

Esther Gould's Book Corner

"THE WIDOW'S HOUSE"
By Kathleen Coyle
E. P. Dutton & Co.

"The Widow's House" is a powerful book. We could say "By this book Kathleen Coyle steps into the front ranks of English novelists," but we would rather say "By this book Kathleen Coyle shows herself to be a woman who has thought, who has felt, who has become."

She has built a book which is a thing of absolute unity, a structure which might be indeed a house. Annie Capgrave is a woman in whose life there have been two realities, one her father, who is now dead, the other her husband who did not come back from one of his fishing voyages. She never thinks of him as dead until one day in answer to a reluctant sign in her window, "Apartments to let," a young man walks into her house. And then she knows that Harry will never come back.

A terrible weight of desolation settles down upon her. She lies awake that first night until "the dawn came with quiet cruelty making visible the familiar things that were as clues to the men who had gone out of her life." And then as solace to her grief she plunges into the care of this dark serious young man. But always there is a secret struggle between his living presence and that of Harry who has lived so completely once that he can never die.

She does not realize how great is the struggle until he tells her one December day that he will be going away for the holidays. "She experienced a marvellous sense of relief, like having something you valued and had lent, given back to you." But she finds, that the silence brings her only pain, pain which is almost more than she can bear.

Yet in the end she finds that there is no hope in illusions, that one must face the terror and loneliness, that only upon reality can life be founded.

In the style there is remarkable freshness, subtlety, and beauty. "The moon shone clear now, a gong-like disc upon a carpet of space. The soft white balls of the clouds rolled up against it, and passed, drawing nothing from the moon but the silvery rays that turned them into spun metal and sent them spinning upon their windy journey. The village of Rising Slepe lay silvered in the hollow, pointed roofs and chimneys tall as stairs rose into the cold, cold air."

"STRAWS AND PRAYER-BOOKS"
By James Branch Cabell
Robert M. McBride & Co.

What are we to make of Mr. Cabell's epilogue to the great Biography of which we cannot bear to think as being ended? He has for so long been laughing at us, has he at last decided to talk to us seriously as man to man, or is he laughing harder than ever? Like Mr. Shaw in the epilogue, of "St. Joan," is he saying "Now children, you are so stupid that of course you have missed the point to all this so I shall proceed to tell it to you"? Or is he merely blowing more bright hued bubbles for us to watch, and perchance to burst? Alas, only Mr. Cabell can answer this!

So, be that as it may, Mr. Cabell has written a most depressing and delightful book. He announces on page 3, that romance is all that makes life bearable. It is thanks to the maze of romance, written and unwritten, that surrounds us that "No-body really needs to notice how most of us, in unimportant fact, approach death through gray and monotonous corridors." There is no hope in reality since man's knowledge and theories of life "are comparable, let us say, to the knowledge which a fly, in a dining car possess as to the management of railways."

But the creative romanticist alone can really escape the workaday world which is so abhorrent. And so mindfully of his own pleasure, Mr. Cabell has created for himself a world in which he can be happy. And in that world he has made no concessions to the useless world of facts. "Man is, they say, the only animal that has reason, and so he must have also, if he is to stay sane, diversion to prevent his using it." And so he plays as do infants with straws and old men with prayer-books, but the literary artist plays with "common sense and piety—and death."

Of course you have not believed a word of all this, but do remember one thing and that is, Mr. Cabell has learned the secret of beautiful writing and of diversion.

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BOOK REVIEW (Continued from Column 1)

anyone writing today who knows better how to do it. Not an uproarious roar but a low delighted chuckle at the adventures and misfortunes of Professor Coppelstone of Fairwater.

The professor is one of those men for whom the adjective "hen-pecked" was invented. One day a friend remarks, "You are only a toy balloon tugging at your string. How gaily you'd start if the string broke, but how little way you'd get toward a distant country! You wouldn't last long without the string, old chap—your fun's all in the tugging." But that very day, partly due to the professor's absentmindedness, partly to his design the string breaks.

The professor enters a neighbor's house, left empty for a few weeks and camps there abashed at his own daring, yet enjoying his delightful freedom. After a few days he accidentally sets the house on fire and is forced to make a hasty exit, disguising himself through the town as an advertising "sandwich man."

And the fun is only started. Piloted by "Sooner Jackson" whose middle name he informs the Professor is "Calamity" our hero reincarnated as "Addison Simms" begins adventures in which he learns among many other things to "live his own life." One thing he cannot learn, however, is to use the slang which is to be a part of his disguise. He thinks that "Sap" is a word for "gentleman," and we hear him saying to the departing Jackson "I'll be a perfect sap while you are gone." We know that he speaks truly.

