

## Book Corner

### JUST PARAGRAPHS

An extremely interesting book, especially for those who read and liked Maurois' story of Disraeli last year, will be the publication for the first time of the love letter of Disraeli to Lady Bradford. This romance begun when the Prime Minister of England was nearly three score years and ten was as Maurois says in his preface, "as touching, as sincere, as those of young men." It is dramatic to have the letter brought to light after so many years.

Brand Whitlock's biography of La

Fayette should prove to be one of the good biographies of the Fall season. Several interesting letters are reproduced in it, including Washington's letter to the Emperor of Germany imploring him to release Marquis de La Fayette from his Austrian imprisonment.

### LOVE IN NAPLES

#### "BLACK ROSES"

By Francis Brett Young  
Harper and Bros.

Francis Brett Young has taken a sombre theme for his novel "Black Roses." But he has set it off by an interlude of forty years so that we feel its tragedy not too keenly.

Paul Ritchie, child of an Italian peasant woman and a buff English hunter with a taste for painting, is standing on the deck of a cruising steamer as it puts in at Naples. He does not leave the ship with the rest of the passengers, but stays there on deck reliving the memories which have haunted his later years.

With him we relive the days of his youth, first as a child in the little town above Naples where his father taught him to speak English and let him help himself to his rather bizarre library, then, after the departure of the father to an obscure war, we follow the son to Naples to begin a career of art. He finds more than art in Naples, he finds the gay inconsequential student Viva, who wants to show him life. He also finds, in the person of the dark silent Cristina

who cooks for the two students, the great love of his youth. They live a terrified and ecstatic idyll, overshadowed always by the figure of Cristina's evil genius, the "black hunter" who has kept her for years in his power.

It is this and the final ending of their companionship in the death of the woman in a cholera epidemic which sent Paul Ritchie to England, and which gave to his painting the queer Dante-esque touch of suffering and torture. But now, having lived over again the story which for so long has haunted him he finds release and peace for his old age.

### HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

#### "THREE DAUGHTERS"

By Jane Dashwood  
Houghton Mifflin Co.

"Three Daughters" by Jane Dashwood is a novel about which you can truthfully use the well worn phrase "a book of wit, charm, and a certain distinction." It is one of those books you can recommend widely to your friends and relatives, there is little at which anyone could take offense. It is a very clever comedy of manners.

The most charming part of the book is the early part when the three daughters are young. They are so happy, so full of youthful high spirits, and they have such good times together that you cannot help rejoicing with them. The world is only a show run for their benefit, the people at Mamma's teas are merely something to afford them opportunity for laughter afterward.

But then comes the time at which it is imperative that they marry. Stern duty in the form of an unbending Victorian Mamma takes hold of their carefree lives and the world ceases to be an excellent joke.

At last even the most recalcitrant of the three marries and we see them then by the passage of time turned into the unprogressive and tradition-bound mothers to be tolerated and laughed at by the generation of 1929. We resent the change in them but we know quite well that it might be true.

This is a first novel, a fact which has so often in the past five years been recommendation of the highest type. In this case there is even more than a usual share of the technical competence which so many first novelists so surprisingly show.

### Huge Block of Road Bonds Sold by State

Eleven million dollars worth of state highway 4 per cent bonds were sold at public sale to a group of Chicago and New York banks for \$10,189,000, at Springfield recently. Harry Cleaveland, director of the state department of public works and buildings, presided at the sale, which was attended by Governor Louis L. Emmerson.

The bonds which bear 4 per cent interest brought a rate of 92.627 and will yield 4.50. The sale was made on the 147th bid.

Companies in the group which purchased the bonds were: Continental Illinois Company of Chicago; National City company of New York, Harris Trust and Savings bank, Chicago; First Union Trust and Savings bank, Chicago, and the William R. Compton company, Chicago.

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