

YOU SHOULD READ THESE

Fiction
Carr, by Phyllis Bentley.
Stranger's Return, by Phil Strong.
Anthony Adverse, by Hervey Allen.
First Wife, by Pearl S. Buck.
Sleepers East, by Frederick Nobel.
Non-Fiction
Arches of the Years, by Halliday Sutherland.
Experiences and Impressions, by A. A. Anderson.
Romantic Exiles, by Edward Hallett Carr.

ONE YEAR IN A GAL
REPORTER'S LIFE
Joan Lowell Writes Her Experiences by Prescott Williams

Again Joan Lowell, author of "Cradle of the Deep" sees fit to burst into print. An "Gal Reporter" (Farrar & Rinehart) she shares, with her large and glib (?) audience, the many adventures which she meets in her year's work as a newspaper reporter for "The Boston Record." Finding herself in the not unique position of being "as broke as the Ten Commandments," "in this year of the abdication of the gold standard," Miss Lowell breaks into the field of journalism under the tender and understanding tutelage of Editor Harry Gray.

As a result of this year of hectic excitement, Joanie, The Scoop-hound, decides to brave the fanfare of adverse criticism which previously laid her so low and to again woo the literary Muse. We thought it unfortunate that, in view of the questioned veracity of "Cradle of the Deep," she chose quite such a wild medium to restore public credulity and faith,—howsoever:

Plunging into a sea of printer's ink entirely ignorant of its individual language and customs, Joan is first relieved to learn that "Slug Miss Lowell" does not mean that she is to suffer a skull fracture from meeting up with a black-jack. This, however, is her first and only bad faux pas and she is soon more than showing up her veteran rivals and presenting her papers with scoop after scoop.

Her assignments carry her to such dangerous corners as an alleged White Slaver's den where she fights for life and honor, to the sweat-

shop ovens her exposures of which lead to threats against her life, to the city's tough taxi-dance halls, through the myriad flop-houses and the associations for unemployment relief.

Undoubtedly, "Gal Reporter" will be widely read. Personally, we got too great a kick out of Corey Ford's travesty "Salt Water Taffy" to ever concern ourselves very strenuously with Joan Lowell.

Diana Patrick, ever popular among the ladies, has a new scintillating novel,—"The Signature of Venus" (Dutton). Carlotta Marion, whose enigmatic smile gives the book its title, is the wife of the highly successful portrait painter, Oliver Ingleby Merion. Oliver's worship of physical beauty convinces Carlotta of its all-important role in life and makes the solution of her own personal problem.—Oliver's infidelity and the threatened loss of her own beauty—all the more poignant. Another to add to your light-reading list.

A GHOST STORY LAID IN
NORTHUMBRIA
Eerie Moors Form Fitting Background

The eerie, wind-swept moors of Northumbria form an appropriate setting for the detective-ghost story, "He Arrived at Dusk," by R. C. Ashby (Macmillan). Country superstition and the staunch belief in the poltergeist make the acceptance of the sinister ghost of Vitellius Gracchus, a centurion of ancient Rome, an easy step for the simple village folk to take. This ghost, with all the supernatural powers at his command, roves through the countryside at dusk committing his deeds of violence, chief among which seem to be the eradication of the family of Barr, an old county family living at the Brock, an ancient, historical residence. All goes well with the ghost's plans until Nurse Winifred Goff summons William Mertoun to appraise the property of the Old Colonel.

Mertoun senses the horror and ominous fatality which overhangs the old mansion and, upon his return to London, recounts his strange

forebodings to Arhman, a Detective-Inspector of Scotland Yard. How they lay low this vengeful spirit and deliver the Barr family from its reign of terror, makes a highly exciting and readable yarn. The entire story is much better written than the average of its kind, especially those descriptive bits which transport the reader to the scene of the misty, rain-soaked, heather moors with their atmosphere of gloomy and brooding melancholy.

