

Esther Gould's Book Corner

JUST PARAGRAPHS

The John Newberry Medal for the most distinguished children's books of the year has been awarded to Arthur Bowle Chrisman for a book of Chinese folk and fairy tales. The title of the book is "Sben of the Sea." Mr. Chrisman tells us that many of the stories and legends were told him by his landlady in a boarding house in San Francisco's Chinatown.

Among the publications of general interest last week were A. A. Milne's little book of prose and verse, "Winnie the Pooh," a book of short stories by Sheila Kaye-Smith, "Johanna Godden Married," short stories also by Theodore Dreiser under the title of "Chains," Hugh Walpole's "Harmer John," a novel set in the same scene as "The Cathedral," a new J. S. Fletcher mystery story, "A Massingham Butterfly," and "Wedlock," by Jacob Wasserman.

THE LONG ARM OF THE PURITANS

"EARLY AUTUMN"

By Louis Bromfield
Frederick A. Stokes Co.

Louis Bromfield has done a good piece of work in "Early Autumn." And this was no more than we expected after reading "The Green Bay Tree" and more particularly "Possession." Mr. Bromfield is an artist who gives to his work several unusual qualities such as poise and richness, and depth, and sophistication which is wisdom but never smartness. Mr. Bromfield, let us be thankful, is never smart. He thinks too seriously of his art and his world to be that.

"Early Autumn" turns from the world of the Shane family and "the Town" to the life of the Pentland family of Boston and Durham. The scope of this screen of American life is to be broad, broader than Mr. Galworthy's "Forsythe Saga," for the Forsythes at least have clung quite closely to upper middle class London.

But here we have the Pentlands, rooted deep in the soil of barren severe New England, proud, inordinately proud of their long line of ancestors, who had as Sabine Callendar says, the "Souls of small timid shopkeepers." Whenever there was among them one who rebelled, who reached out freely and gladly for life he or she was a black sheep, a family skeleton.

It is Olivia Pentland, a Pentland only by marriage with a man she does not love, who is the center of the story. It is through her struggle between life, real life, both for herself and her daughter, and the bloodless petrified thing the Pentlands have come to look upon as life that we realize that those far off Puritans in New England started something which, seriously, they could not finish. They set in motion a force which blights whole generations to come, and which finally it takes Olivia and Olivia's daughter with the aid of Lily Shane's son to escape or subdue.

The book as I have indicated, is well written, interesting. Mr. Bromfield has mastered the art of subtle suspense—it is always impossible to stop just at this point because there is something very important coming just ahead.

MR. WELLS AT HIS BEST

"THE WORLD OF WILLIAM CLISSOLD"

By H. G. Wells
George H. Doran Co.

It is nothing new to say that Wells has done a bold thing. It is somewhat newer to say that he has done it supremely well. In his two volume novel, "The World of William Clissold," he has returned to that brilliant penetrating constructive method of which at times he is undeniably a master.

This "World of William Clissold" is a novel in three distinct parts. The first volume gives, against more or less incidental background of Clissolds, the essentials of the history of mankind, an analysis of socialism with particular attention to Karl Marx and Bolshevism, a most penetrating history of the development of advertising, and insight into the power it does and could exercise in the world, an analysis of the War and England after the War and numberless other things.

Then in Volume Two, comes the story of William Clissold himself. A novel within, not a novel, but let us say, a library, a sympathetic, beautifully written love story which makes us—so insatiable are we in this life for romance—turn with regret on to the third part, a return to the social and economic analysis and reconstruction which is the larger part of the book.

It is useless to try to summarize in a line or two the really vast comprehensive program Mr. Wells has formulated for a World Republic. We can only say that his mind goes broad and deep, that he writes with insight and sincerity and emotion, and that for anyone who likes to follow an amazingly brilliant mind there is enjoyment waiting for him in "William Clissold."

INTERESTING FACTS REGARDING ILLINOIS

Brief Items About This State and Its Many Features and Resources

Approximately 1,400,000 children are going to school this year in Illinois in 10,125 country one-room buildings and 1,600 village and city schools.

