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### ESTHER GOULD'S TRAVEL CORNER



LIFE IN THE SQUARE "THE SQUARE CIRCLE"

> By Denis Mackail. Houghton Mifflin Co.

One's opinion of a new book is influenced necessarily and sometimes for good and sometimes for evil by the book one has just finished readnovel by the Polish writer Ferdynand Goetel, for instance, to come to Denis Mackail's book "The Square Circle" was something like falling from swift small modern monoplane onto a hayrack. Now a hayrack is not a bad place to be but one finds its pace strangely snail-like after a latest of averting the Revolution. But the model aeroplane.

ly nothing about speed. It is a mark made for their making a livelihood of distinct merit in his book that after afterward. Then the disastrous Crimthe first shock of change one is able ean war and the moment in 1880 to adapt oneself to his tempo. He when the whole cry of the people was had done in this novel a rather unique for a constitution. Yet the Tsar turnand interesting thing, given us the ed a deaf ear. Time after time in story of a year in Tiverton Square in the blind obstinacy and futility of London-it could be no place but Lon- these rulers we are reminded of the don-the square which is not square, heartless and prophetic words "After therefore the "square circle."

of wraith-like spectator of the life without giving up any of the autoof the square, with its gardener who cratic privileges and luxuries to which plants the bulbs which never bloom, they had been used-tho in mortal who cuts the grass and paints the pal- fear for their lives much of the time ings, and the residents of the fortythree houses giving on the square. We pass from character to character, from house to house, never staying more than a few pages with any one of them. This is disconcerting when the incredible old regime in Russia. we become interested in a certain one, thinking, "Ha, here is the heroine," but a few paragraphs more and we are swept on around the corner and are finding someone else unrelated, who must after all be the heroine.

There is ample scope for character analysis which Mr. Mackail makes use of with the penetration and humor which he has shown in his other, "Greenery Street" and "The Fortunes of Hugo," for example.

There is in the ephemeralness of ourselves, the spectator, something which suggests Virginia Woolf, tho this is objective rather than subjective as with Mrs. Woolf, and occupies far less importance in the book. Yet in this there is the suggestion, "But we shall get no further, it is clear enough, by standing here and arguing in a circle of our own . . . We must catch our train back to the country, which we were so foolish to leave on this burning, blistering day, and, if we want to learn more about life in Tiverton Square, we must be patient and wait until some, at any rate, of the inhabitants have returned."

"UNDER THREE TSARS"

By Elizabeth Narishkin-Kurakin. E. P. Dutton & Co.

"Under Three Tsars" by Elizabeth Narishkin-Kurakin is, particularly in this period of breathless interest in Russia, a book of great timeliness and interest. The Princess lived a The first the second of the se

long and eventful life, first in the diplomatic circles of European capitals, returning at the end of her girlhood to take the important position in the society of St. Petersburg to which her rank entitled her.

The Princess is singularly fairminded for one who benefitted so greatly by the old regime and had everything to lose by the Revolution. ing. After the stark fast moving She also shows a great deal of political acumen for a woman of that time when women were supposed to be ornaments rather than thinking members of society. She sees how blindly the Tsars made their mistakes, how even as far back as the liberation of the serfs in 1861 there was the chance liberation was only half carried out, Denis Mackail has cared absolute- in that no adequate provision was me, the Deluge." They seemed only We with the author become a sort to want to get through their lives -let the reckoning come after them.

> Those who enjoyed "The Education of a Princess" will find a great deal of enjoyment in this further story of

# IS BEFORE COUNCIL

(Continued from page 6) \$2,200, based on length of service. These salaries and those mentioned below are the same as at present.

One sergeantcy was abolished to make place for an assistant to act in the absence of Chief Edward Moroney. Two new men will be added to the force.

The fire marshall is to receive \$3,-300, da yassistant \$2,800 and night assistant \$2,200. Firemen are to be paid on a sliding scale, from \$1,980 to \$2,100.

Other Salaries

Other salaries provided in the ordinance include: Garbage collector, \$1,-680; building commissioner, \$3,600; health commissioner, \$600; visiting nurse, \$1,800, and moving picture censor, \$1,260.

The board of local improvements considered a recommendation from the corporation counsel that a sidewalk ordinance for route 57, the proposed Skokie highway, be prepared as an evidence of good faith. A motion was passed placing the communication on file.

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