

Esther Gould's Book Corner

"THE GREEN BAY TREE"
By Louis Bromfield. Frederick A. Stokes Co.

Here in "The Green Bay Tree" is a most remarkable thing, a first novel which is a fifth. It shows no usual amount of self restraint and literary pride for an author not to attempt to launch his first four progeny upon the world, but to wait until, after the first joy of creation is over, he can still say, "That is good."

But that restraint is responsible for the instantaneous success of Louis Bromfield's "first novel." And even now the other four will not be tenderly released from drydock and sent out to ride happily on the waves of this stirring success. On the contrary, one of them was carted ignominiously away the other day by the Salvation Army. For old maner.

All this is an interesting phenomenon. And it typifies the very sane and straightforward point of view which has made this book memorable. Truly memorable since when you close its covers you have a perfectly clear picture of a whole phase in the life of a family and of a part of our country.

Cypress Hill was built and christened by one John Shane when there was only country roundabout and he and his wife-to-be, a farmer's daughter, rode their horses recklessly in the paddock. And Cypress Hill because of John Shane's brilliant and romantic career became known to the people as "Shane's Castle." And like an old feudal castle it stands through the coming years, symbol of its owners' silent resisting struggle against the invasion of the steel mills.

But the mills come anyway, and at the opening of the book they are completely surrounded Cypress Hill with a strange hold.

Each member of the Shane family enters the unequal fight—Julia Shane, the wife, dying triumphant, for an enemy whom you ignore cannot defeat you. Irene, one daughter, vainly combating it with her imaginings, and finally broken by them. Lily, the other daughter, lazy, beautiful, never quite caring enough to either conquer or be conquered.

And the struggle against the mills only typifies a deeper struggle—the struggle against life, the two daughters handicapped by a strange heredity from their father, the mother handicapped by his memory.

"The Green Bay Tree" is a book intensely real and exceedingly well written.

"ILIANA, STORIES OF A WANDERING RACE"

By Konrad Bercovici. Boni & Liveright

Konrad Bercovici can well write "Stories of a Wandering Race." He is himself a wanderer, not only by reason of the gypsy blood in his veins but by inclination and interest. He is at this moment wandering over the United States of America studying and writing about the foreign quarters of other cities than New York, which he has in his earlier books pictured so vividly.

Mr. Bercovici does not overdo things. He knows from his experience with these strange naive people whom we call foreigners and he calls brothers, that nothing is so overdue as life. One Sunday evening about eight months ago Mr. Bercovici was taxiing home with a lady of his acquaintance from a meeting in an east side negro church. The lady of his acquaintance was Miss Rebecca West. Arrived at her hotel Miss West alighted.

As Mr. Bercovici settled himself in the taxi once more the driver turned and said pleasantly, "Now that the lady has gotten out I am going to kill myself." Suiting the action to the word he stepped on the gas and aimed for one of the gaunt iron legs of the elevated tracks. His aim was good, he must have been practicing for he killed himself without injuring Mr. Bercovici, except nervously, at all.

If this appears in a story will you call it overdone? Probably.

Yet it won't be, nor is it that Muzio's "knees sagged underneath her, her eyes opened for a moment, and they saw her own blood dripping from the dagger in the hands of Perez." Perez had loved her.

In Havana, Rumania, Marseilles, we find these wanderers. And they are not always killing the thing they love. There is Carlos refusing a fortune which will bring him the woman he loves because the bird he has for sale will die in New York. "It is too cold for him there." Then suddenly he threw his head back, and, handing the money over to the buyers he said "I cannot sell him to you, because he will die there. Take your money back."

Mr. Bercovici writes with that finely measured English which is, alas, most common to foreigners. Yes, Mr. Edward J. O'Brien is to be congratulated on giving each of these stories a "three star" ranking in his annual list.

There is a ruthless tearing aside of the veils from human life in this "The Uncertain Feast," by Solita Solano. A newspaper man, successful, envied by his old companions, finds his marriage and indeed his life, an "uncertain feast." It is essentially an American story, Daniel Geer is an American man.

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By Susan Ecks
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Is it better for a woman to love or to be loved? Such is the theme of this witty and wise novel, smartest of the season. Of the story of Nina Wadsworth and her marriage the New York Evening Post says: "If 'Madame Claire' is good—and it emphatically is—'Nina' is certainly no less good. We recommend it heartily."

