

Esther Bonni's Book Corner

JUST PARAGRAPHS

How times have changed! Publishers of Shane Leslie's "George IV" announce that the home of the notorious Mrs. Fitzherbert who figures largely in Mr. Leslie's biography is now the local headquarters of the Y.W.C.A.

James Boone, author of the fascinating "London Perambulator," has done the same for Edinburgh. We hope he has done it as well.

In most cases indeed, we no longer need pity the poor author. Vanentine Williams, whose novel "The Key Man" was recently published by Houghton Mifflin, has returned from London to Cannes for the winter, where he does most of his writing in a kiosk (whatever that is) perched on the edge of a cliff so close to the sea that if he splits an infinitive he says half of it would fall into the Mediterranean.

A BEAUTIFUL STORY

"THE TIME OF MAN"

By Elizabeth Madox Roberts
The Viking Press

"The Time of Man" is all that its critics have claimed for it, truly a work of art. It is one of those books which slipped unobtrusively into the season's fiction list and then as if it had been a match slipped into a haystack began to burn bigger and bigger. It is quite a conflagration by this time, and it is justly so.

It is a story, very simply told, of a girl living in the mountains of Kentucky. It is odd that three of the most sensitively written novels of the past year should have been of the southern whites. This girl living in the most primitive conditions of civilization, has the soul, the perception, the spirit of a poet and yet is caught hopelessly in the wheel of that endless struggle for an existence from the soil—spring, summer, fall, winter, spring, summer and over again. And an endless number of these repeated over and over, make up, as Ellen Chessier discovers the "time of man."

It is a beautiful story, written lyrically and with a startling freshness of style. Contrary to most modern fiction nothing that is said was ever said in just that way before.

FLURRIED, INDEED

"I HAVE THIS TO SAY"

By Violet Hunt
Bonni & Liveright

Violet Hunt may well add to the title of her personal autobiography, that it is "The Story of My Flurried Year." She might further have added that it will be the source of her readers' flurried hours. Her style is such that no better training for cross word puzzling could be found. Perhaps cross word puzzling hasn't gone out of style in England yet. It reminds one of the man who dug a well with a Roman nose. For example, "After dinner in that library of the distinguished scientist who was also a sailor, like a ship's cabin with the telescope, pointed permanently out of the window, we sat around and talked ghost stories." We are torn between trying to picture a torn between trying to picture a sailor like a ship's cabin and, because of the placing of a comma, thinking

of the man pointing permanently out of the window.

And Miss Hunt in the same vein, all through the book calls the principal character, Ford Madox Ford or Heuffer, who is already supplied with an abundance of names, "Joseph Leopold, which is slightly confusing to the uninitiated. It reminds one of a Russian novel where every character has for every other character a different set of names.

At last conquering all these impedimenta we come to the book's content. It is a story whose chief claim to interest is certain disconnected flashes of insight and information on literary London and literary people of the past thirty years. These flashes are vivid and illuminating and if you are interested in the subjects they will repay you for conquering the book's disconcerting elements.

IN THE DESERT OF GOBI

"ON THE TRAIL OF ANCIENT MAN"

By Roy Chapman Andrews
G. P. Putnam's Sons

Roy Chapman Andrews in his "On the Trail of Ancient Man," has written not scientifically but informally the story of his Central Asiatic Expeditions' work in Mongolia. It opens up a new world to the layman who, it is likely, will never have a chance to go travelling off into Gobi Desert, where sand and camels and bandits are the only scenery except for flaming cliffs and painted deserts and nameless snow-capped peaks and various wild animals unknown elsewhere in the world.

Mr. Andrews feels all this part of the romance as well as the immense thrill of finding the first known dinosaur eggs and traces of a hitherto unknown tribe of man. This wandering life is one which he chose above all others, if he could not have followed it he says that in an office he thinks he "would have sickened and died." He makes us understand the fascination and the necessity which have led him on.

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"Well, John," said the father to his son, a young doctor, "how's your practice?"

"Well, in the mornings practically no one comes, and in the afternoon the rush falls off a bit."

TRUTHFUL TOMMY

A shop was giving away toy balloons to children. One little fellow asked if he might have two.

"Sorry," said the clerk, "but we only give one balloon to each boy. Have you a brother at home?"

The youngster was truthful, but he did want another balloon.

"No," he replied regretfully, then added hopefully, "but my sister has and I want one for him."

