

MOUNTAIN HOMESPUN. By Frances L. Goodrich. New Haven: Yale University Press.

A study of the handicrafts of the Southern Appalachians abundantly illustrated and enriched by rather charming human sketches of the workers, with an appendix on dye plants and the working of the loom.

SPAIN AND SPANISH AMERICA IN THE LIBRARIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA. A Catalog of Books: II. Berkeley, California: Bancroft Library. An elaborate and scholarly bibliography.

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COMMENT on BOOKS and AUTHORS

South Pole

A BOY SCOUT WITH BYRD. By Paul Siple. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

When Commander Byrd, adding imagination to his belief in the value of Boy Scout training, announced that he would take a Scout with him to Antarctica, he set nearly a million hearts to thumping. Here was a colossal opportunity; who would secure it? Here was the equivalent of setting forth with Columbus, in the year of supposedly prosaic grace 1928, cost-free, in company with a boatload of scientist-adventurers—if you were the boy in a million.

The requirements for such a perilous and exacting enterprise were rigorous. After the first flush of the announcement, just to read the eleven qualifications must have given the expectant Scouts a chill. The weeding out went on until seventeen candidates with impressive records remained. The seventeen were boiled down to six. The six, invited to New York, underwent a week of vivisection by interview and public dining and mutual inspiration. By every test Paul Siple, of Erie, Pennsylvania, won. He went. He measured up to the honor of it, not to mention the hardships, and he returned to become the author of an extremely interesting book.

In this book we get a fresh point of view. Siple, having had no experience with either Pole, records things which escape older men, and if his perspective is smaller, it is more human.

We sympathize with pups and penguins. We hear a little—and would like to hear so much more—of the intimate life in Little America. We enjoy the entire sequence of sensations from farewell to New York to welcome home. The chapter on erecting Little America, and dog-driving, on the winter night and the feelings of those left behind on the day of Byrd's great flight, are vivid and without one word inserted for mere effect.

Every Scout troop should have this book to see what one of them has done; and every school should chain a copy to the desk in the English department to show—as in the admirable chapters on "Seals" and "Penguins."

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The Love of Books

By JAMES R. CLEMENS

HAPPY he
Who, in his home at night,
Finds in his books delight,
And sweet society;
Whilst he who sees no profit in their use,
Will live a fool and die as great a goose.

At my call
Great Shakespeare and his fellows
Stand ready, like my bellows,
For service menial;

Thus kingly do I sit and at mine ease,
Whilst they, when summoned, do their best to please.

Who pines more
For earthly rank and pelf,
Than good books on his shelf,
Is like a sycamore;

A tree so plagued by density of shade,
That well-intending light shrinks back dismayed.

With a book,
A man is richer far
Than kings and princes are,
Though he no cities took;

For in good books a vein of thought is found,
Which, mined, exhaustless gold yields from the ground.

—From the Saturday Review of Literature.

THE SHADOW OF THE SWORD.

My Hawthorne Daniel. Illustrated by Emile Verpilleux. Macmillan.

Which of us has not at least once in childhood been thrilled by a story of Mont Saint Michel. And there seems always room for another to be added to the list, so naturally full of picturesque romance is the geographical and architectural setting of the place, and the whole span of its history. Here is an excellent example of the type. A fisher boy, by detecting treachery and bravely following it up, helps to save the island for France, and is raised to titles, honors, and finally a happy wedding with the fair lady whom in one episode he has rescued from misfortune. He passes through all the exciting adventures and escapes that any boy or girl could wish to read of, with a resounding medieval battle as a climax. A sense of the real life of the time is held in mind throughout, so that there is true historical value in the book, supplemented, of course, by the illustrations. The period is toward the end of the Hundred Years' war, and the action takes place within and upon the walls of the Mount, outside on the treacherous quicksands, and among the famous tides, and on the neighboring island of Tombelaine—all scenes that lend a background full of interest to a gallant tale.

JOSEPH HOPKINSON: 1770-1842
By Burton Alva Konkle. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

A careful biography of the author of "Hail Columbia" who was also a distinguished lawyer, judge, and eminent citizen of Philadelphia in a very interesting period. A contribution to the history of minor but important figures in our early national period.

HIGHWAY INTO SPAIN. By Marcel Aroussseau. New York: Alfred H. King.

This is an informal travel book recounting the experiences of the author and an American friend on a tramp through France and into Spain. Readable and picturesque.

Pershing Speaks

MY EXPERIENCES IN THE WORLD WAR. By John J. Pershing. New York: Frederick A. Stokes Company.

"The American people think of you as their 'fighting general' and I want them to have that idea more and more brought home to them," wrote Secretary of War Baker to Pershing in 1918. The General in his two interesting volumes has certainly followed the Secretary's suggestions. His fights with the Germans, however, seem to be overshadowed by his fights with the French, the British, and even with the American General Staff.

After almost every war, it is the unsuccessful who rush into print first to get their side of the story before the public. The final victors, more secure in their reputations, can afford to take their time. The leaders in the World War ran true to form. Hindenburg, Ludendorff, Falkenhayn and many lesser lights among the defeated nations lost no time in explaining how it happened. On the Allied side, the first memoirs from important leaders came from French, Hamilton, and others who had not met with success. Now, more than a decade after the fighting, the successful commanders-in-chief are finally presenting their accounts, not so much to consolidate their positions as to meet a widespread popular demand.

General Pershing's "Experiences" start with his appointment as commander of the American Expeditionary Force in May, 1917, and close with the celebration of the Armistice. The arrangement is strictly chronological. It consists of quotations from his wartime diary, followed by amplified discussion written more than ten years later. The advantage of such an arrangement is its revelation of the unfolding of manifold problems day by day. The natural consequence, however, is the difficulty in following any single topic very far at a stretch.

The diary selections indicate the complexity of the life of a commander-in-chief who had to adjust relations with everything from the French Army to the Salvation Army. There was constant discussion of details of training programs, airplane construction, railroads, docks, hospitals, censorship, forestry, and forage. There were continual interviews or dinners with marshals, prime ministers, diplomats, congressmen, and industrial leaders and there were frequent ceremonies involving formal speeches. The style of the memoirs is clear and straightforward, so the book is easy to read.

THE FAMILY. By E. B. Reuter and Jessie R. Runner. New York: McGraw Hill Publishing Co.

Source material for the study of family and personality. "This book presents more than one hundred selections from the writings of leading investigators and specialists in the study of family life and covers a considerable percentage of the significant work that has been done in the field."

THE QUICK AND THE DEAD. By Gamaliel Bradford. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co.

Brief studies of public characters: Roosevelt, Wilson, Edison, Ford, Lenin, Mussolini, and Coolidge. Mr. Bradford's well-known volumes in psychological biography have dealt in the past with "men and women long since comfortably dead and buried."