

and Peter, must be aware how unfitted by training is the average reserved English girl of the upper classes to cope with the varied phases of passion. She is brought up to despise, deny, and suppress her emotions, to taboo romance and sentiment as "soppiness," and to aim, above all things, at self-control. Fortunately there are forces at work in human nature that counteract such one-sided training and insist on some sort of self-expression, but the training bears fruit in inhibitions that are difficult to overcome and that lead frequently to misadjustment and misunderstanding. One of Phyllis Bottome's heroines marries the typical Englishman who fears "a scene," but who needs one to bring him to his senses; while the other marries the typical Frenchman who would rather enjoy one. Each story shows the suffering that comes from the wife's unselfish but mistaken suppression of her personal feelings, but the solution of each is due to the exercise of the same virtue, prompted by a deep and moving passion. The lightness and charm of the style in which they are told, and the unobtrusive epigrams that are to be found here and there, cover a sound and serious psychology which gives these otherwise somewhat slight stories a very real value.

HELEN OF TROY AND ROSE. By Phyllis Bottome. Century; \$1.35.

These two studies of women's temperaments are handled with the delicacy and insight that mark much of Phyllis Bottome's work. With deft, swift touches she suggests atmosphere and situations that other writers might take pages to present and thus these stories that might each have filled a volume can be included in a book rather shorter than an ordinary novel. Although they are strongly differentiated in plot and treatment, each of them deals with fundamentally the same theme—the matrimonial problems of an Englishman. One is inclined to stress the point of nationality, because the difficulties of the heroine seem to come from traits largely inherent in their nationality and training. Anyone acquainted with the educational ideal in England as it concerns the emotions, or who has read Mr. Wells' study of education in that country before the war in Joan