Illinois' hydro-electric development is 6 1/2 times as large as that of Africa, although Africa's potential water-power development is 543 times that of Illinois.

Joliet was originally named Juliet, but later the name was changed to that of the famous explorer.

Outside of Chicago, Rockford led the state in number of residential buildings erected during the first seven months of 1926. Housing accommodations were provided for 558 families.

Pontiac ranks second only to Chautauque, N. Y., as a center of the Chautauque movement.

Each week day Chicago's elevated railroads carry a number of passengers equal to the population of South Dakota.

"Illinois," the official state song, was written some time between 1890 and 1894 by C. H. Chamberlain, and was approved by the legislature at its last session.

Abingdon is installing a modern boulevard lighting system; Niles Center is planning a "White Way" and Alledo has proposed an extensive street lighting program.

The first fort built in the Mississippi valley, pre-dating even the fort of New Orleans, was constructed at Starved Rock.

Peoria's water supply is obtained from wells sunk 1,600 feet into the ground. Veins found at this depth are said to extend to Lake Superior, 600 miles to the north.

EARLY 'PHONE CABLE CONSTRUCTION POOR

When telephone wires were first placed underground in the early eighties, in addition to the wires that were placed in lead covered cables, a number of loose wires, sometimes as many as sixty, some insulated and others bare, were also placed underground with the cables.

These loose wires which were threaded through porcelain cleats, were laid in a wooden box over the cables. The box was filled with hot tar which was supposed to harden and thus serve as protection both to the cables and the loose wires, as well as to insulate the latter. However, no sound either of voice or of battery was ever heard over these loose wires, but the cables worked all right.

As soon as hot weather set in, however, the tar began to soften and ooze out through the pavement at low points in the street. It is recorded in Washington, D. C., that for a long time it was necessary to cart this tar away almost every week, while at the central office end of the conduit line this soft tar ran into barrels placed there to catch it, filling a barrel every other day.

This construction of underground cables was superseded between 1885 and 1887 by cable in asphalt, similar to the present-day asphalt street paving, which served to protect the cables perfectly.

LIBRARY EXTENSION SERVICE IN SCHOOLS

Library extension service is maintained by 35 universities and colleges in the United States in connection with their university extension departments. This service is free of charge, except cost of return postage. It goes wherever the mails go, making available to thousands of readers information which can not be obtained from local sources.

According to prohibition only enough denatured alcohol has been withdrawn to make New York's Christmas liquor. We hope Santa Claus doesn't spill any of it. It might set fire to his whiskers.

An ex-German soldier has returned to the mayor of a French town some silver knives and forks which he carried off during the invasion. Maybe he found out they were only plated.

State of Illinois, County of Lake, ss. IN THE PROBATE COURT OF SAID COUNTY

In the Matter of the Estate of Mary G. Mockler, deceased, and in the Matter of the Application of William Mockler, Administrator of the Estate of Mary G. Mockler, deceased, for leave to sell real estate to pay debts.

vs. James Irving Mockler, Bridget McCormick, Raymond Bergeron, Earl Bergeron, Norman Bergeron, Constance Jaundru.

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that in pursuance of a decretal order made and entered of record on October 7, 1926, in the above entitled cause, in and by the Probate Court of Lake County, Illinois, at the October Term A. D. 1926 of said court, the undersigned, as Administrator of the Estate of Mary G. Mockler, deceased, will on Tuesday, the 16th day of November, A. D. 1926, at one o'clock in the afternoon of said day, sell at public venue at the premises herein described, in the City of Highland Park, in the County of Lake, in the State of Illinois, to the highest and best bidder for cash, all and singular the following described real estate, in said decree described, to-wit:

The South one hundred feet of Lot ten in block thirty-six in the City of Highland Park, Lake County, Illinois, (except the westerly eighty feet thereof) subject to dower and homestead rights of William Mockler

for the purpose of paying debts and claims against said estate, and costs and expenses of administration thereof.

Dated this 7th day of October, A. D. 1926.

WILLIAM MOCKLER, Administrator of the Estate of Mary G. Mockler, deceased.

ERNEST S. GAIL, Attorney for Estate. 33-36

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