

Book Corner

JUST PARAGRAPHS

Hugh Walpole in reviewing Olive Schreiner's posthumous novel, "From Man to Man" finds that in three quarters of the volume there is nothing of value for the modern reader, yet in that other quarter there is something which ranks with true creation and marks the author as one "in the line of true artists, at the very times when she was herself least aware of it."

Esra Pound, American poet, has issued the following invitation, "I should be pleased to accept two million dollars for the foundation of a bearable and intelligent civilization, in some stultified climate, preferably somewhere in Europe, with a nucleus of American inhabitants, selected from those who are unstained by the last three Presidential reigns." It is rumored that Mr. Pound is coming on a lecture tour to the United States, whether in the hope of meeting this benevolent capitalist or of making the two million himself we cannot.

THE HIGHER SIDE OF WAR

"AW HELL"

By Clarke Venable
Reilly & Lee

When the War ended and we as well as the men who had been in it began to see it as a colossal "sell" there began to come forth from all sides a literature of disillusionment. Bitterness, mockery, it seemed only by the very excess of these that the hurt pride of those who felt they had been tricked into being idealistic and illusioned could be satisfied.

So the clever among the bitter, those who are always the first to be vocal, those who would wield their bitterness best, let go a fusillade. They looked back on war as seen through the disillusionment of peace and pretended to, or did, forget that once they had marched away filled with a high desire to serve and if necessary to die. We forgot, too.

But now we are far enough away to remember, and it is well that we should remember, and Clarke Venable in his startlingly named war book, "Aw Hell" helps us to do so. He recalls the men, and there are hundreds of thousands of them, who answered the war cry valiantly in the spirit of the knights of old, of men called to protect something dearer to them than life itself.

It was in this spirit that Jephtha Montgomery Brice left his peaceful Tennessee hills and tramped forty miles to the nearest recruiting station to "jine up." But because Jephtha had a heart which did alarming things on the slightest provocation he was refused. This made no difference to a boy of Jephtha's calibre, he had come to fight and he would. There is a long amusing struggle by which he tries to outwit the authorities, finally doing so and being accepted under the name of a man who had actually deserted from the army. Jephtha goes to France. There "impressions piled upon impressions," and he saw war—its horror, its humor, its heroism, its futility. But he was not embittered, only saddened, as one is as surely, perhaps, by life if one views it with understanding.

"Aw Hell" gives an all-round picture of what war was to aspiring, simple, hopeful men. It gives it vividly, humanly, holding your interest from the first page to the last.

OVERTONES AND UNDERTONES

"THE BEADLE"

By Pauline Smith
George H. Doran Co.

"The Beadle" is a strange, sad book. For plot it has the old one of the seduction, a young innocent girl and a worldly selfish man. Certainly, such a plot tells nothing of a book, anything from the most tawdry sentimentalism to the deepest realism could be built upon it. But Pauline Smith, author of "The Little Karoo," has chosen to write a strong, restrained, silent book, upon that plot. Silent in the sense that it is charged with things unsaid, filled with a tenacity which is in the air and not in the words spoken.

In the country of the Little Karoo in the South African veldt, lives a community of simple people, their lives bordered by the hills across which little recognition from the world ever comes. Among them is an old man, the beadle of the little Harmonic church, who lives with the two daughters of old Piet Steenkamp, Johanna and Jacoba and their niece, Andrina. The beadle has never shown the slightest kindness or affection for Andrina yet he watches over her with a fierce jealousy. When there comes to the district a young Englishman traveling for his health the old man's jealousy and distrust know no bounds. But he is helpless.

Inevitably Andrina falls in love with the Englishman who on his side is attracted by her beauty and simplicity. They become lovers, and then before long the Englishman, tiring of her, at a summons from the girl who had before refused to marry him, goes away. This seems quite just to Andrina, if there is a woman out there in the world whom he loves and who loves him it is right that he should go to her. Nothing in the whole book is so touching as Andrina's words when she finds that he is going, "If Mijneer will but let me I will now pack for him." All the forgiveness and sorrow of a breaking heart are behind those words.

