

Esther Bonini's Book Corner

JUST PARAGRAPHS

The fall publishing season has about reached its fruition. Most of the entrants of the race are now entered and it remained only to be seen which of them will be those strong to whom the race is given.

As a protest against the popular conception that all that a publisher is looking for on his lists is "best sellers," Robert M. McBride & Co. has sent out a little article on the subject. Among other things it says "Any publisher who attempted to rear his business on a foundation of best sellers would find, only too early, that he had builded on sand. List books, bread and butter books, books which sell on a gradual curve over a long period of years—these are the bone and sinew of any sound publishing house." This sort of plain statement may do something toward loosening the strangle hold that the "best seller" idea seems to have on the American public.

BACK TO FACTS

"GEORGE WASHINGTON" THE IMAGE AND THE MAN

By W. E. Woodward
Boni & Liveright

W. E. Woodward has written a book on Washington which is like a good vigorous spring cleaning. He doesn't waver with his broom before the old cherished conceptions, unless they have a solid basis in fact out they go with the rest of the accumulated dust of the ages. The result is a refreshing clarity and brightness, even if sometimes we are forced to sneeze during the process of cleaning.

Mr. Woodward has made a careful and comprehensive study of Washington and the life of Colonial America before writing the book. Which gives it an air of perfect conviction, and makes for us a wide and interesting background with many facts which are not usually considered in a study of that period. For instance we have not most of our faced the true status of our colonial ancestors: "The average colonial American was a wirey farmer with an ignorant mind and a tough hide, living on an impassable road and existing on rough food, hard work and an urgent spirit of self-reliance."

There is a good deal that is interesting and provocative in the book and as a general study of the times it is excellent. My only criticism of it as a story of the man is that the author does not seem really to like Washington. For an entirely just picture, isn't it necessary to have, not worship surely, but honest liking?

AN INTERESTING BOOK "MY MORTAL ENEMY"

By Willa Cather
Alfred A. Knopf

Willa Cather is certainly one of the most interesting and significant figures in American literature today. This becomes platitudinous. She is a writer who is not content to sit down with the good old frame before her and fit in new contents, she is an experimenter, an originator. And if in the course of her experimenting there are books that we like less than others, this is natural, and it does not detract from the interest and importance of the work.

"My Mortal Enemy," I like less than most of Miss Cather's books. Compared inevitably because of its theme and method of presentation with "A Lost Lady" it does not stand up well, for me, under the test. Miss Cather has reached here the summit of her striving for condensation, and I fear she has carried it too far. While it may be perfectly tempered steel, yet it is too fine a point, when it pricks us we do not feel it.

The other criticism which is most obvious is that the interpreting character instead of being one of vital interest as was Noel in "A Lost Lady" is an entirely commonplace person. Therefore everything she says loses in savor. As I said before, however, this does not keep the book from being an interesting and important piece of work.

DRAMA & MELODRAMA

"A DARK DAWN"

By Martha Ostenso
Dodd Mead & Co.

Martha Ostenso's first novel "Wild Geese" was a good book, noted principally for two things, its poetic feeling for nature and its dramatic treatment. "The Dark Dawn," her second novel, has both of these qualities yet they are so combined and executed that neither one is particularly effective. The dramatic treatment especially, is carried on into melodrama so that attempted suicides and heart failures, rescuings and dyings all go on at once like a three-ring circus, to bring about the necessary happy ending.

This does not mean that Martha Ostenso cannot do good work in the future. She has shown that she has it in her. It merely means that this

particular novel was written too hastily or in a too little considered attempt to fit another in the same pattern as her earlier successful one.

An important book! REVELRY

By Samuel Hopkins Adams
One of the big books of the year. A story of American politics—the easy-going Prince of Goodfellows who became also President of the United States.

Boni & Liveright \$2.00

Where there are Children— Dare they be Divorced?

CUSTODY CHILDREN

by Everett Young

Not the ordinary "brilliant society novel." It catches your emotions and you find yourself caring supremely what happens to Clodi Dillon.

Henry Holt & Co. \$2.00

THE DANCING FLOOR

JOHN BUCHAN

A thrilling mysterious romance of the Greek islands. "A new book by John Buchan is always an event . . . to be highly recommended." Cleveland Topics.

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EARLY AUTUMN

Louis Bromfield's "By all odds Mr. Bromfield's best book and an important American novel as well."—Phila. Ledger.

Stokes N. Y. \$2.00

TIDES

By Ada & Julian Street

A surging novel of Chicago in the days of the World's Fair.

Doubleday, Page & Co. \$2.00

Radio Topics

By R. M. Sherrill
(Radio Engineer)

By R. M. SHERRILL
(Radio Engineer)

The British now have in use a very ingenious fog warning device which is entirely controlled by radio. The device is installed on a re-enforced concrete beacon light which marks a large sand bank in mid-channel at the entrance of the River Clyde. As it is too expensive and too dangerous to station lightkeepers on the bar, and as strong tides, rough seas and ships' anchors make submarine cables impracticable, the radio controlled signal has met a long needed want.

The fog warning is given by the periodic explosions of a "gun," the noise of which carries very well through the fog to warn approaching ships. The explosions when once started, repeat at definite intervals until stopped. Acetylene gas, which is stored in tanks on the beacon, is mixed with a certain amount of air and used for producing the explosions.

When a fog comes up, observers at the shore station send out radio waves of the proper length to actuate the receiver on the beacon. The receiver operates a relay which turns on the acetylene gas and starts the explosions. When the fog lifts, the shore station sends out radio impulses of a different wavelength to turn off the gas and stop the explosions.

The receiver on the beacon consists of a four tube set to detect and amplify the radio signals to sufficient strength for operating the relay. The tubes burn continuously and are replaced every three months. Small storage batteries are used to furnish the energy necessary for operating the timing and firing mechanism. The tanks of acetylene gas and the storage batteries are replaced or recharged at definite intervals.

known radio artists is to broadcast under assumed names and imitate themselves. They then ask for comments from the listeners and compare these comments with the ones they get when performing under their own names.

The comments are found to vary considerably showing that the listeners are easily fooled. Many of the stars of the legitimate stage, whose contracts forbid their radio appearances, also broadcast under assumed names and as imitators of themselves.



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The British Broadcasting company estimates that the contemplated system will cost about \$3,000,000.

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