ADDITIONAL DEERFIELD

Continued from page 4

Mr. Herman Fabry and small daughter of Evanston visited at the Irvin Stryker home on Sunday.

The Wilson family on the Vernon Ridge Golf club farm is quarantined. Edna, a daughter, (one of their five children) has scarlet fever.

A cantata "Star of Bethlehem" will be given by the choir of the Presbyterian church Friday evening, Dec. 19, in the church.

A pageant "The Shepherd's Vision" will be given by the Presbyterian church school, Sunday evening, Dec. 21, from 7 until 8 o'clock. The gifts brought by the children will be sent to the Indian school in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The Evangelical Church
Next Sunday evening the choir of the Bungalow church will give their Christmas program. The public is invited to attend. The time is 7:30 p. m.

On next Tuesday evening at 8 p. m. the Sunday school children will give their regular annual Christmas program. It is expected that Santa will appear sometime during the evening.

Mr. Cook who has been so efficiently directing the orchestra and choir of the Evangelical Bungalow church for the past year, has moved out of town and Rev. Stake Miller is to have charge of the choir while Mr. Schneider from Highland Park has been secured as director of the orchestra. We understand that there are some big things in store for those who play and sing.

This church had the pleasure of receiving into membership a few weeks ago the goodly number of twenty-six people. The work of this institution is pressing onward and upward. This group with the goodly number which have been taken in from time to time throughout the year shows that it is the best record this church has had for thirty-one years. Let the good work continue.

On last Tuesday evening Rev. Stake Miller was the special speaker at the father and son's banquet at the First Evangelical church, Elgin, Ill. Over 300 fathers and their sons were present and a splendid time is reported. This might be a good suggestion for the churches of Deerfield.

There will be a New Years eve gathering at the church Dec. 31. A splendid program is in the process of construction and that with the eats leads us to believe that a good time is in store for all who attend. You should save that evening for this service and report to the pastor or to some member in order that arrangements will be made for you. Everybody is invited but the committee on arrangements wants to know before hand just who and how many are coming. Send in your reservations now.

December 11, 1924

Statement of Mr. Brent Dow Allison, in reply to Captain Schantz:

The statements of a Captain Schantz of the American Legion made at a recent meeting of the Parent-Teachers association of Deerfield, as reported in the Highland Park Press of November 27th last, concerning myself and what is called the Youth Movement were either misleading or entirely false. They reveal an ignorance on his part, or on the part of the intelligence service of the officers reserve corps which he cited as authority, which is inexcusable, and I feel that it is necessary that the audience which he addressed should be correctly informed of the facts and not left in possession of misinformation.

I am not now, and never have been a communist. I have not and never had any contact with the communist movement in this country or abroad, or with the Worker's party, its political expression. If there is an office somewhere in North Clark street, as the captain asserted, which is a center of bolshevist propaganda

financed and directed by Russian authorities, (which I very much doubt) I know nothing of it and hold no commerce with it. Moreover, the youth movement, as I and others have described it before numerous audiences, which is an inspiring thing to those who understand it, has no connection whatever with Russian communism or with the belief and practice of violence or terrorism. Its spirit on the contrary is one of revolt against systematic violence and terror and tyranny as exhibited in social arrangements and political events of the last twenty-five years in Europe, and particularly in the prolonged barbarism of the World war that brought so much disaster and demoralization and defeat even to the victors and ruined and disintegrated the vanquished, plunging western civilization into an angry chaos from which it is only now slowly emerging.

I believe that wholesale butchery and murder, which is war, is no more Christian or justifiable when committed between nations than are many forms of private murder which the civilized world has long since outlawed. I believe that war can and should be excommunicated, outlawed and abolished, and that the chief task

of enlightened education and patriotism should be to promote this civilizing purpose by teaching that there must be no compromise with war from now on,—if only by way of fulfilling a solemn pledge given to the war-dead that theirs would be the last war which youth would be asked and compelled to fight. To instill in youth, and in the hearts of young men and women, a horror of war and a determination to end it by finding other and more just and intelligent ways of adjusting international differences, to teach them the real causes of war and the continuing menace of militarism and military propaganda, including that emanating from their own government, to breathe into them the courage which will demand that the time has come when men must "beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning-hooks," when "nation shall not fight nation, neither shall they learn war any more" even under the false plea of "defensive war," which is what every war has been believed to be by those who were induced to fight it,—to do these things and to do them now for the preservation of civilization, is the chief aim of the youth movement which quite

naturally, the American Legion both misunderstands and ignorantly condemns.

Brent Dow Allison,
Ravine, Ill.

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