At All Bookstores
D. APPLETON & COMPANY
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What They are Saying About the Widow's House
By KATHLEEN COYLE

The N. Y. Times: "In her mastery of focus—as well as in her power of conveying poignancy, Kathleen Coyle stands high. She is mistress of the drama of souls."

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BOY BUILDERS ORDER SHOWS FAST GROWTH

NATIONAL PROPORTIONS

Started in Chicago Less Than Four Years Ago; Increase Has Been Rapid and Beneficial

From a little group of 33 boys, sons and brothers of Masons, organized in Chicago about three and a half years ago, the Order of the Builders for Boys has grown to national proportions, with 45,000 members in various sections of the United States.

Formed to give to boys and young men between the ages of 14 and 21 something of the inspiration and activity Masonry gives to men, it filled a need so general that it has grown without publicity or advertising, other than its own accomplishments. Arthur M. Millard, grand master builder, stated in a recent interview in the Christian Science Monitor.

"I think this is the first interview I have ever given on the Builders," he remarked. "We have not sought to advertise the order. We have preferred to let it grow naturally from its own power. Masons hear about it and visit the meetings. They want their own sons or brothers to have it and they take it back to their lodge membership. In this way it has spread in Chicago until there are now 25,000 Builders in this city. There are 95 chapters in Chicago alone. Many of them have athletic associations. This winter we have 50 basketball teams competing for a city tournament."

Builds Citizenship
Mr. Millard, who has been associated with the movement from the start, explained that it grew naturally out of the work of his office, the Masonic Bureau of Service and Employment, maintained by the Masonic lodges of the Chicago district. "For some years," he explained, "this bureau offered help to boys who were brought before the juvenile and boys' courts. Success of this work led those interested to go a step further and to build for these boys already surrounded by constructive influences a perpetuating brotherhood of high moral and patriotic purpose as a preventative of those conditions which too often lead to the degeneration of our otherwise most dependable young manhood."

The first chapter of the new order was organized here by the aid of the Van Rensselaer Lodge of Perfection. This chapter and others in the order are primarily made up of at least 20 boys, sons and brothers of Masons and their intimate friends who are properly recommended. The chapter is governed by a representative council and is under the guidance of a volunteer advisory council of Master Masons pledged to give time and friendship to the boy members. Bible is Guidebook.

Mr. Millard said he had received letters from business men, high school principals and mothers telling of the good that Boy Builders has done. This he traced to the written teaching of the ritual and the spoken teaching of men advisors. He continued:

"When a boy is taken into the order, he receives a Bible. He is told to regard it as a guidebook for his travels to read it at home every day. Each meeting is begun with the opening of the Bible.

"An essential teaching of the order is giving. Boys are urged to give of themselves in companionship not only to fellow members but to those outside the order with whom they come in contact. They are told to 'let their light shine.'

"The order is not to be regarded as a passport into Masonry, but as an initiation apart. Master Masons are always welcome to meetings and they go because they enjoy the contact with the boys and learn from it. Its purpose is not to make Masons but to build a new and more righteous manhood."

Chapters have been organized in New York, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Louisiana, Mississippi and New Jersey.

ALL BOYS

Most remarkable is the family record of Mrs. Joseph Booth, aged 92, of Cardiff, Wales, who has 9 children, 30 grandchildren, 47 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren—all boys.

GIRL SWIMMING EXPERT

At the age of 17 Miss Gertrude Caroline Ederle, a New York school girl, has broken every known record for women swimmers from 100 yards to 800 yards and is the holder of more world's records than any other woman in sport. Since her first contest at 11 years of age she has won 250 swimming races.

TO TAG VOTERS

Plans are being made by the Alabama League of Women Voters to tag each person after they have voted on election day, to show that these have performed their duty and to remind others to do likewise. The tags are to be furnished free.

Education Week is over, but many of the kids are doing their best all the time to educate their parents in modern ideas.

GARNETT'S Clearance Sale of Dresses

Prices are Sharply Reduced
Every Dress Must Go

Ready-to-wear is never carried over at Garnett's. These dresses must be sold. Prices are being sharply reduced to insure quick selling. Former cost has been forgotten. Do not delay coming to this saving opportunity.

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