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**NEEDLESS MARTYRDOM.
 "RACHEL MOON"**

By Lorna Rea. Harper & Bros.

A year ago appeared the novel "Six Mrs. Greene's," which immediately excited the interest of those who enjoy an excellent example of what we call the "psychological novel." Lorna Rea was marked down as an author to be watched. This second novel of hers, "Rachel Moon" has certainly not disappointed that interest or anticipation.

Instead of, as in her first book, taking a more or less artificial device, which, by the way, she handled with delightful ease, and giving us glimpses into the lives of six characters, Miss Rea has done now the more conventional and more natural thing of following the development of one character, the girl Rachel Moon.

When the book opens Rachel is a girl of eighteen, eager, impetuous, given to extremes, determined, with the high fervor of youth, to set herself an impossible task and to accomplish it. Immediately life gives her an opportunity for such a task. Her mother is stricken with an illness which leaves her absolutely hopeless and probably unconscious, a breathing spell left to drag out four or more long years of living death.

Rachel, with the impetuosity of her nature and of her youth, accepts the challenge. Though there is plenty of money in the family so that the sacrifice is not necessary she ties herself day and night to the care of the invalid. She feels that the other members of her family are false deserters of the one who has made their lives rich in the past; she becomes, against all medical assurances, a fanatical believer in her mother's ultimate recovery. She meets love in the person of Clive, the young scientist, and in the pages of their friendship and love the characters live most truly.

But when the great decision comes—bondage to her life of self-imposed and really fruitless martyrdom, or life and love she chooses the former. Then come dark pages. As someone

Deaf, dumb and blind World war veteran is cured by falling down stairs. Won't somebody please place some banana peelings on the steps of the Capitol at Washington.—Los Angeles Times.

has said tragedy for the onlookers can be purifying and ennobling, but misery is scarcely any of these. It is misery which makes the last pages hard to read. Clive goes away, leaving Rachel to her barren sacrifice, her obstinacy only to be shaken when it is too late.

In the end we see her what such people must always be, unwanted when her work is done, unappreciated, unthanked.

Rachel is a difficult character to portray in such a way as to maintain our sympathy and her reality, though at moments both falter, in the end she emerges from the whole as part of humanity.

**O. BUT THEY WOULD!
 "SOME FOLKS WON'T WORK"**

By Clinch Calkins.
 Harcourt Brace & Co.

"Some Folks Won't Work," though not expressly written in or for this present economic crisis, has a more timely interest because of it. Its author, Clinch Calkins, explains that she has taken her title from the oft reiterated phrase which she hears given as an explanation and justification for the ordinary, always present unemployment.

Her study is designed to show that in most cases this easy theory is unjust, and that the million who are unemployed even in normal or prosperous times are rather victims of some flaw in our industrial system than any idiosyncrasy of their own natures. There is one chapter at the end of the book describing conditions in the "black winter" of 1930, but for the rest the book is made up of case histories of unemployment in normal time, a study of the psychological effect of unemployment, and its possible remedies.

Particularly at this time such a book even for the lay reader is pertinent. Unemployment and its attendant bugbear of insecurity, is certainly one of the problems which capitalist countries must meet in some manner if they are to hold their own against the growing efficiency of communist Russia.

Dr. Abbott of the Smithsonian Institution, who has been studying the variation in the sun's heat, believes that in a short time they will be able to forecast weather conditions months and possibly years in advance.



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