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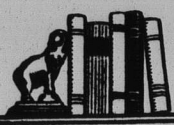
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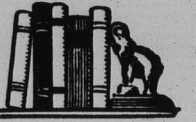
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"Honourable Estate" Is Sequel to Popular "Testament of Youth"

Honourable Estate
by Vera Brittain. The Macmillan
Company N. Y.

In *Honourable Estate*, a story of three marriages, are embodied the dramatic social changes of forty years, from 1890 to 1930. The author has not sought to draw conclusions, but to give imaginative life to the struggles, doubts, fears, misgivings, and experiments of men and women passing through a period of rapid and momentous transition in manners and morals. The novel is a successor to Vera Brittain's famous *Testament of Youth*, of which 93,710 copies were sold in the English-speaking world.

The three marriages are those of the Reverend Thomas Rutherford—pompous, conservative, bullying—and his wife, Janet, whose strong political and feminist interests outrage him; of Stephen Alleyndene of Dene Hall, a typical Staffordshire masterpotter, married for his money by a calculating little governess; and finally of the Rutherstons' son, Denis, and the Alleyndenes' daughter, Ruth, whose political career ultimately fulfills the frustrated ideals of Janet.

The book reaches its emotional heights in Ruth's unorthodox war-time love affair with Eugene Meury, a young American officer. This passionate, tragic episode not only illustrates the swift moral changes of the War and post-War periods, but symbolizes the relationship between England and America during those critical years. Though the subsequent marriage between Denis and Ruth is successful and typically modern, the spirit of the young American continues to dominate Ruth's life.

Miss Brittain's title refers not only to "holy matrimony," but to the changing status of women, and to the spiritual dignity achieved through suffering and experience. The novel, a graphic record of an epoch, it is first of all a story, and an absorbing one.

Fly Rod and Reel

The Happy Fisherman by Stephen Gwynn was published by Charles Scribner's Sons on November 18. The book which is illustrated with sixteen water-color drawings and numerous line cuts by Roy Beddington, deals with lake and river fishing, chiefly salmon and trout, and takes up both fly and bait fishing as well as the lore of tackle and rods. On the same date *Falconry* by Captain G. Blaine will be published as another title in *The Sportsman's Library*.

Skiing Expert

Otto Lang, author of *Downhill Skiing*, just published (Nov. 19) by Holt, is expected in New York next month, when he will give skiing lessons in the sports room of B. Altman & company, New York department store.

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Companion Volume



Ben Pinchot, N. Y.

Vera Brittain, author of "Testament of Youth," has come forth with a new novel of transition, "Honourable Estate," published this fall by Macmillan. It covers the period 1890-1930, and is intended as a companion volume to her autobiography.

Three Henry Holt Books Are Favorites at Fair

Three volumes attracting attention in the Holt display at the New York Times Book fair are the new illustrated edition of Walter de la Mare's perennially popular children's verses, "Peacock Pie, The Story of Sail," with 54 illustrations claimed to give the most accurate pictures of ship rigging and construction, and *Footnotes to the Ballet*, which Gilbert Seldes has described as "beautifully presented with magnificent photographs." Other volumes most frequently purchased were A. E. Housman's *A Shropshire Lad* and *Last Poems* in the new bindings, the new 1936 edition of Champlin's *Cyclopedia for Young Folks*, the poetry of Robert Frost, particularly *A Further Range*, and Helen Waddell's latest book, *The Desert Fathers*.

Paul Gilbert Is Writer for New Children's Book

Paul T. Gilbert of Kenilworth is one of the thirteen authors represented in the newly published Child Life Mystery-Adventure book, compiled by Marjorie Barrows of Evanston, editor of Child Life, and her associate, Frances Cavanaugh. Mr. Gilbert's story is entitled *Bertram's Adventure With the Camel*, one of a series of forty or more which have been appearing in Child Life, and of which eight are collected in book form under the title, *Bertram and His Funny Animals*. Mr. Gilbert has had a long career in editing and writing and has recently been made art editor of the Chicago Herald and Examiner.

Prize Novel Contest

Harper & Brothers remind authors working on novels for the eighth biennial Harper Prize Novel contest, that the closing date of the contest is February 1, 1937. Sinclair Lewis, Thornton Wilder and Louis Bromfield, will serve as judges.

"Steps Going Down" Takes Reader Below to See How Men Live

Steps Going Down

by John T. McIntyre. Farrar & Rhinehart, Incorporated, N. Y.

From an entry list of more than 500 novels *Steps Going Down* was selected as the American contender for the all-nations prize novel competition sponsored by Farrar & Rhinehart, the Literary guild, Warner Bros., and publishers in foreign countries. The selection was unanimous by three judges—Carl Van Doren, William Soskin, and Joseph Wood Krutch.

This send-off, and the fact that the author is a seasoned writer are sufficient reason for at least an intelligent curiosity about the novel. Mr. McIntyre was born in Philadelphia and at the tender age of 20 was writing short stories for the Sunday papers. Then followed journalism experience, and a period of novel and playwriting. Three of his dramas appeared on Broadway, the late Jeanne Eagles starring in one, *A Young Man's Fancy*.

Soskin refers to the book as "a new, hard, deflated American mood done with superb realism." Van Doren says that it is "not a novel but a history of actual persons," while Krutch praises its "lively and revealing dialogue—in-disputably living talk."

No full appreciation of the story can be felt until one first accepts the strata of society which is depicted—the underworld. Realism is what the author strives for; realism is what the critics eulogize, and realism is what one must be prepared to meet, if he reads the book.

The principal character, Pete, is the son of a ne'er-do-well, the nephew of a fat, hard-working cook in a greasy restaurant who had formerly been a beauty in burlesque shows. Pete is a slick underworld figure, striving to keep out from under the long arm of the law. He has committed no major crimes, but had come near being an accessory in a bank speculation, so near that he was accused of the theft. The plot revolves about his efforts to keep in hiding until his name is cleared, and the efforts of a large circle of friends and acquaintances to protect or aid him.

The subject matter sounds uninviting enough, but actually Mr. McIntyre injects such powerful life, and accurate details and dialogue into his tale that the sheer force of its impetus carries the reader on and on. If you can stand underworld literature at all, you will like this.—J. F.

A Famous Crime

John Dickson Carr's new book, *The Murder of Sir Edmund Godfrey*, deals with a seventeenth century murder case which has never been cleared up. Mr. Carr, who has for several years been living in England, has gone to original sources for his facts. He reconstructs for the reader this famous crime, and offers an ingenious and a plausible solution. The book was published by Harper and Brothers on November 17.

Poems of Seasons

Robert Frost's *From Snow to Snow* has just been published (Nov. 19) by Henry Holt. It contains an appropriate poem for each month of the year and, as the selection was personally made by Mr. Frost, the volume will be of immediate interest to his admirers and collectors. . . . Holt has just granted the Braille institute permission to issue Frost's *Selected Poems* in a special edition for the blind.