

Esther Gould's Book Corner

JUST PARAGRAPHS

Many who enjoyed "Wild Geese" will be glad to hear that its author, Martha Ostense, will publish a new novel, "The Dark Dawn," in October. Others, though they are more of the "old guard," who will contribute novels are Willa Cather, G. B. Stern and Joseph Hergesheimer.

Archibald Marshall who delights few rather than the many, has a novel, ready for October, it is entitled "The Allbrights" and is written in the vein of the earlier stories.

The new publishing firm, the John Day Company celebrated its bow to the public with the appearance of "The Music from Behind the Moon" by James Branch Cabell. The book treating of a country which one suspects is located somewhere in the vicinity of the famous Poitresme to which Mr. Cabell has just bidden adieu, was printed only in a limited edition of 3,000 copies.

A REAL BOOK OF TRAVEL

"ON THE STREAM OF TRAVEL"

By James Norman Hall
Houghton Mifflin Co.

James Norman Hall is one of those writers whose gift seems to lie in being a peculiarly sensitive barometer to things about him, in recording the most delicate pressure of the atmosphere which would not have been perceptible to us even had we been there. So his books of travel become not a poor and tasteless substitute for having done the thing ourselves but a series of delightful adventures which we could enjoy in no other way.

"On the Stream of Travel" is a collection of sketches, some of which have appeared before in magazines, whose scope takes us from Iceland to the South Seas. For Mr. Hall is one of those fortunate men who may be sitting in Iceland in the morning, and if his fancy dictates be on his way to a tropic isle by afternoon. We who have roots which must be dug up and hacked off before we can so much as move a hundred miles from our place of residence, sit listening with a wondering and worshipful envy in our eyes.

And no telling what he may be educating us to in the future, for it was through just such worshipful envy that he received his wanderer's education. In perhaps the most delightful of all these delightful essays he tells us of the "Stockyards School" where during the most impressionable years of his boyhood he studied under "itinerant professors, some of them the most delightful and instructive men it has been my fortune to meet in the teaching profession"—members of that romantic, commerce and commonsense-defying band called hobos.

In his style touched with the most delicate humor he gives us the very essence of that universal thirst for adventure of which a railroad with its shining narrowing rails, or a freight train creaking and lumbering steadily along is the veritable epitome.

POLITICS IN ENGLAND

"SAVIORS OF SOCIETY"

By Stephen McKenna
Little Brown & Co.

Stephen McKenna who has before been successful in writing trilogies has resumed this former habit in or works of more than one volume "Saviors of Society" which is the first part of "The Realists."

Mr. McKenna who has been going steadily downward in the quality to no in the quantity of his production of late years, has in "Saviors of Society" made an attempt to grasp at something more vigorous. There is a fairly good plot and it is worked out with a good deal of skill though a rather too great wordiness. The title, "The Realists," comes from the

fact that Mr. McKenna feels that since the War a new type of politician has come into being in England, one who instead of dealing in the old residences and insincerities of politics looks facts squarely in the face and deals in realism.

Ambrose Sheridan is a super-journalist, of the type who owns half the papers one can think of and keeps a tight grasp of them all by terse daily telephone calls to the editors. At the opening of the story he, after having made himself obnoxious to the government over the unsolved question of unemployment, has been given enough rope to hang himself with, by the simple process of giving him the very problem to solve. Everyone, including Auriol Otway, the girl with whom he is in love thinks him a little mad to stake all his power with the people on one such throw of the dice, but Sheridan can think of himself only as successful. Besides he has just made up his mind to ask his wife to divorce him so that he can marry Auriol, and this absence from the arena on the tour which he is planning will give a breathing space to himself and a chance for the first of the storm to blow over.

So here is the web, with the strong man in the middle of it, and so far as the first volume takes us it is impossible to discover whether or not he will strangle himself in his own meshes.

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U. S. CITIZENSHIP PRECIOUS HERITAGE

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Future of Civilization in Our Hands, Says Secy. Davis; Are We Fitted to Assume Grave Duty?

One of the most precious heritages which can be bequeathed to the future generations is the heritage of American patriotism, according to James J. Davis, Secretary of Labor who has written a stirring article for the current number of the National Republic on the subject Secretary Davis emphasizes the importance of the proper training of our children along patriotic lines and declares that the future of civilization rests with America. The secretary says: "I believe that every child should receive a high school education, that he should be taught a trade by which he can earn a living and that he should be instructed in the eternal truths of religion. My great work in life has been to see that our youth receive a proper training to fit them for the performance of the necessary tasks of existence, and to make of them loyal and patriotic Americans."

For the Children "We can never do too much for the children of our nation. The Talmud declares that the world is saved by the breath of the school children, and in this declaration is heard the voice of wisdom. In every generation there are great statesmen, thinkers, artists, inventors, warriors, persons of high and needed excellence. But none of them remain in the world long. The years of a man are only three score and ten. And sometimes when a great man dies, we wonder whether it will be possible to replace him."