"Mistress of Monterey" by Virginia Stivers Bartlett (Bobbs-Merrill) bears up under a very frail plot. The story is laid about the time the Declaration of Independence was signed and in the Province of California which was then under Spanish rule. Graphically the plot might be drawn as a triangle the three corners of which would represent Don Pedro Fages, Spanish governor of California, Ulalia, his wife, and Fray Junipero Serra, head of the church in that province. Don Pedro's love for California, despite its primitiveness, is in constant conflict with Ulalia's wish to return to Mexico and Fray Serra's indomitable missionary zeal. Sorry, but we cannot get very enthused over this one.

SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF THE
ORIENT

The Traffic in Women and Drugs
by Prescott Williams
Material of this nature ordinarily would not be considered for review in these columns, but the subject in general commands special interest as it is included in the agenda of the League of Nations and has been the subject of a special investigation by a commission of experts.

"Cities of Sin" by Hendrik De Leeuw (Harrison Smith and Robert Haas) the result of the authors own researches in the cities of the East which are particularly notorious for their traffic in women. Author De Leeuw does not write to cater to the salacious, minded as so many modern fictioneers apparently do. Naturally, the book is for adult

reading but the treatment of the entire subject is capably and decently done.

One by one, the cess-pools of the Orient are picked apart and the social and religious background carefully analyzed. First comes Yokohama whose segregated district symbolizes that peculiar Japanese sex-theology which is responsible for the geisha girls (the professional entertainers) and the Yoshiwara Juju girls (the national caste of prostitutes). Next come Hongkong and Shanghai whose hundreds of brothels are kept recruited by the nationwide practice of girl-child sales and the depredations of bandits who seize the peasant girls and sell them to the city procurers. From there we travel with the author to the other sink-holes of vice,—Macao, Port Said and Singapore.

After all, the book is written for one definite purpose, i.e.—to arouse the public conscience to the abominable system of traffic in women that spreads over Asia in a veritable web of infamy, and whose victims stand little chance of rescue once they have been drawn in. Local statutes regulating vice are notorious in protecting the degrader and procurer.

In a preface comparing his findings with those of the League of Nations, Mr. De Leeuw states, "It was a source of pleasure indeed to discover that there was little difference in our findings"—"It would seem almost inconceivable that this traveling commission of which one member was a woman, could have penetrated the vicious puritan of civilization"—"It is possible that much information must have come to the investigators by way of official channels, which may have been only too anxious to color the perspective. Yet, the report is a splendid informative document intended like "Cities of Sin" to establish certain salient facts—and to enlighten public opinion."

Cheap politics is always the most expensive to the taxpayer.—Louisville Times.



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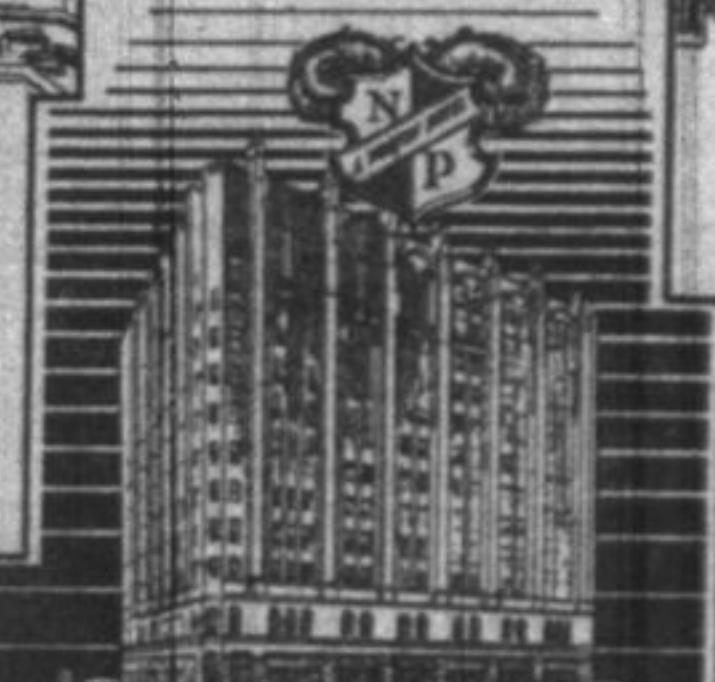


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