

Esther Gould's Book Corner

Are you interested in books of Fiction, Biography, Travel, or History? For lists write to **ESTHER GOULD**, c/o The Lake Forester

Conrad's Last Novel

"SUSPENSE"
By Joseph Conrad
Doubleday Page & Co.

Richard Curle, in his preface to this last of Conrad's novels voices the sigh of the world, "In giving to his last, unfinished novel, the name of 'Suspense,' Conrad chose a title even more symbolic than the haunting, breathless air of the narrative suggests. For the threads were snapped when the climax had still to be unfolded, when the characters had yet to come together in the harmony of completed action, and when the whole story hung, as it were, between the darkness and the dawn. The suspense will last forever."

It had been in the mind of Conrad for a long time to write a novel of the days of Napoleon, a character who through a great deal of the novelist's life played upon his imagination. Up to the day on which he was stricken with his fatal illness he felt that it was a dramatic race with death to complete this which he hoped, as I suppose he had hoped with each of his novels, was to be his greatest work.

"Suspense" is a story. It is a story of events and of the land, but primarily of the soul and of the sea. Therefore it belongs in the class with "The Rover," although even as a fragment it is greater than that book, and "Nostromo" on the large scale of which it was evidently planned. It is a story told with that genius of depiction which lifts the creator out of the class of men.

Napoleon—the chief figure of the story does not enter its pages except in the sense in which he is everywhere—"Whenever two men are together he is a third." And in this sense we are made conscious of him as only Conrad could make us conscious. The other characters have captured our hearts too completely for us to feel that we can let them go. And yet we have steeled ourselves against it as one does against the caring too much for friends whose paths cross ours for a definitely brief period.

We are left at the end with the book in our hands, and the last words in our ears. Cosmo has just asked, as he looks down at the dead boatman: "Where is his star now?" "It should be out," said Attilio, with studied intonation. "But, who will miss it out of the sky?" And, our minds leap far away, we find ourselves answering, "Who will not?"

The Romance of Steel

"The Life of Judge Gary"
By Ida M. Tarbell
D. Appleton & Co.

Ida M. Tarbell has used a method in her "Life of Judge Gary" as appropriate to the subject matter as Panofsky's in his "Life of Shelley." This last one had at its heart the flame of poetry, the former has a structure of steel.

Looked at over a period of years there is no greater drama in our history than the rise of the product, steel. And the American Steel Corporation epitomizes in its growth the stupendous majesty of "big business." As if one were for the first time being confronted with a building higher than two stories and that building were the Woolworth tower one gasps and thrills at the unbelievable proportions of that vast business Empire.

Particularly interesting to Chicagoans is the fact that the guiding brain of this great machine was Elbert H. Gary of Chicago, a mere interloper from the West he seemed to those self-satisfied New Yorkers when he was brought down and given the place of such responsibility. But it was this same Chicagoan who, soon establishing himself among them, was to form in his brain the highest, the broadest, the most farseeing, indeed as he with a prophetic vision saw, the only principles, on which business of such vast dimensions could be soundly run.

It was Gary who believed that corporations must back and not balk the Government, that business must aim at stability of the market, not at quick annihilation of competitors, that "safety first" and assurance against illness and age are essential parts of proper working conditions—for all of these and how many more ideas he fought unselfishly, devotedly, and often, alone. It was Gary who helped to arrest the panic of 1907 and laid down the lines of reconstruction in such channels that afterward the burden of his followers' talk was "Who would have thought that we could have been so decent?"

It was that for which Judge Gary strove unendingly in "business—decency" toward all concerned.

Another Pair of Twins

"THE AMERICAN TWINS OF 1812"
By Lucy Fitch Perkins
Houghton Mifflin Co.

The enterprising and always welcome twins are back with us again for another holiday time. This time they are historical twins. Living in the stirring days of the War of 1812, Jonathan and Phoebe, left as orphans, have been separated for their upbringing. Phoebe happily situated, Jonathan unhappily. So Jonathan runs away to war. Meeting a delightful Irish sailor who adopts him almost as a son, Jonathan starts happily off for his adventures on the sea.

It is a good story, well told, with plenty of action to suit boys and girls of the adventure loving years, twelve to fifteen. The historical background is correct and by such a book a vivid and unforgettable picture can be flashed across a child's mind.