Who will do our thinking for us, who will make the great scientific discoveries, who will invent new machines or improve the old ones, who will inspire mankind to new heights of endeavor, who can be trusted to conserve the gains that have been wrested from nature by the past? We shall be here only for a little while before we go to join the "silent majority," and who will take up the burden when we have laid it down? It is these children to whom we often pay such slight heed that will succeed us. They are the ones who will do the thinking and inventing and all the other necessary work of life in a not remote future. It is the children of today who will save the world if it is destined to be saved.

In Hands of People "There is reason for thinking that the future of civilization is now in the hands of the American people. The World war left the Old World stricken with an all but fatal wound. Its people are burdened under the weight of a mountain of debt. In some places pessimism tends to be the creed of the hour. Never before has the responsibility of America been so great. Are we big enough to meet the issues of our day? Have we the capacity of mind that our age demands? Are our hands sufficiently strong and steady to carry on the torch of civilization that has been passed on to us? These are solemn questions and they are questions to which history can furnish no answers."

Having loaned the French and Italians a lot of money and demanded only a small part of it back, we Americans must expect to be cordially hated.—Detroit Free Press.

Home-made beverages are older than written history, but the habit of blowing the side of the house is a later development.—Detroit News.

It is said that an old German mine, set afloat during the war is bobbing around off the coast near Cape May. We earnestly hope that no swimmer with a wooden leg bumps into it.

It is said that 3,000 American tourists are stranded in Paris flat broke. Probably these are the ones against whom there is so much public indignation.

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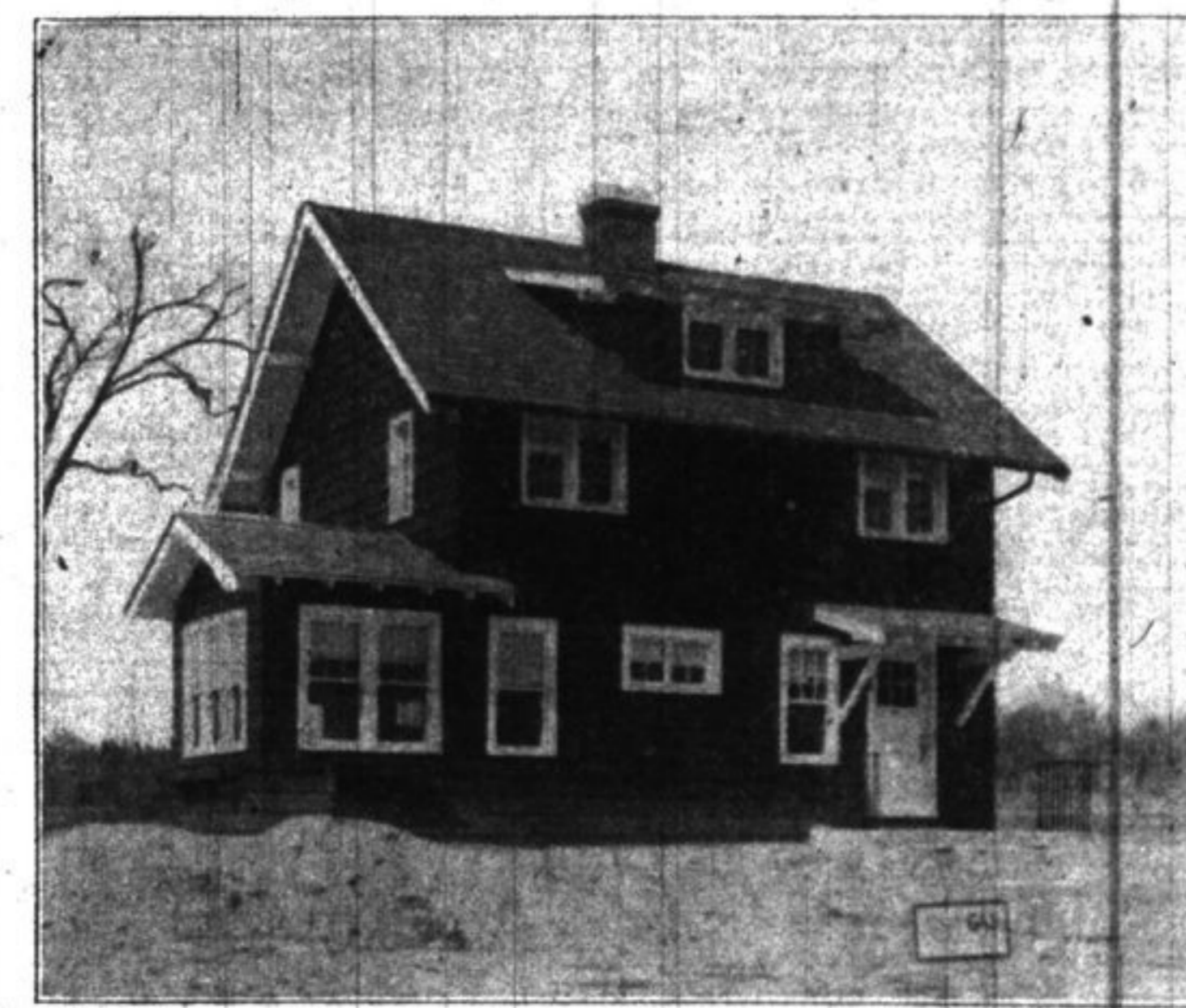
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