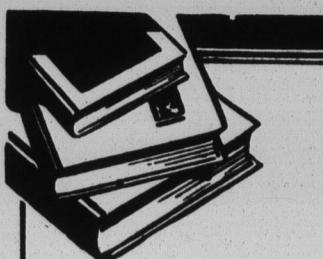


**DOVETAILED MYSTERIES**

*Money Musk*, by Ben Ames Williams, offers the reader two interlocking mysteries to solve. The story is fast-moving, cleverly constructed and one of the best by this popular author. It was the Dutton Clue Mystery for October.



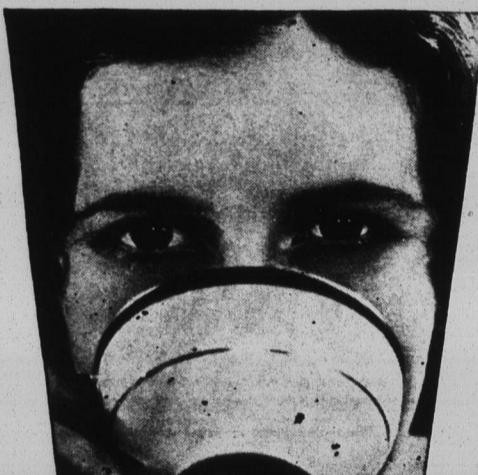
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## COMMENT on BOOKS and AUTHORS

### *Life of Writer*

**THE UGLY DUCKLING:** a biography of Hans Christian Andersen. By Isabel Proudfit. Illustrated by Malthe Hasselriis. New York: Robert M. McBride and Co.

"It does not matter in the least having been born in a duckyard, if only you come out of a swan's egg!" —so wrote Hans Christian Andersen in the fable of the Ugly Duckling. The wistful parallel is obvious, for Andersen himself was an awkward, big-nosed little boy, born of humble parents, separated by a world of dreams from his matter-of-fact companions, pursued in his early life, like the poor duckling, by hunger and scorn—and, in the end, was to find himself no Ugly Duckling, but indeed, a Swan.

Using the fable of the Ugly Duckling as her motif, Mrs. Proudfit has written a fine biography for young readers, simple and gay, as any story about Andersen should be, for the gayety of his imagination was never subject to the brutality of circumstance.

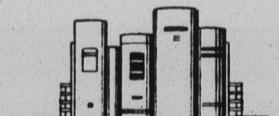
The book is sympathetically illustrated by the Danish artist, Malthe Hasselriis, whose uncle, Hans Tegner, knew Andersen and illustrated some of the early editions of his fairy tales in this country.

### **LITTLE WOMEN AS TALKIE**

Louisa Alcott's "Little Women," which was issued as a silent movie in 1919, is being adapted to sound films by RKO. The film will not be ready in time for the centenary of Miss Alcott's birth, November 29, which will be widely celebrated in the schools and libraries of the country.

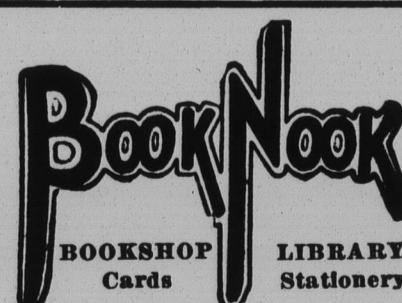
### **OMNIBUS OF HUMOR**

"Comic Relief, an Omnibus of Modern American Humor," was published this week by Houghton Mifflin company. Its contributors include Donald Ogden Stewart, Dorothy Parker, Stephen Leacock, Robert Benchley, Ring Lardner and Corey Ford.



### THE BOOK MARK

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### An Economic Tour

**THE DISCOVERY OF EUROPE.** Paul Cohen-Portheim. Dutton.

Unlike the title suggests, this volume is not a travel book of Europe, but rather is it an economic tour, by one who not only knows his continent, but who can examine conditions with the impersonal eye of a physician.

Mr. Cohen-Portheim has divided his analysis into three parts—the first is pre-war Europe, in which he traces the steps by which the countries that go to make up Europe lost their feeling of unity, and by absorbing the doctrine of quantity rather than quality, as exemplified by the United States and in a growing degree by Russia, acquired an inferiority-complex; this, according to the analyst, was fatal, and inevitably led to the triumph of the machine over personal freedom—with the grand climax of the World war.

Part II—"Post War"—tells of Europe's realization of her mistake, and of the efforts of the various countries to beat back to supremacy in art, religion, architecture, and beauty-culture.

