

JEAN STARR UNTERMAYER

Growing Pains. HUEBSCH.
Dreams Out of Darkness. HUEBSCH.

Jean Starr Untermeyer has written from the standpoint of the woman of maturity. Her lyrics are rich in feminine passion and wisdom. They have a touch, too, of mysticism. Yet they display also keen intellectual integrity. More colorful and whimsical than most of the younger women poets, Mrs. Untermeyer allows her rich imagination to play without repression over the varying moods of ripening womanhood.

Mrs. Untermeyer was born in Zanesville, Ohio, and came to New York City to attend boarding school. In 1907 she married Louis Untermeyer, the poet and critic. Her interests are fairly evenly divided among family, poetry, and music.

"Close akin to the poetry of love, in the minds of women, is the poetry of motherhood and home. And this chapter would hardly be complete without brief mention of two poems about birth. They are 'The Cantic of The Babe', by Josephine Preston Peabody, a subjective lyric of motherhood with unusual dignity and beauty, and 'Birth' by Jean Starr Untermeyer, a poem which tells what another woman feels, standing beside a young mother in her hour of travail. Mrs. Untermeyer's poem, 'Autumn' is also an interesting and original piece of work. It celebrates 'pickling day' and is neither humorous nor sentimental as poems of the home used to be. Instead it has something of the dignity that rightly belongs to the most fundamental of all labors, the labor of preparing food, and it pays tribute, in high, just fashion to the genius of the home who is the genius of the folk, the mother."—*Marguerite Wilkinson in "New Voices"*.

"The lyrics in 'Dreams Out of Darkness' surpass those in Mrs. Untermeyer's first book, 'Growing Pains'. She has grown. The

growth is made evident in the sincere subjectivity of her new work, in the intensity of the new moods, in the freedom and subtlety of the new organic rhythms which she uses. . . . This book strikes deep and reaches high. It has strong roots and brave branches."—*Marguerite Wilkinson in THE BOOKMAN*, December, 1921.

REFERENCES:

New Voices. Marguerite Wilkinson. MACMILLAN.
A Critical Fable. Anonymous. HOUGHTON MIFFLIN.