Christmas Gift Books

(From \$2. to \$7.50)

WANDERINGS. By Clayton Hamilton, with many beautiful drawings by Ernest C. Peisotto. \$5.00

PUCK IN PASTURE. Delightful drawings and verses by Elizabeth McKinstry. \$2.00

ANTIQUES. By Sarah M. Lockwood, with many illustrations by Ernest Stock. \$3.50

FULL AND BY. Verses by Persons of Quality, illustrated in colour by Edward A. Wilson. \$7.50

IRON MEN & WOODEN SHIPS. Sea Chanties, illustrated in colour by Edward A. Wilson. \$7.50

At Bookstores Everywhere. Doubleday, Page & Co.

JOHN MACY'S THE STORY OF THE World's Literature

A fascinating book—a welcome Christmas gift more than 200 illustrations by Onorio Ruotolo
Boni & Liveright New York

SINCLAIR LEWIS \$2.00
ARROWSMITH
"One of the best novels ever written in America."
—H. L. Mencken.
Harcourt, Brace & Co., New York

WHEN WE WERE VERY YOUNG
Delicious verses of Childhood by A. A. MILNE
With fascinating drawings by E. H. SHEPARD
Price \$2.00, Gift edition \$3.00
E. P. DUTTON & CO., New York

Good Books For Gifts

In a city called Maiden's Delight lived a king named Immortal-Power. He had three sons who were supreme blackheads, so he summoned a wise Brahman and said, "Holy sir, as a favor to me, you must make these princes incomparable masters of the art of intelligent living."

The PANCHATANTRA

which means "five books" in Sanskrit, has now for the first time been completely translated into English, by Arthur W. Ryder, in a desire to tell these stories as they were first told in India. Here is a collection that rivals the "Arabian Nights" of Haroun al Raschid.

GOLD'S GLOOM

Is a smaller volume than "The Panchatantra" in which a number of representative tales have been gathered together in a particularly attractive binding. It is a handsome collection of some of the most captivating stories in the world.

AT ALL BOOKSTORES or with ten cents extra per volume for postage from The University of Chicago Press.

TELLS HOW TO PLAY SOME HOME GAMES

AID IN SPENDING EVENING

Mystery Watch and Game of Ghost Among Those Described by Expert in This Line in Y. M. C. A.

The following regarding "games in the home" is compiled by Glenn D. Adams of the Y. M. C. A. of Chicago:

Mystic Watch Tapping
An interesting trick is to pick out the hour on a watch dial that was touched by some one else when you were not looking. You agree to tell them what hour he touched. Suppose your friend touched the figure II on the dial. You tell him to begin counting every time that you tap the watch with your pencil beginning with the figure that he touched. For instance, in this case, the first figure that you tapped he would count in his mind to himself, "12," and the next tap "13," and so on. On the 20th tap you agree to hit his figure on the watch dial and you can always do it.

This is how it is accomplished. You count in your own mind as you tap. The first seven taps you can move around and hit any of the figures on the dial of the watch but on the 8th tap, you must hit 12 o'clock, and follow backward around the dial hitting the figure II on your 9th tap and 10 on your 10th tap, etc. You can tell your opponent to tell you if you are not right in hitting his figure when he has counted to 20. You do not know when you hit his figure, but you do know that you will hit it on his count of 20 because if he picked the figure 12, then 8 taps that you have given plus the figure 12 that he started with equals 20. If he picked the figure 5, then you will have tapped fifteen times when you hit 5, which added to the 5 he started with makes it 20.

Game of Ghost
A simple game that can be played around the family table is sometimes called "Ghost." One member of the family gives the first letter of some word. The next one, either to the right or left, adds the next letter to the word and so on around the family circle. The point each one has to watch is, as you go around the circle, that you don't end a word. Suppose that some one starts a word beginning with the letter "b" and perhaps has in mind the word "beautiful." The next one in order may add the letter "e," but that makes the word "be." In other words the one who said "e" ended a word and thereby becomes one-third of a ghost and the next one beyond starts a new word again.

Of course the thing to do is to change the word in your mind and the second one might add the letter "i" which does not end a word. The next one may add "a" and then "c" and the next one gets "stuck" because he had to add the letter "d." If any one adds a letter that does not seem to fit into some word, you can challenge him and he has to tell what the word is. That prevents adding letters that don't make words or shows them up if they don't know how to spell correctly.

Two Thirds of a Ghost
You will also have to agree on only a very short time that each one is allowed to think of a letter and if he can't think of a letter and if he can't think of another letter he should be penalized just the same as if he ended a word. Each person tries to use letters that will end the word with some one else rather than himself, when it comes around again. After a person becomes a third of a ghost, the next person starts a new word, and you keep it up until some one else or the same person becomes a third of a ghost before. Every ghost tries to come two-thirds of a ghost, the next time that he fails he becomes three-thirds of a ghost or a whole ghost. Then even more fun begins.

