

## Esther Gould's Book Corner

### JUST PARAGRAPHS

Here is a man that almost anyone can pity, Dr. J. C. H. Beaumont, who has just completed his nine hundredth trip across the Atlantic. Anyone that has done that should be entitled to write a book about it, or do anything else he pleases. Dr. Beaumont has written the book, it is "Ships and People," and tells of his experiences in thirty years of ship doctoring — not doctoring ships, that is, but passengers.

Many people will be delighted to learn that a new novel from Anne Douglas Sedgwick may be expected next spring. The title of the book is to be "The Old Countess."

### A NOVEL FROM GERMANY

#### "POWER"

By Lion Feuchtwanger  
The Viking Press

"Power" by the German Lion Feuchtwanger is a rather extraordinary novel. It overflows and bursts the bonds of all that we ordinarily think of under that title. It is one of the lusty, robust works which creates an epoch rather than a mere puny character.

The plot of the story is hung, to be sure, on two characters. That of the ambitious, attractive, unscrupulous Jew, Josef Suss, and the reckless, selfish, blundering Duke of Wurtemberg. These two, by a mutual attraction which seemed to go deeper than they could fathom when they both, unknown and young threw in their fortunes together. Then, by the unlooked for death of the reigning duke and his son, the cousin becomes the ruler of the province. And Suss is the power behind the throne.

Then in a day when the Jews were herded into Ghettos and were even legally prohibited residence in Wurtemberg, Suss becomes one of the most powerful figures of Europe. He can make them tremble at his word.

The story moves forward in great movements like those of a symphony. There is first "The Prince," then "The People," after that "The Jews" in which Suss has a chance to do a great service to his race, at the expense of himself and finally does it — does it so that he may exalt himself — "The Duke," in which the Duke kills the daughter of Suss thus dealing him a mortal blow, "The Others" in which Suss is overcome by his enemies. The intricacies of the plot are far too numerous to try to enter into in detail here, but the essential of the story is the development of the character of the Jew. His mental and spiritual changes, from the time when he is a calculating heartless intriguer until the moment when he mounts the scaffold repeating the old Jewish prayer are the heart of the story. It is a strong, a compelling piece of work.

### GOOD SHORT STORIES

#### "THE BEST BRITISH SHORT STORIES OF 1926"

Edited by Edward J. O'Brien  
Dodd, Mead & Co.

For those who are tired of the good tailor made stories of our American magazines, all — or most of them — made carefully to the public's measure, this book of British short stories will come as a surprise and pleasure. There are names on the list which in themselves are a guarantee, Stella Benson, De la Mare, Aldous Huxley, D. H. Lawrence, J. D. Beresford. There are other contributors who aren't so well known or are perhaps not known at all, who have done as well.

There is a fanciful touch, an emphasis on atmosphere, in these stories, apparent in nearly all of them, which would never "get by" with the American magazine reader. For instance, Stella Benson has written a lovely thing on the awakening of a god, "one of the old gods" who used to make mountains. "Mountains are like bells, they are tuned like bells. You'd know what I mean if you'd made them. When a mountain is well made, even an incurably imperfect mortal ear can hear the bell note sometimes, especially when it rings to the touch of the last ray of the sun."

Thomas Burke has a delicious story about the Chinaman who sang so heartrendingly of his love for China that at last, the kindly English folk who had listened to his singing raised a fund to send him back home. At the last when everything was ready, the poor little Chinaman went next door and killed himself — there was nothing else to do, he had never seen China and did not want to go there, his home was in England and he loved it, he was as his neighbor said of him "only a poet."

Walter De la Mare's story, "Mr. Kempe," is full of atmosphere of his own particular eerie sort.

Constance Holme, of whom I have never before heard, contributes a little story only seven pages long, but of stark realism. There are others, all of them worth reading. They make interesting companion reading to the collection of American short stories which has also just been brought out.

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## ONE CRIMINAL CASE DIDN'T STAY FIXED

### PAROLE SUPERVISOR ACTS

Hinton G. Clabaugh Intervenes  
to Prevent Miscarriage of  
Justice In Case From  
Chicago

Up from the underworld which forever chatters of its dark successes came the boast a few days ago that Hyman Bernstein, whose profession has long been night-time burglary, had his latest case securely "fixed," as the boast finally reached the ears of Hinton G. Clabaugh, state supervisor of prison paroles.

