

**Esther Gould's
Book Corner**

JUST PARAGRAPHS

Theodore Dreiser in his new book on Russia voices the opinion that the United States even in our own day may be sovietized.

The story "The Father" by Katharine Holland Brown which won the \$25,000 prize offered by the Woman's Home Companion and the John Day Company and was just published covers nearly the whole fifty years of Miss Brown's life-time. The material gathered from stories told in her childhood by her own father, the actual writing was started in an effort to entertain him when his health was failing.

**THE NEW RELIGION
"THE NEW TEMPLE"**

By Johan Bojer
The Century Co.

Johan Bojer is one of the small group of Scandinavian writers who have attained a high place in America. It becomes increasingly apparent why he has reached this place; he has a force, a simplicity, which carry the most complete conviction. In "The New Temple" he tells the story of a group of people who become astonishingly real to us. He does it so quietly laying on his strokes with such an even brush that one does not realize until one gets a short distance away from it how startlingly distinct are the high-lights and the shadows.

It is the story of a brother and a sister who have been brought up by a tyrannical old aunt, who when she dies, because the boy has displeased her by some socialistic activities at the university, leaves her great estate to the girl. The effect of this rebuff and reversal of position on them both, and the trial of the boy to find a life and an outlet in religion is the thread of the story. In the end he finds his religion is very close to the people he loves and who love him.

BLACK AND WHITE

"THE COMING OF THE LORD"

By Sarah Gertrude Millin
Horace Liveright

Among the books of the season there are certain ones that cannot be denied. From ones overcrowded shelves these certain ones speak with a strong voice and one listens to them. Among these is any book by Sarah Gertrude Millin, and "The Coming of the Lord" does not disappoint one.

It is a book of South Africa of which, naturally, since it is her native land, Mrs. Millin writes with a sympathy and a knowledge not often found. In this book she has taken individuals of the white race as her characters, and relegated the blacks "God's Stepchildren" as she called them in her earlier work, to the background where they loom symbolically, as that sinister thing which looms ever in the background of man's life, a sort of mysterious force personified.

The individuals of her story are a Jewish doctor, and a woman, attractive, vital, whose husband being only half a man leads her to look for spir-

**Doctor Dolittle
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itual companionship elsewhere. Their relationship is only spiritual, would be innocent if the world could know the facts, but the world judges not by facts but by appearances. So they are looked upon as a scandal, and that very possibility of guilt makes them guilty. That begins a long train of events which can only end in tragedy. Mrs. Millin writes more competently, in more deft character analysis than ever before.

YOU DO OR YOU DON'T

"ORLANDO"
By Virginia Woolf

Harcourt Brace & Co.

There are those for whom Virginia Woolf is a great and unfolding experience. There are those for whom she is a blank. There are those for whom she is an irritating and confusing experience as a shopping trip for something they cannot find. I am not one to believe that people of one of these classes can be lightly changed into another, that was all decided by the temperament one drew, a varying number of years ago. Happening to be one of those of the first class, I can only say to those others who belong with me, "Here is a new Virginia Woolf." It is enough to make the seasons turn backward. The birds sing and the skies take on the color of spring, for as Winnie the Pooh would say, "she is a springish sort of person." She looks at life with a crystal clarity not unlike the bright transparent sunlight of spring.

In "Orlando," the biography of a person who began as an Elizabethan nobleman and is living now as a twentieth century lady, Mrs. Woolf attempted and has carried through a work of tremendous scope, it is no exaggeration to say she has set a new standard for the artistic creation of the present day.

We don't know what President Coolidge is going to do after March fourth but we will bet that he does.

A New York woman accused of violating the Volstead Act routed three policemen trying to arrest her. Some of it is powerful stuff.

Where Scalpers Fail

There are no back rows in the radio theatre. Everybody is in the front room.—The American Magazine.

As it seems fairly clear that Herbert Hoover was elected president, the Democratic brethren have decided not to petition for a recount.

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**"SUICIDE POUCHES"
PART OF REGALIA**

FOR PRINCES IN CHINA

**Under Old Regime They Carried
Them When Going to Audi-
ence With Emperor;
Loyalty Symbols**

"Suicide pouches" which were carried by Manchu princes of China whenever they had an audience with the emperor, are included in a Manchu royal wardrobe now on exhibition at Field Museum of Natural History, it was announced by Stephen C. Simms, director of the museum. The collection includes actual robes worn by emperors, empresses, princes and princesses in the eighteenth century, with their head-dresses, girdles, shoes and other accessories.

The "suicide pouches" are silken bags in which a supply of arsenic was carried, and one of these was hung over each hip. A prince was not allowed to come for an official audience with the emperor without wearing them. They were symbols of loyalty, and in case the wearer should incur the displeasure of the emperor, he was granted the "privilege" of ending his life, on command, at his emperor's feet, according to Dr. Berthold Laufer, curator of anthropology and noted explorer of China. This was regarded as a privilege, Dr. Laufer explains, because persons of lower rank in the same predicament would be done away with by the more humiliating processes of the public executioner.

Notable Feature

A notable feature of the exhibit is a life-size mannequin of a typical Manchu lady, dressed in the robes fitting to her estate, with characteristic coiffure and adornments. Her shoes are high-heeled in a fashion that outdoes the most fantastic French heel creations, for the heels are in the middle of the shoe sole, and the wearer had to balance herself as though on stilts. Nevertheless the Manchu women developed a graceful walk, Dr. Laufer says. Beneath the woman's slit dress are pantaloons which end with ornate garters at her ankles. Such foibles as rouge powder and lipstick were used by Manchu and Chinese women for thousands of years, Dr. Laufer declares, and the "compact" and "vanity case" of the modern girl are believed originally to have been Chinese inventions.

Other material shown includes gorgeous state robes of emperors with tapestry woven designs on fabrics of a special imperial yellow which no one else was permitted to wear; worship robes used during prayers and sacrificial ceremonies in the temples; state robes of empresses and princes; the elaborate wedding head-dress of a princess with pearl strung hangings and silken flowers; and a complete set of the silken girdles of princes, in different colors and with finely carved jade buckles indicating the various ranks of the royal blood. From these girdles were hung the poison pouches. A narrow purple girdle with small inferior buckle was worn by a prince in disgrace. Some beautiful fans and many other articles of personal adornment are also in the cases.

Valuable Collection

This rare and valuable collection was obtained by Dr. Laufer while in China in 1923 at the head of an expedition sponsored by Captain Marshall Field. A Manchu prince, deposed with all others of his blood in the revolution of 1911 which resulted in the slaughtering of thousands of Manchus and establishment of the republic, assisted Dr. Laufer in obtaining the collection. Such relics are now becoming exceedingly rare, and the Manchus, whose leaders had ruled China since 1644, are rapidly passing out of existence as a distinct strain in the racial makeup of China's population.

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