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COMMENT on BOOKS and AUTHORS

MANUAL OF ALPINE PLANTS. By Henri Correvon. Edited by Leonard Barron.

Rock gardeners need no introduction to M. Correvon, for he is known the world over as the "greatest living alpine flower grower." His "Les Plantes des Montagnes et des Rochers" was acclaimed in England as "the Bible of the gardener." He has visited and studied alpine and rock gardens in all sections of America; his book is a happy example of the practical application of European knowledge and experience to American conditions.

The book contains the most complete list of alpine plants available, with a description, the culture, and origin of each. It includes a survey of rock gardens; tells the nature and requirements of mountain plants; their acclimatization and culture; the culture of particular species; plants that require lime and granite soil; the special culture of alpine moss, pans and the moraine; the wall garden; the rockery; alpine gardens in the mountains; the fernery; terrestrial orchids; and hardy cacti.

The illustrations include eight unusual color plates adjudged by the Gardener's Chronicle (London) as the best ever done in plant illustrations.

Mr. Correvon was educated by his grandfather, Froebel of Zurich, the first man in continental Europe to cultivate and acclimatize the alpine flora. He has given his life to a continuation of this work; his nursery "Floraire" at Chene-Bourg, Switzerland, contains the best-known and perhaps the largest collection of these plants in the world. The Royal Horticultural Society of London presented him with its Gold Medal—the only instance in

which the award has been made outside of England.

CONFESSIONS IN ART. By Harrison S. Morris. New York: Sears Publishing Company.

With a light and jocular touch Mr. Harrison S. Morris reviews a career largely concerned with contemporary art and artists. His acquaintance has included most of the notables of his day, but he is equally partial to relative nobodies who voluntarily or involuntarily do amusing things. One welcomes the picture of aged and myopic Mr. Shippen blundering into the life class of the Pennsylvania academy, suddenly becoming aware of the model and crying, "My God! She's alive!" Pleasant, too, is the glimpse of Albert Ryder showing his magnificent Jonah and squeaking out, "How do you like God?" Interesting, too, is the reminiscence of Booth utterly disgusted with his portrait by Sargent, and the painter instantly obliterating the face and retrieving the situation. Chase, Whistler, La Farge, Thayer, Rafelli, Pennell are among the artists treated. In general, the impressions are too brief and swift to permit of much richness, but the book in a chatty way is entertaining throughout.

ARUNDEL. By Kenneth Roberts. New York: Doubleday, Doran.

Benedict Arnold's march to Quebec is the central episode of this novel. Through the eyes of one Steven Nason, a lad from Maine, we follow the expedition in its tortured, crawling progress up the Kennebec, across the northern forests and swamps, and finally to the St. Lawrence. We see Arnold's long wait for the supporting forces of General Montgomery, who is to come down the river from Montreal; and finally the ruinous assault on Quebec, New Year's Eve, 1775. These chapters are usually in the best tradition of the historical novel—imaginative, revealing, and convincing. The account of the unsuccessful storming of Quebec is especially good, a pitiful story of defeat.

THE PAINTER IN HISTORY. By Ernest H. Short. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott company.

This bulky encyclopedic work is baffling for a reviewer: It is based on much reading and on a generally sound taste and is the work of a person of culture. On the other hand, there is much careless writing, more errors of fact than should be, and the English part is overwritten beyond its importance in a general survey. In a sense it doesn't matter, for example, whether Winslow Homer retreated to Maine immediately after the Civil War or nearly twenty years later, but a couple of additional words would have stated the case correctly. To call La Farge "the Burne-Jones of America" is badly to misunderstand both artists. A survey of early German painting that barely mentions Gruenewald, and that slightly, leaves much to be desired. It is doubtful news also that, about 1300, Giotto painted the four Franciscan allegories at Assisi. Mistakes of this sort abound, and deprive the book largely of any value for reference. On the better side, the author constantly and on the whole successfully tries to correlate the great schools of art with their respective civilizations. Possibly the inequalities and disproportions in this book may be due to its being based on lectures insufficiently revised for book publication. At any rate, that is the impression it makes.

WRITES LIFE OF LINCOLN

William H. Townsend whose book, "Lincoln and His Wife's Home Town," has just been published, spent eight years collecting material for his book. He made several research excursions with Carl Sandburg and Dr. W. E. Barton, both well known Lincoln experts. Mr. Townsend is a native of Lexington, Kentucky, which was Mary Todd's home town. Her house and the house of Levi Todd where Lincoln often visited are still standing. Dr. Townsend's father was the family physician for the Hanks-Sparrow kinsmen of Lincoln and he was present at probably more births and deaths in the Lincoln family than any other person. Mr. Townsend has written two other books on Lincoln, "Abraham Lincoln, Defendant," and "Lincoln the Litigant," as well as many articles in newspapers and periodicals including the American Bar Association Journal. For the past ten years he has been corporation counsel for the city of Lexington.

BIGGERS WRITES NEW NOVEL

While Earl Derr Biggers goes on producing a best seller every year, the latest one being "The Black Camel," one of his earliest books continues merrily on its hugely successful way. Back in 1913, "Seven Keys to Baldpate" was first published. It was made into a lucrative play and the stage edition of the book was brought out; then it was adapted for the movies and a movie edition of the book followed. Quite recently the "talkie" rights were sold. However, since the book is only sixteen years old there may be still other developments in store for it.

BIOGRAPHY

Eugene V. Debs. A Man Unafraid. By McAlister Coleman. Greenberg. Some Royalties and a Prime Minister. By Princess Marthe Bibesco. Appleton. "Il Duce." The Life and Work of Benito Mussolini. Translated by Magda Vámos from the Hungarian of L. Kemechey. New York: Richard R. Smith. Roger Williams, Prophet and Pioneer. By Emily Easton. Houghton Mifflin. Lord Melbourne. By Bertram New- man. Macmillan. My Thirty Years' War. By Margaret Anderson. Covici, Friede. The Gift of Genius. By Beverley Randolph Tucker. Boston: The Stratford company.

GUIDE-LECTURE TOURS

Next week's guide-lecture tours at Field Museum of Natural History will begin Monday, June 2, with "Trees and Their Uses" at 11 and "Roman Home Life" at 3 o'clock. On Wednesday at the same hours subjects will be "Prehistoric Animals" and "Egypt"; on Friday, "Weapons and Armor" and "Chinese Arts." On Tuesday and Thursday at 11 and 3 o'clock there will be general tours of anthropological, botanical, geological and zoological exhibits. These tours conducted by members of the staff are free. Parties assemble inside the north entrance of the museum.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SERVICES

"Ancient and Modern Necromancy, alias Mesmerism and Hypnotism Denounced" will be the subject at the services in the First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Wilmette, Sunday morning, May 31, at 11 o'clock. Sunday school convenes at 9:45 o'clock.

RULES

Of the Stock Market by Which You Can Succeed

Here are books giving profitable advice for laymen. Written by level-headed, successful investors and well-known authorities.

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