Mr. Clabaugh determined to watch and he did. By watching he found another "hole in the fence." He discovered a method by which the parole system can be used to defeat law. In short, Mr. Bernstein, burglar, faced this:

- Alternatives Faced**
1. If he went to trial and was convicted, as seemed likely as he was caught cold and the goods recovered, he would get a sentence of from five to twenty years.
  2. If he could be returned to Pontiac, as a parole violator, he would get nine months. Then, as usual, other charges probably would be forgotten.

Mr. Clabaugh watched and found that on October 30 the boast out of the underworld was made good. The burglary case against Mr. Bernstein, burglar, was stricken off in Judge Philip L. Sullivan's court. No one was there to prosecute except the arresting policeman. And policemen sometimes have small standing in the courts, as compared with burglars.

Nor did it take long to discover seven other burglary cases in Mr. Bernstein's record that had been stricken off in a period of less than six years.

**Clabaugh Intervenes**

So far Mr. Bernstein, burglar, had everything working as per plan. Finally, the other day, he arrived in Pontiac to do the nine months that were to save him from a minimum of five and a maximum of twenty years. But to his consternation Mr. Clabaugh, who had been informed of the scheme, told him that he wasn't wanted and must stand trial for the burglary. Furthermore he notified Robert E. Crowe, state's attorney of Cook county, telling him of the "fast one" that Mr. Bernstein, burglar, had put over. Mr. Crowe agreed at once to reinstate the case and prosecute and a new warrant was promptly issued.

Mr. Bernstein wept, threatened and cursed and his lawyer made an emotional appeal such as sometimes softens the hearts of first-time jurors. All to no avail. Mr. Bernstein's heart is broken that he is not being permitted to "serve the nine months" and duck the twenty years.

And this is the story of one case that didn't stay fixed.

### "ABIE'S IRISH ROSE" ENTERS THIRD WEEK

Return Engagement to Chicago  
Proves Popularity of Anne  
Nichols Comedy

"Abie's Irish Rose," Anne Nichols' record breaking comedy, is maintaining its reputation as a super-popular form of entertainment at the LaSalle Theatre, Chicago, where it enters into its third week of the return engagement Sunday night. The appeal of "Abie," which has been quite an enigma to students of the drama since the day of its first presentation more than five years ago, is still looked upon as an unsolved puzzle by those well versed in things theatrical. And, while those who are masters in the craft of play construction are seeking light as to why "Abie" should have been so successful, that comedy goes merrily on, week after week, year after year, earning for Anne Nichols a fortune that would make "a mere millionaire" green with envy.

One might well ask: "What is wrong with those who are supposed to know the why and wherefore of the theater?" Or, "Is there something wrong with the public?" There is not the slightest doubt about there existing a vast difference of opinion as to the merits of "Abie" as a play. And since the public is, after all, looked upon to determine the success of a piece by registering their opinion by the extent of financial support, then it must be assumed that "Abie's Irish Rose" is truly a great play. For the public has "said it" to the tune of millions; and it may be that, in their shopping for theater fare they have hit upon a form of entertainment that was sadly needed to rehabilitate the American theater.

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One may have an opportunity to view the works of those modern European painters who have been proclaimed by their admirers as the men who are leading by many leagues all others in the field of art. This is the exhibition of modern paintings just installed in the Arts Club gallery in the Art Institute.

There are only fifteen paintings in all, but they are by those who have made the greatest noise in their particular countries. There are two Cezannes, the man who has been proclaimed the greatest painter of his day; two by Matisse; one the famous "Still Life," lent by Mrs. John Alden Carpenter; on Rousseau, being the almost equally famous "Jungle" picture, also lent by Mrs. Carpenter; one by Renoir, lent by Walter Brewster;

one by the famous woman painter of France, Marie Laurencin, lent by Arthur Heunff a cubist picture called "Mecanique," by Chirico, lent by Robert Allerton; a marble head by Brancusi, lent by Mr. George F. Porter, and other works of equal prominence. The artists represented art natives of France, Spain, Italy, Russia and Roumania.

### A PERFECT EXCUSE

Nurse was bringing little Ella home from a party and took her hand to help her up a high curbstone. "Gracious me, Ella!" she cried, "how sticky your hands are!" "So would yours be," replied Ella serenely, "if you had two meringues and a chocolate éclair in your muff."

The boys are trying to make a large place for themselves in the world, by putting on wide pants.

Many young girls writing for advice about their love affairs, and the best advice to give some of them would be to keep on playing dolls a little longer.

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