And so it is through the entire book, it is remarkable most for the overtones of beauty which sound above the severe almost harsh style, filled as with discords by the unweildly African names, and the undertones of sadness, inevitability and sorrow which sound like basic chords beneath it.

STATE POLICE BILL AGAIN BEFORE HOUSE

Patterned as formerly after the law in effect in Pennsylvania, the State Police Bill is again before the two houses of the state legislature. Public hearings on the proposed measure are being held today.

For several sessions this measure has been presented by Senator Henry M. Dunlap of Savoy. It is regularly the cause of a hard battle on the floor of the legislature.

Proponents of the bill hold that with 5,000 miles of hard roads crossing the state in every direction, and with this mileage to be doubled in the state, crime in the rural sections is increasing because of a better getaway being possible. Sheriffs are unable to cope with this situation, they allege.

In the past the measure has met with opposition on the part of organized labor, which fears the State Police would be unfairly used in the event of a strike. In many quarters the proposed measure is termed the "Cossack Bill."

Under the terms of the proposed measure, as fathered by Senator Dunlap, from three to seven companies of sixty-five men each are provided. The department chief and other officers will be appointed by the governor.

ANOTHER DREAM OF CUTTING WAR PROFITS

PRESENTED IN MAGAZINE

Stuart Chase Offers Suggestion Which While Probably Very Visionary, Is Somewhat Interesting

A detailed program for taking the money incentive out of war—a program which in national emergency would place every farmer, every laborer, and every business man upon a war footing, all on the status of the soldier at a soldier's pay—is presented in the May issue of The Forum.

The removal of the profits from war will prove an effective way of short-circuiting the currents of the propaganda of the profiteers and the jingoists that lie at the source of war, the article contends.

Stuart Chase, an accountant and a writer on economic subjects, presents the discussion in the form of an indirect interview with "a captain of industry," its sponsor, and "a learned economist" who opposes on the ground that it would not be workable, says The Christian Science Monitor.

Federal Board Recommended
Mr. Chase's own opinion is that such a worthy program merits cautious experiment, and to that end he recommends the establishment by the Federal Government of a permanent commission to consider the practical application of the proposals and to lay the groundwork for such co-ordination should the contingency arise.

"The Government at Washington," as Mr. Chase outlined the plan, "will proceed immediately, by proper legislative and executive action, to provide that, upon the declaration of any future war, the entire man power of the nation shall go upon a war footing, taking the status of a soldier with a soldier's pay."

"Unskilled and semi-skilled workers shall take the status of privates with a private's pay. Skilled workers shall take the status of corporals and sergeants; foremen, the status of top

sergeants; business executives shall become lieutenants; captains, majors, colonels; presidents of great companies shall be generals—with only a general's pay. In addition to the flat army rates, the non-commissioned men shall receive a differential payment equal to the food, clothing and shelter which the soldier in the army receives gratis.

"The basic army wage, furthermore, shall be at least as great as the going rate for unskilled workers at the time that war is declared. If the industrial worker is married, he will receive an additional sum equal to the standard army allowance for wives with husbands at the front.

Central Co-ordinating Board

"The government meanwhile will assume control of all the industrial processes of the nation through a central co-ordinating board. The allocation of man-power will be its first duty. Men will be drawn from non-essential industries to fill the ranks of the army and of essential industries. 'Essentials' will be defined as munitions and as the production of living requirements—food, shelter, clothing, for the home population.

"Labor shortages in essential industries will be carefully guarded against. The depletion of coalminers and steelworkers by irresponsible draft boards will not be countenanced. And every man leaving civilian life for the army goes with the assurance that fat wages, fat salaries and fat profits are not to be made behind his back."

The garden seeds have to be planted, fertilized, and watered with great care, but the bugs are sitting on the fence ready for business without any assistance or notification from anyone.

"Pay as you go" is called the best policy, but the slow pay debtors with their multifarious excuses prefer to say as you go.

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