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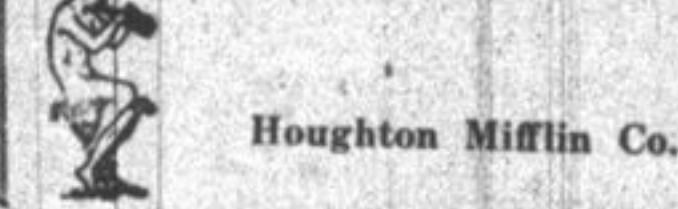
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SPEEDY

Two colored gentlemen who had just reduced the population in a farmer's hen-roost were making a getaway.

"Laws, Mose," gasped Sam, "why you s'pose them flies follows us so close?"

"Keep galloping, boy," said Mose, "Them ain't flies, them's buckshot."

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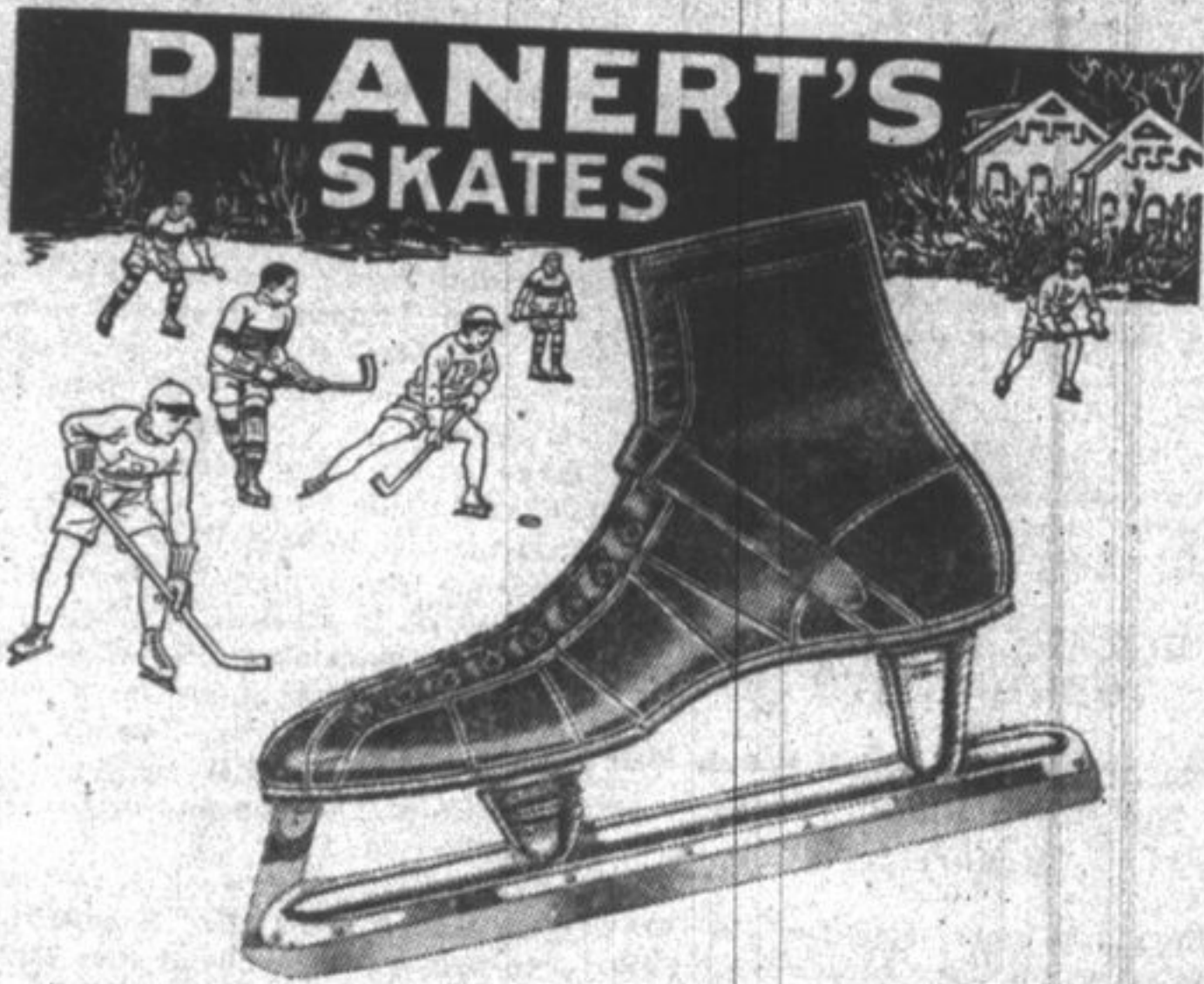
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