

Anne Whitmack Returns From Vacation in West

Miss Anne L. Whitmack, librarian at the Wilmette Public library, returned to her duties last week after a month's vacation in the west. Miss Whitmack spent part of her vacation at her home in Billings, Mont. She also took a trip to Glacier National park and spent some time in the mountains.

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COMMENT on BOOKS and AUTHORS

Victorian Style

THE GOOD HOPE. By Henry Sydnor Harrison. Houghton Mifflin.

This is the last characteristic utterance of one who in his brief career reaped the rewards and penalties of work done in the mode of yesterday. Harrison came of age with the birth of this century, his first novel, "Queed", appeared in 1911, the year of "Jennie Gerhardt" and "Hilda Lessways." But for a certain timelessness of scene and costume it might have been done a generation earlier. Its large audience liked it none the worse for being old-fashioned. A vast number of Victorians were extant then, and a great number still survive. Harrison was a young bachelor and then an older bachelor who believed in romantic love, virtue, woman. There are always grateful hearers for any one who writes ardently and simply and, if you will, sentimentally, of common things.

"The Good Hope" is a fantasy of mortal frustration and fulfillment, in the vein, though not in the style, of one of Dickens' Christmas stories, "The Chimes" or "The Haunted Man." It is on about that scale, a novelette or a long short story. It has a strong moral, a wistful "love interest," and a ghostly motive to remove it from the commonplace and humdrum.

It is a fit tablet to the memory of one who retained in our age of weary adolescence the fresh heart of a child. The preface, by one of Harrison's friends, John Stewart Bryan, is a tribute to his character and talent and especially to his power of inspiring others. One sentence, or part of a sentence, might well stand as his epitaph: "... His life, like a diviner's rod, revealed to those

who were admitted to the magic of his fellowship powers that but for his genius would never have been evoked."

Shackleton

ENDURANCE. By Commander Frank Worsley. Cape-Smith.

"Endurance," by Commander Frank Worsley is a straight-forward narrative of the unbelievably thrilling experiences of Sir Ernest Shackleton and his party in their desperate struggle to safety across sea and ice when their ship was crushed in the Antarctic. It's probably a more vivid and smashing saga of the south pole than anything Shackleton could write for Worsley, skipper of the *Endurance*, was Shackleton's closest friend and told of their icy battles with death with a freedom that Shackleton, a modest hero, couldn't or wouldn't write about himself.

The boat journey to South Georgia by Shackleton, Worsley and others, across one of the most treacherous stretches of salt water on this old earth, to get help for the rest of the party left behind on Elephant island, is truly an epic of polar adventure.

The hair raising trip across the glaciers and mountain peaks of South Georgia by Shackleton, Worsley and a companion, and their slide down a mountain side to safety and aid at a whaling station also is a super thriller.

The story of the rescue of the *Endurance* crew has been told again and again, but never with more authenticity, vigor and human interest. The "good old skipper," as Shackleton called him, is also a "good old reporter." He remembers the incidents that the average person enjoys hearing about and he tells them with such enthusiasm and good humor that, perhaps entirely unconsciously, he does a really fine piece of writing.

WITH IRISH LITERATI

Arthur Train has returned to this country from a tour of the British Isles with the opinion that the literary figures of Ireland compose as brilliant an intellectual company as can be found anywhere. He dined in Dublin with Yeats, Walter Starkie, Lennox Robinson and the others, and came away with the impression that while Yeats is still God, Walter Starkie is high priest of Irish letters. Mr. Train has gone to Bar Harbor.

ELECTED TO A. A. A. S.

John Galsworthy has been elected a foreign honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, second oldest scientific society in the United States.

Decentralization

THE TRAGEDIES OF PROGRESS. By Gina Lombroso. New York: E. P. Dutton and company.

"In order for the world to recover a normal rhythm, it is necessary for industrialists and farmers to persuade themselves to produce in proportion to the consumers they have, and not for those they would like to have." Thus our author—daughter of a great criminologist, wife of the great historian, Ferrero—strikes her keynote. She tells us that mankind lived in the handicraft age; now, in the age of mass production, it only exists; its faculties, senses, its very humanity, dulled and brutalized by mechanization. In brief she joins with Spengler, Austin Freeman, Ruskin, and the rest of the Gloomy Philosophers who, regarding the forces let loose by James Watt, beat their breasts, crying Woe! Woe! She pleads for decentralization, a return to small scale production, fabricating goods for a known local market, and revitalizing them with the personality of the maker and the spirit of craftsmanship. She is prepared, however, to admit a certain amount of modern chemistry and electric power into her remodeled world, and would not brand as criminal a man who carries a watch, as did Samuel Butler in "Erewhom."

With all the certainties of the New Era economics collapsing about us today, there is a good deal to be said for Madame Lombroso's thesis. At any time there is much to be said for industrial decentralization.

Muller Hails Debt Plan as Historic Act

That President Hoover's action in bringing about the war debt moratorium will someday be regarded as "one of the most remarkable things ever done by a single man," is the opinion of the German professor, Dr. Ludwig Muller, expressed in a recent letter to Dr. Theodore Koch, librarian at Northwestern university.

Writing from Germany where he is director of the Normal School at Barmen, Dr. Muller, who was an exchange professor at Northwestern two years ago, describes the great crisis in his country.

"It is hard to give a right picture of the situation here," he wrote. "Since that deplorable August of 1914 we have not had a greater crisis. 'Man spürt den Pulsschlag der Weltgeschichte' (one feels the pulse beat of world history). Let us hope that the reasonable forces all over the world are strong enough to prevent a catastrophe. Otherwise the over-excited theories of communism or the totally unclear theses of hyper-nationalistic groups will be victorious and change Europe into a great battlefield.

"From today we will have the permission to get 20 marks per day from our saving deposits. This means that after more than a week we are able again to reach part of our July salaries which had been confiscated by the state and the communities. We have never had a situation similar to this. How and when shall this end?

"Mr. Hoover's great action in spite of all the present distress will live one day in history as one of the most remarkable things ever done by a single man. He has shown that the world is still able of an act of generosity."

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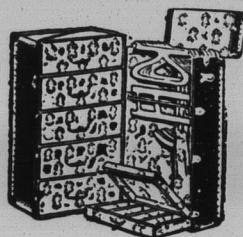
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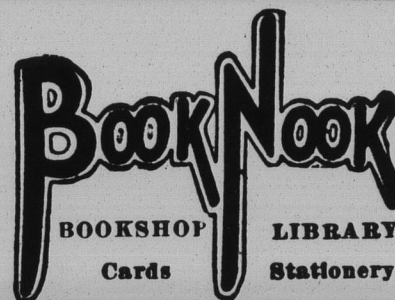
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