



ESTHER GOULD'S BOOK REVIEW AND TRAVEL PAGE



A ROMANTIC MECCA

Egypt! It is hardly possible to utter any single word which carries with it so great a wealth of interest and association! The cradle of all civilization, without the nurturing of which scientists are doubting whether the feeble plant would ever have gotten started at all! Mystery, romance, poetry all are contained in that name.

A vast flat plain, its dry sands cut by the fan-like delta of the Nile, rising to peaks in its tremendous monuments, scrolled over by the writing of a forgotten day, the whole colored by sunlight the blue and gold of Maxfield Parrish—we all hold some such picture of it in our minds. Yet for most of us the picture is mirage-like, hazy.

If we are going there we want to make the picture more definite, fill in its vague outlines. What kind of books are best calculated to do this? We pick up, by chance, Robert Hichens' "The Spell of Egypt." No, not that one. That is the kind of book which has built up the hazy picture our mind holds. "The color died from the sky. The Second Pyramid turned golden . . ." it is those second hand sense impressions which we are going to get first hand when we go there and we don't want them dulled by repetition. Let us lay that aside. It is for those who are not going.

We want something more solid, which will give us a foundation of

knowledge on which to build our own impressions. The next thing we pick up is more what we want, in fact quite so. It is history in a very readable form. Robert Forrest Wilson who has a real genius for aptly presenting things has done well in "The Living of Pageant of the Nile." It has been his object to give a flesh and blood picture of the history of Egypt and this he has accomplished so well that his book can take the place for us much dryer and heavier tones. He gives us dates, names, introduces us to the great figure of Egypt in history and gives us a table by which we can unravel the long confusion of dynasties.

NOT SO GOOD "FUGITIVE'S RETURN"

By Susan Glaspell
Frederick A. Stokes Co.

In "Brook Evans" Susan Glaspell showed a decided tendency to heaviness, to sentimentality and a delight in suffering. Yet on the whole a sincerity and saneness held that tendency fairly in check. In "Fugitive's Return" alas, there is no check and the result is a good deal of blah. For example, the woman who has lost her adored child speaks to her divorced husband who has come to comfort her, in these surprising terms, "Do not leave me here alone! Stay but one night more—and in that

night, love me until you kill me. Or, if that cannot be—with your dear hands—choke out what life is left—"

The presentation of grief is the most difficult kind of writing in the world, it must be done sincerely, delicately, not to seem merely repugnant. This book seems a poor effort from the woman who wrote her own story so well in "The Road to the Temple."

"MARRIAGE AND MORALS"

By Bertrand Russell.
Horace Liveright

Bertrand Russell has again stated his position in regard to the moral code in his new book "Marriage and Morals." He is concise as always, vigorous as always, and yes, convincing.

He begins with a history of the family, goes on to influence of religion, particularly Christianity, on it, and on the position of women. He makes his usual satiric remarks, such as "The Pelew Islands believe that the perforation of the nose is necessary for winning eternal bliss. Europeans think that this end is better attained by wetting the head while pronouncing certain words."

Yet though the book is amusing in spots it was not written for that purpose but is a serious consideration of the whole question of marriage down to the present day.

Experimenting With Artificial Light in Growing of Plants

Experiments in the effect of artificial light on vegetative growth will be carried on this winter by Dr. Margery C. Carlson and Dr. John M. Winter, instructors in botany at Northwestern university, in a new greenhouse just completed on the Evanston campus.

A series of 1000-watt electric lamps will be burned during the night in an effort to build up the reverse strength of certain plants and make them produce roots from cuttings.

Dr. Carlson, while working with two varieties of climbing roses, found that cuttings from one of them produced roots easily, while the other did not. The one which rooted easily also retained its leaves the longest in the fall, indicating it had more reserve strength.

Plants, she explained, are artificial factories which manufacture sugar during the day. If the plant manufactures more sugar than it uses, the reserve supply is stored up. Cuttings from plants with the largest reserve supply have the best chance

of producing roots. As light is required for the accumulation of the excess food materials which give a plant reserve strength, Dr. Carlson hopes to be able to build up this reserve by means of artificial light.

"Plants often do not produce seed," she said, "and the only means of propagating them is by cuttings which will take root. Our problem is how to make everything produce roots. If we find that reserve strength in roses, for example, can be built up by subjecting them to artificial light at night, greenhouse men could take their stock plants and grow them in artificial light in better condition for cuttings."

Dr. Carlson will experiment with roses, while Dr. Winter will use various kinds of trees, principally the apple and pear tree.

In the old days the demagogue used to accuse his opponent of saying that "a dollar a day and a plate of beans was enough for any working man."

In these modern days this would have to be changed to "ten dollars a day and a six-cylinder car," in order to make it sound reasonable.

Town Elections to Be Held Biennially

Hereafter town elections will be held every two years, instead of annually as at present, a new state law becoming effective when voters go to the polls here next April 1.

Township supervisors and assistant supervisors chosen to succeed those whose terms expire in 1930 are to hold office for a term of three years. Their successors, elected in 1933 and every four years thereafter, will hold office for a term of four years. Similarly, the supervisors and assistant supervisors elected in 1931 will be in office four years, which will make town elections in the future on odd number years only.

The township clerk and assessor coming up for election in 1930, will take office for three years.

Practice of holding the town elections every two years will save every township in Lake county considerable money, it is estimated.

The new election law, which was passed by the last general assembly applies to the whole state with the exception of Cook county.

RAYMOND-WHITCOMB

R OUND THE WORLD CRUISE

▲ THE TIME—106 days from New York to New York—weeks shorter than the ordinary world cruise, but with no sacrifice of time ashore. Sails Jan. 21, 1930.

▲ THE CRUISE SHIP—S.S. "Columbus" (32,000 tons) recently North German Lloyd flagship. Her superior speed enables this magnificent liner to shorten appreciably the steaming time between ports.

▲ THE ITINERARY—Eleven days in India—Ceylon—Java—Siam—Peking—Korea—Japan—in all 29 Oriental points, besides Egypt and many other Mediterranean and Pacific ports.

▲ THE RATES—\$2000 and up, with accommodations for 230 members from the minimum rate up to \$3500.

OTHER CRUISES for 1929-1930

West Indies
New Holland-America Line S.S. "Statendam"
December 21 & January 9 (16 days)
January 29 & February 25 (25 days)

Round South America
Cunard S.S. "Samaria"—February 1

Mediterranean
Cunard S.S. "Carinthia"
Winter—Jan. 23 Spring—April 1

North Cape-Russia
S.S. "Carinthia"—June 24
S.S. "Franconia"—June 28

ESCORTED TOURS TO EUROPE VISITING

FOR PASSENGER VIEW AT OBERAMPFER

INDIVIDUAL ARRANGEMENTS

for TRAVEL THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

STEAMSHIP TICKETS ON ALL LINES

AT REGULAR RATES

For booklets and ship plans

Raymond & Whitcomb Co.

176 No. Michigan Ave., Chicago

Tel. State 8615