Mr. Garnett and His Pets

DAVID GARNETT can be said not only to have repeated his success of "Lady into Fox" but to have surpassed it. "A Man in the Zoo" (Knopf) is at times bitter to the point of nausea, yet, for the casual reader, as light and as blythe as a ride through the country on a bicycle (before the days of motor cars). I do not know that there is much more to be said of the curious love story of John Cromartie and Josephine Lackett. I suspect many will find elaborate interpretations for this fantastic comedy. I prefer to take it quite simply. A lady compares a man to a monkey—so he has himself shown at the Zoo. It is quite logical. The results are both delightful and horrible. The implied sexual significance is negligible. Few people who read the book will bother their heads about it. Personally, I hope Mr. Garnett will abandon the animal kingdom for his next effort—but he has found it splendid inspiration twice, at least.

The Literary Scene

FOR a text book on contemporary American literature and for delightful reading, Percy H. Boynton's "Some