

tanks and ships with practical advice about the use of such material about the home and farm. Most people do not realize the importance of this new factor in our civilization and this book will give them the enlightenment they need.

The New Stone Age, by Harrison E. Howe.
Century Company.

A Story with a Cutting Edge

There is a certain mercilessness about Willa Cather which is very effective. She looks straight into the souls of her men and women and sets down exactly what she sees. Frequently it is not pleasant but always it compels your attention. A keen sense of the dramatic, a vivid appreciation of the value of contrasts and an unerring instinct for what to leave out make the stories in *Youth and the Bright Medusa* absorbing, tho often far from agreeable, reading. These studies of the artistic temperament in one or another of its forms suffer, however, from the defects of their qualities. Miss Cather is too often scornful of the characters she has created. She looks at them from a distance with hard eyes, and that is a dangerous proceeding.

Youth and the Bright Medusa, by Willa Cather. Alfred A. Knopf.

Synthetic Stone

The cave man, like the hermit crab, became the tenant of such housing as he happened upon. Later builders made houses by shaping to suit them such stone as they could find. The modern man has freed himself from even this dependence upon nature and now makes his own stone and casts into any shape and size he likes. The story of this *New Stone Age* has been well told by Harrison E. Howe in the latest volume of that popular series, "The Century Books of Useful Science." He discusses first the composition and preparation of cement and concrete, and then takes up its various applications in building houses, roads, bridges,