The author calls Part III "My Europe," and this is the most vivid portion of the book, because he tells of the Europe that he himself has known the Europe when the insane Hapsburgs held sway in magnificence and pomp;—when the beautiful Queen Victoria was in the hey-day of the reign that was to give her name to the age; and the lovely Empress Eugenie dominated her corner of the world.

His chapter on Austria and the romantic but ill-omened marriage of the dull Francis Joseph to his beautiful cousin, Elizabeth of Wittelsbach, with whom "insanity and tragedy, beauty and romance returned to the house of Hapsburg, and its agony began," is one of the most colorful spots of the whole book. From Austria and the gay-sad life of Vienna we skip through Bohemia, Berlin—two Berlins, according to Mr. Cohen-Portheim—the Prussian Berlin, frugal and hard-working, and the Imperial Berlin, showy, expansive, modern; Paris, very French, very cosmopolitan, and very European; Spain, with its dances and bull-fights; England of the country life and counting house; and with a broad sweep, cover North and South Europe—Scandinavia, Holland, Switzerland, and lovely Italy with its spell-binding Mediterranean.

Being American, we may not always agree with Mr. Cohen-Portheim's conclusions, nor may we grant the unfailing correctness of his premises, but we will admire the keenness of his analysis, his sincerity, and the amount of literary and personal background with which he approaches his subject. Certainly, after reading his book, Americans will have a wider picture of Europe, and perhaps a different view of themselves.—MARY WINNER HUGHES.

**OUR OBSOLETE CONSTITUTION.** By William Kay Wallace. The John Day company.

The D. A. R. chapters and the American Legion posts on the north shore would not, I presume, recommend this book, let alone read it. But Mr. Wallace, probably feels a lot better having written it even though his statements are quite extravagant, or, as he admits, revolutionary. He gives a history of the Constitution from the time it was framed, then discusses why it should be changed, and finally suggests a Constitution in keeping with the technique of modern industrial life.

In the first place, Mr. Wallace be-

### **Presidents' Wives**

**FIRST LADIES.** By Kathleen Prindiville. The Macmillan company. Reviewed by Vera McDermid

As a guarantee of Northwestern university and the former club editor of an Evanston newspaper Miss Prindiville is not unknown to many north shore people. Her book on the wives of the United States presidents from Washington to Hoover will spread her name far beyond the regions of Chicago. "First Ladies" is a collection of feminine personalities and types, a picturesque story of life in America for the past one hundred and fifty years, as well as almost a history of the United States.

Martha Custis Washington was retiring and simple in her tastes; the frail Abigail Smith Adams never failed in her life's duties, which she ever performed with poise and a cheerful heart; and the inimitable Dolly Madison, whose popularity won re-election for her husband—she it was who had a genius for making friends; Mary Todd Lincoln with her "headlong words and her quick repartee" was an entranced and proud "First Lady," wife of President Lincoln. Lucy Webb Hayes was an early prohibitionist, and she persuaded her husband, Rutherford B. Hayes, to prohibit liquor in the White House. "Society forgot enough of its decorum to complain loudly at first, then good-humoredly accepted Lucy's challenge when she asked if people could not be as witty and interesting without wine as with it."

Edith Carow Roosevelt was efficient in everything she did and was a skilled hostess. She was the first of all the presidents' wives to employ a social secretary. Another very popular First Lady was Mrs. Coolidge. Not long after her arrival in Washington, when Mr. Coolidge was Vice President, Mrs. Coolidge became the most feted woman in the capital. Her genuine enthusiasm, her graciousness, and buoyant nature made it a pleasure for anyone to be in her company. Mrs. Hoover was the first woman to be graduated from Leland Stanford university with a major in geology. "Something of the sea's full strength and self-sufficiency is in her character." She is a homely-looking person, and has always provided a background for her husband and her children.

The jacket of the book states that "First Ladies" will be "read by girls from twelve to sixteen," but I believe it will be equally read and enjoyed by older members of the feminine world.

lieves there should be nine states instead of forty eight; a National Board of Directors who will select from among its members a President. "In a state erected on principles of economic liberty and guaranteeing social security all citizens will come to be looked upon as stockholders of the national industrial and commercial enterprises and its beneficiaries under a highly developed scheme of insurance that will insure their social welfare." The new state-system will have, above all, a Planned National Economy to replace the older concepts of competition.....

There are parts of the Constitution that do need adjustment, but simply to throw the whole thing out like a scrap of paper or rubbish is ridiculous to say the least.—V. McD.