

**This Week**



By Arthur Brisbane

**SAVAGE EVOLUTION. ELECTRICITY'S BABYHOOD. POOR OLD BEELZEBUB. A BOOMING NATION.**

Some African savages believe that gorillas and chimpanzees can talk, but hide their knowledge, lest they be put to work.

Other savages have an evolution theory of their own. The Batagni, Congo natives, tell the Rev. H. C. Graham that monkeys are descended from men that have been disgraced.

"We are better and prouder than the apes," say these practical black men, "therefore we eat them."

Samuel Insull tells the world that electricity is only beginning its work. We are a little way, but not far, from the savage that fell down and worshipped an unknown malignant devil when the lightning flashed.

Railroads will soon change from steam to electric power, and that will call for twenty-four billion more hours of kilowatt energy, says Mr. Insull. Farms will be "wired" for electric light and power.

Most encouraging is the prediction of Elmer Schlesinger, Louis Levy's intellectual and dashing young law partner. Elmer Schlesinger says electricity, in this century, will do for the world's troubles and debts what steam did for the world in the last century, after Waterloo, Europe and the nations were called "hopelessly" bankrupt. In proportion, their debts were greater than they are today. Steam came and debts were paid with the greatest ease. Instead of bankruptcy, Europe knew prosperity such as no one dreamed of. It was so great that nations could not resist fighting over it. What steam did for the last century electricity will do for this. And that is no dream.

"Polygamy is legalized and getting a divorce is as easy as bootlegging," says Mr. Hackenberg, of New York's legislature, and he wants easy divorces from Paris or Remo made illegal.

Divorce and bootlegging, now so easy, simply prove that when you try to regulate human nature, you invite trouble. "The cat will mew and the dog will have his day."

Milwaukee supplies an account of miraculous exorcism, believed by many, deeply religious, to have been the actual driving out of a devil from the body of an unfortunate insane woman.

The account of the miracle runs as follows: A woman whose mind had become unbalanced was carried to the Chapel of St. Joseph's hospital, where the "exorcism ritual" was performed, in Latin, not understood by the patient.

The question, "Who are you?" was answered, apparently from the throat of the woman in a deep masculine voice, "BEELZEBUB." Asked why he had taken possession of the woman, Beelzebub replied, "BECAUSE OF MALEDICTION."

The fiend promised to leave the woman at 2 o'clock that afternoon, but did not actually leave until half-past 5, which is about what you would expect of a demon. The woman then relaxed and is getting better.

This miracle, not as yet vouched for by church authorities, was an everyday occurrence in the middle ages, when demons were more active, numerous and efficient than at present.

It is romantic, refreshing and interesting to have one of them resume business at the old stand in these days of radios, automobiles, and newspapers. It is said, however, that the voice of Milwaukee's Beelzebub indicated irritation and a feeling that times are not what they were in the good old days.

Our population increases more than two per cent, or about 2,000,000 a year. Business and prosperity increase twice as rapidly as population. We should be grateful.

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**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

**JUST PARAGRAPHS**

Even the blind are not safe from "best sellers." "Soundings" by A. Hamilton Gibbs which has been announced as the best seller for the year 1925 has been done into Braille for the blind.

A particularly important book for Chicago was published on February 4, Carl Sandburg's "Abraham Lincoln the Prairie Years." In it Mr. Sandburg has given us "the folklore Lincoln, the maker of stories, the stalking and elusive Lincoln."

The most notable spring publishing event will be the long awaited "Colonel House's Memoirs," which Houghton Mifflin has on its list and promised for March 5. In a position to know more of the momentous events of the War than almost any man of his time because of his peculiar position of liaison officer, Colonel House kept a detailed diary of his activities of each day. It is from these that the story has been written.

**A LIVELY STORY**

**"WHITE FIRE"**

By Louis Joseph Vance  
E. P. Dutton & Co.

Speaking colloquially Louis Joseph Vance has given us a rattling good story in his new novel "White Fire." Not that it rattles the way a Ford rattles, rather, technically, it glides on the very excellently ballooned tires of Mr. Vance's constantly developing skill. It rattles only in the sense that a fusillade of shots rattle, for the action is fact—seduction, near suicide, attempted murder.

We are chiefly concerned with Tabor Wynne, an eminently respectable and eminent socially gentleman of Philadelphia, whose life for forty years has moved with such appalling dullness that he would not if you told him believe what Mr. Vance has in store for him.

But all in twenty four hours the lightning strikes. Tabor finds that his wife is carrying on an active intrigue with a ne'er do well of great attraction, Lance Fairless, and he is sufficiently disillusioned with life to decide to drown himself. He is detained from this disastrous purpose by Jennifer Challis, an obscure Broadway actress who has in the past also loved Fairless not wisely but too well. Jennifer nurses Tabor back to health, then disappears to try her fortunes once more on the stage.

Tabor having extricated himself completely from his old life and having forced his wife to divorce him, sets himself to the task of helping Jennifer to succeed in her career. He becomes a familiar in the stage world and we have some enlivening glimpses both of those who produce and are produced in that realm.

The book moves on to a dramatic ending, and the fact that we have foreseen it since the first chapter has not lessened in the least our interest which is held from the first page to the last.

**GEORGE MOORE'S INIMITABLE GRACE**

**"HAIL AND FAREWELL"**

By George Moore  
D. Appleton & Co.

George Moore has the distinction in the age of bootlegging, of writing so that the reading of his books becomes like the sipping of old Port

wine. There is a suavity, a grace in everything he writes, which, more than with almost any writer of our day, makes "the style the thing." Let him talk of poets, policemen or of kings and we, if we like this particular type of literary Port, will listen with equal enchantment.

Mr. Moore has revised "Hail and Farewell" which was first published in 1912, and written a new preface for it, and his publishers have enclosed it in two volumes so beautifully printed that from every page the eye receives as much pleasure as the mind and ear.

"Hail and Farewell" has for a plot the rise of the Irish National Theatre and the literature which it fostered. Of course the plot with Mr. Moore is less than the thread which holds the gems of his discourse together, but it does determine a general direction. So we are regaled with excellent character sketches and anecdotes of Yeats and Synge, Lady Gregory, A. E., and Edward Martin, and other of the figures which hold for us an almost legendary interest.

And of course we learn more of George Moore than we do of the Irish Theatre. We learn of his years in France, then, when art moved to England of his removal there and the years spent in London, and lastly of his attempt and failure to follow his mistress Art to his native land.

Mr. Moore is one of the rare writers whose seat in the Hall of Fame is occupied by himself instead of being preserved jealously for his corpse.

Just Published \$2.00  
**SLOW SMOKE**  
By Lew Sarrett  
Chicago's Poet of the Wilderness  
Henry Holt & Co. N. Y.

**White Fire**  
By Lewis Joseph Vance  
An enthralling novel of Society and the Stage  
\$2.00. Ask any Bookseller  
E. P. DUTTON & CO. N. Y.

By the author of  
**GOD'S STEPCHILDREN**  
**MARY GLENN**  
By SARAH G. MILLIN  
"South Africa gave the world one great writer in Olive Schreiner. It has now given us another in Sarah Gertrude Millin."—London Evening Standard.  
Bonl & Liveright N. Y.

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

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