Hereafter the rest of you have nothing to do with this ghost. You skip him when you go around the circle next time. However, if this ghost can get any of you to say something to him, the one who speaks to a ghost immediately becomes a ghost, too, no matter if he was not even one-third of a ghost before. Every ghost tries to get an answer from some question

"Better than Scaramouche"
Chicago Post.
The STROLLING SAINT
Rafael Sabatini
Houghton Mifflin Co. \$2.00

Just Published
the first novel in three years by the author of IF WINTER COMES
ONE INCREASING PURPOSE
by A.S.M. HUTCHINSON
LITTLE, BROWN & COMPANY
Publishers, Boston

THEATRE RECEIPTS SHOW PROSPERITY

Good Times in Business Reflected in Box Office, Says Belasco

The general prosperity of the American people is indicated by the box receipts of the leading theaters all over the country according to David Belasco, the celebrated theatrical producer who was in Washington recently for the opening performances of one of his new plays.

Mr. Belasco's statement in part follows:

President Coolidge, at a recent banquet in New York called attention to the country-wide prosperity apparent at this time, and declared it a healthy and natural outgrowth of the new order of things which has resulted from the after-war readjustments.

"There is no better barometer of business and individual financial conditions than the theater box offices, and these, I am glad to say, bear out President Coolidge's statements to the letter. New York always is what is termed a 'good show town' because of the enormous number of out-of-town visitors throughout the year. So we must turn to the other cities of the country—the industrial, financial and agricultural centers—for our proofs.

"These, during the present theatrical season, are displaying evidences of prosperity which have been lacking sadly for several years past. Road companies, even those of doubtful merit, are reporting, splendid business everywhere.

"I believe the season of 1925-1926 marks the return of a general prosperity, throughout the country and that, with a wise continuance of public policies, there is no reason why the splendid condition should not continue for several years to come."

HERE'S LATE STORY ON THRIFTY CALVIN

The latest Coolidge story, characteristic of the President's economy in government as well as words, was told on the President's train traveling to Chicago.

As told by one of his friends, this is the story:

President Coolidge attended church some time ago unaccompanied by Mrs. Coolidge. On his return to the White House Mrs. Coolidge asked him whether the sermon was good, to which he replied, "Yes."

"What was it about?"
"Sin."
"What did the preacher say about it?"
"He was against it."—New York Times.

or jibe from those who are not ghosts and the game does not end until there are only three and then only two left who are not full ghosts. These two then pass letters back and forth until one ends a word and becomes a ghost. The game consists in seeing who will be the last one left after all the rest have become ghosts.

Geography
Maybe some of you younger folks are getting "sacred" because you don't like geography. Just try this game out and you will find it to be a lot of fun.

Everyone should have a pencil and paper for this game. You pick out any letter of the alphabet and agree on a time limit for the game. Suppose you pick out the letter "C." Then every one writes down all of the geographical names of countries, states, counties, cities, or villages, mountains, rivers, oceans or lakes that begin with the letter "C."

Each one keeps his list to himself so that no one else will see his names. Having the letter "c," you may think of "Canada, Connecticut, Cook County, Chicago, Carpathian mountains, Calumet river, Caspian sea, Comp lake," and so on and write them down. You cannot use the same name twice even though one is a city and one a river. When the timekeeper announces that time is up, which may be five minutes or ten minutes, or whatever you choose, you will stop promptly. Then one of you reads the names that you have.

Read Your List
The rest of you look at your lists, as he reads, and if any of you have the same names, you and he and everyone else who has that name must cross it off your lists. The game is to see how many names of actual geographical places that you can get of which no one else will think of. After one finishes reading his list, the next one reads those names from his list which have been crossed out and you go through the same process of each one crossing out any names that two or more have in common.

Finally the last one reads the names that he has left that no one else had. Then you each count up and see who has the most names that no one else had. This person is the champion for this particular game and gets the gold plated wash boiler. It is fun to afterwards think of the names of places where you have been scores of times but forgot to put on your list even though they begin with the letter chosen. Then you can play the game over again with another letter to start each name.

One variation of this is for you to play the game orally and go around the circle giving the names of places that begin with the chosen letter. Continue giving names that no one else has mentioned until you have spelled down and only two and then only one is left.

EDWARD STRENGER

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A Mistaken Conception

Some people are prone to think of landscape gardening as an art applicable only to large estates, where tremendous vistas are to be developed.



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