

# ESTHER GOULD'S TRAVEL CORNER

Due to the fact that this is the beginning of the "open season" for books, Miss Gould is acceding to the publishers' requests to postpone her travel articles for a time and devote herself to book-reviewing.—Ed.

## "MEMORIES AND VAGARIES"

By Axel Munthe  
E. P. Dutton & Co.

Probably no one was more surprised at the overwhelming popularity of Dr. Axel Munthe's first book than Dr. Munthe, himself. That "Story of San Michele" was so obviously a book written for his own amusement, a recalling of the pungent, humorous, touching incidents which had made up his life. It was one of the books which might so easily have been read and intensely enjoyed by a few hundred people and then gone the way that the author probably expected it to go, into oblivion. But, on the contrary, it was one of those books which everyone reads, which spread like an epidemic over the country. It was a good epidemic.

In that book Dr. Munthe rolled out his dough, as it were, and cut his cookie with a lavish hand. What he had left of his life, making up this book written long ago, is undoubtedly the scraps, though they are tasteful scraps.

This book is published now for the first time in America. In his delightful preface Dr. Munthe explains how he came to republish the book. Someone read to him, in his blindness these memories of long ago, and "As I listened with a compassionate smile on my lips to these humble stories, I suddenly felt a pang in my heart and I wished I could write today just such a book as this with all its short-

comings . . . and its unshaken faith. Alas! I shall wish it in vain, it is my youth I wish for!"

You will meet in this book many of the friends of "San Michele," the organ grinder with his monkey, the old dramatist with his latest five-act tragedy under his arm, but above all you meet the author himself, with his incomparable gift for humorous, sympathetic, interested living.

## NEW YORK

By Paul Morand  
Henry Holt & Co.

One hundred thousand people in France, we are told, bought Paul Morand's "New York" immediately upon publication. Evidently the French are curious about us! They are taking their trip to New York vicariously instead of in the more expensive manner in which we go to Paris. But Parisians chose a good guide for their vicarious journey for Paul Morand is an interested sympathetic interpreter of New York. His researches have been indefatigable. From the Battery to Harlem he has gone not once to each place, rushing home to put his half baked impressions on paper, but many times to each place so that he can tell you how Brooklyn Bridge looks by moonlight, at dusk, in winter, in summer, as many of us who would think we know New York well, could not do. We can learn much from the book as well as have a great deal of enjoyment. It should enhance our pleasure in walking up Fifth avenue, shouldn't it, to know that the Island of Manhattan was bought for twenty-six dollars? It should also give us a new respect for the possibilities of real estate.

M. Morand's point of view seems

singularly American. If one did not know, that it was written for Americans by an American. There is, thank goodness, none of that whole-souled wondering superiority with which some Europeans come over to have a look at the animals. Perhaps this is due to the fact that M. Morand, being a renowned traveler, has thrown off the provincialism so marked in the French and become a citizen of the world.

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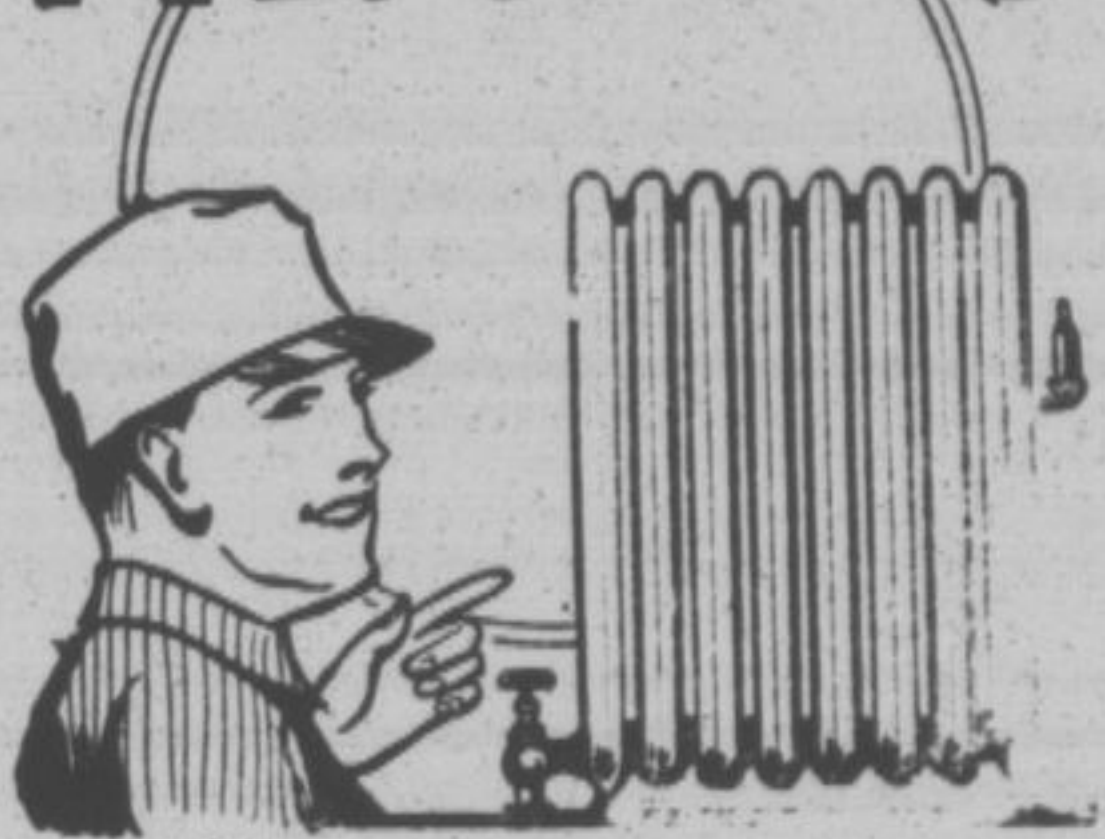
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