

THE CONTRIBUTORS' COLUMN

STUART P. SHERMAN, of the University of Illinois at Urbana, has recently written one of his best critical articles. It is called "The Significance of Sinclair Lewis" (Harcourt, Brace). Recently a new edition of his "On Contemporary Literature" (Holt) was issued, and a rereading of this admirable volume is a reminder of the power and brilliance of this important critic. AMANDA BENJAMIN HALL, a young poet whose work has appeared in various magazines, lives for the most part in New England. She has recently written her third novel, "The Heart's Justice", which will be published shortly (Doran). "It's very curious", she tells us, "that when I'm writing verse my storytelling instinct leads me toward narrative, and when story-writing I feel strangely and distractingly poetical." JEAN CARTER COCHRAN is a granddaughter of Robert Carter, the publisher, and during her childhood used to spend many hours rambling among the volumes in his bookshop on Broadway. She has traveled widely, "lived through a famine, a smallpox epidemic, had a narrow escape from river pirates, and many like adventures". It was these trips that started her career as a writer, for her first work was a series of sketches on Chinese women that appeared in "The Outlook". Her last book was "The Bells of the Blue Pagoda" (Westminster). The essay in this magazine is one of a series in "Church Street" which Lawrence Abbott has called "an effective antidote for 'Main Street'" and which will be published this fall (Westminster). JAMES J. DALY, S. J. has been known

as a poet and critic for some years. Father Daly was at one time literary editor of "America" and is now assistant editor of "The Queen's Work" in St. Louis. He has under way a very valuable history of American literature.

EDWARD SHANKS, a young Englishman, winner of the Hawthornden Prize for Imaginative Writing in 1919, is assistant editor of "The London Mercury", in which his criticism appears each month. His latest published volume is "The Island of Youth and Other Poems". DAVID MORTON, whose "Ships in Harbour" (Putnam) was one of the most delightful volumes of American poetry in recent years, is teaching again this fall at Morristown, New Jersey, and, as usual, writing his quota of excellent sonnets. GRACE HAZARD CONKLING is an associate professor of English at Smith College. She received the Blindman Poetry Prize from the Charleston Poetry Society last spring. She has published two volumes of poetry, "Wilderness Songs" and "Afternoons of April" (Houghton Mifflin). Her two daughters, Hilda (who is well known as a child poet) and Elsa, occupy most of her spare time. Hilda's latest volume is "Shoes of the Wind" (Stokes). Mrs. Conkling is the author of a valuable pamphlet, "Inspiration and Children's Reading" (Hampshire Bookshop, Northampton, Mass.). HUGH WALPOLE is in the United States again and will be here for nine months. He is as genial as ever and seems to be honestly glad to be among us again;

in fact, he says that he feels perfectly at home. Perhaps, he adds, that's because of early days in a school on Washington Square, when he was a boy. At any rate, it's good to have him here. His novel "The Cathedral" will be published shortly (Doran). MAXWELL BODENHEIM'S reputation as a poet was further strengthened by the publication of his last volume, "Introducing Irony" (Boni, Live-right). His biting criticism continues to appear in various magazines. A delightful fellow, a dangerous friend, and a worthy enemy is Mr. Bodenheim.

ALEXANDER VAN RENSSELAER served his literary apprenticeship in the editorial rooms of the old New York "Sun". His first achievement was an editorial extolling Hawaiian pineapples. A week or so after the publication of this maiden effort he received a case of canned Hawaiian pineapples from a cannery manager who happened across the editorial. Such are the queer rewards of an editorial writer. The World War severed Mr. Van Rensselaer's connections with the "Sun". While in the army, after the armistice, he established and edited one of the War Department illustrated weekly magazines; and since then has at one time or another been a publisher's reader, advertising manager of Henry Holt and Company, and an authors' representative. He is now connected with the publishing house of Duffield and Company. Mr. Van Rensselaer's first book, "The Business of Writing: A Practical Guide for Authors", written in collaboration with Robert Cortes Holliday, has just been published (Doran). JESSIE B. RITTENHOUSE, the poet and critic, has returned from her summer home in Connecticut. Her lecture courses will be given as usual this winter. Her

latest published book was "The Lifted Cup" (Houghton Mifflin), and she is now busy on "The Little Book of Modern English Verse" which will be brought out this winter. LESLIE NELSON JENNINGS, of California, has recently migrated to New York City to seek his fortunes in the marts of literature. For many years he has been a contributor to various magazines. BABETTE DEUTSCH, poet and critic, was born in New York. She says that she began writing at the age of four and gained the ears of the editors some twenty years later. Last year, in collaboration with her husband, Avrahm Yarmolinsky, she translated and edited "Modern Russian Poetry" (Harcourt, Brace). This volume is to be followed by one of "Modern German Poetry". KENNETH ANDREWS has recently taken a position on the Sunday editorial staff of the New York "World".

WILLIAM ROSE BENÉT, the associate editor of the "Literary Review" of the New York "Evening Post", is now living in Scarsdale. His first novel, "The First Person Singular" (Doran), appeared not long ago. Don Marquis for several years has claimed that he has succumbed to more sicknesses than any other person living; but ROBERT CORTES HOLLIDAY now demands that distinction. He says that during the past summer he has had every affliction known to man. The reason R. C. H. left home when he was little more than a child was to become a painter and illustrator. Now, he claims, he has turned again to art and, having just taken an elaborate and expensive studio in Greenwich Village, is willing to consider applications for any number of lovely models. JAMES W. GERARD, our former ambassador to Germany, has now retired from the diplomatic service and is practising law in New York

City. He is the author of "My Four Years in Germany" (Doran) and "Face to Face with Kaiserism". MARY AUSTIN has returned to New York City, after a lecture trip and a vacation in the far west. She was recently the chief debater with John S. Sumner of the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice at the luncheon of the Authors' League Fellowship. ALEXANDER WOOLLCOTT, the dramatic critic of the New York "Times", is leaving that publication to take up similar duties on the New York "Herald". His first two books, "Mr. Dickens Goes to the Play" (Putnam) and "Shouts and Murmurs" (Century), were on the fall lists.

FLOYD DELL'S new novel, to be called "The Mad Ideal", has just been finished and will appear in the course of the next few months. Meanwhile, he is helping his wife to educate their young son Anthony, who is growing rapidly, at their home in Croton, New York. Not satisfied with one novel, "Nigger", just published (Dutton), CLEMENT WOOD has one up each sleeve and one in each pocket. In the meantime and in between times he cuts the grass around his house in Hastings, New York, and writes poetry. JAMES L. FORD, the critic and author, whose "Forty Odd Years in the Literary Shop" (Dutton) proved so delightful last year, has returned from his summer home at Brookhaven, Long Island, and will spend the winter in town. SIDNEY HOWARD, author of "Swords" (Doran), has recently been engaged in an elaborate investigation along the lines of his "Labor Spy" which caused a sensation when it appeared in "The New Republic". MAURICE FRANCIS EGAN, critic and diplomat of note, editor and author of numerous books, is living this winter in Washington. His "Confessions of a Book-Lover" (Doubleday) has just been published.