

Book Reviews

By John Philip Morris

Let me say at the beginning that I know and believe that Mrs. Edith Wharton is the greatest authoress that America has produced and then admit frankly that I found *THE GLIMPSES OF THE MOON* hard to read.

The story in brief is that of an impecunious but well born couple who all their lives in return for the material things of life have supplied their friends—and they sought friendship only among the very, very richest—with pleasant companionship and those services that are above a valet and below a secretary.

They agree to marry for only as long as the wedding gifts—all checks from the very, very—last. They separate when He develops scruples against playing the game, try to marry others and are drawn back to each other's arms by "love."

Now the well born Mrs. Wharton knows all the inside stuff of the Verys and writes authoritatively of their affairs but I believe that those affairs interest only two classes, the Verys themselves who never read and the shop girls who never read Mrs. Wharton. But I admit that I don't like society novels and therefore probably have an unconscious animus against the book.

Naturally the book is the work of a master craftsman and reveals the hand of the master in the adroit handling of the material and the manner in which she reveals and shifts her shining social stereotypes.

The greatest weakness of *THE GLIMPSES* is its ending. We cannot believe that Susy was content to live happily impecunious ever after and altho Mrs. Wharton leaves the moon all ashine we know that behind the horizon of the back cover the clouds of regret, sorrow and strife are gathering and that their future was bound to be, in the words of Mr. Bodenheim, "A minstrel show of regrets."

We might say brave words of this book were it the work of a lesser hand. It is hardly worthy to come from the pen that gave us the immortal Ethan Frome.

Mr. George Moore thought so well of *VOCATIONS* by Gerald O'Donovan that he induced and recommended its American publication.

Two daughters of an Irish saloon keeper who are barred by the bar from the aristocracy of their Irish town and who have been elevated by their education above their class find that the nunnery is the only outlet offered by custom and environment. Moreover it is solely to this end that they have been dedicated from the cradle by a pious mother who was cheated from this life of piety and poverty by the lack of money.

Once in the convent one sister be-

comes the mistress of a priest while the other promptly revolts and renouncing her vows again seeks the flesh and the devil in the world outside.

It is not a pretty tale, as it portrays the people of the town, the priests and bishops and also the nuns as possessing almost every unpleasant attribute.

Of course such a book would delight Mr. Moore, the hero of so many imaginary combats on the field of love and the victor in so many self-reported battles with those in authority in the church and state.

The book is closely knit and apparently contains many well drawn portraits but somehow I was reminded of those paper bound obscenities purchased near railroad stations and snickered over by those to whom pornography and literature are synonymous. In the year of Grace 1922 this book is not a crime but a blunder.

To many who read the greatest day of the year is that on which McClurg & Co. issue a new volume from the pen of Edgar Rice Burroughs. *THE EARTH'S CORE* is not of the Tarzanian but of the Marzian school and contains all the ingredients that make Mr. Burroughs so irresistible to those who like those fantastic and incredulously delicious fantasies of Mr. Burroughs.

JOHN PHILIP MORRIS.

ABOUT SPOT LIGHTS

The National Safety council recommends that spot lights be installed as high up on the motor car as practicable. It should be impossible to make the center of its beam of light strike the level highway more than fifty feet ahead of the car, except when swung thirty degrees to the right or left of straight line ahead position. The size of lamp used in a spot light should not exceed a rating of 21 candle-power.

FIGHT TYPHOID

An epidemic of typhoid fever at Greenville caused the city council to pass an ordinance which provides for the pasteurization of all milk sold in the city. Chlorination of the city water supply was also ordered, the chlorine to be added to the city water supply in proportions recommended by the State Department of Public Health.

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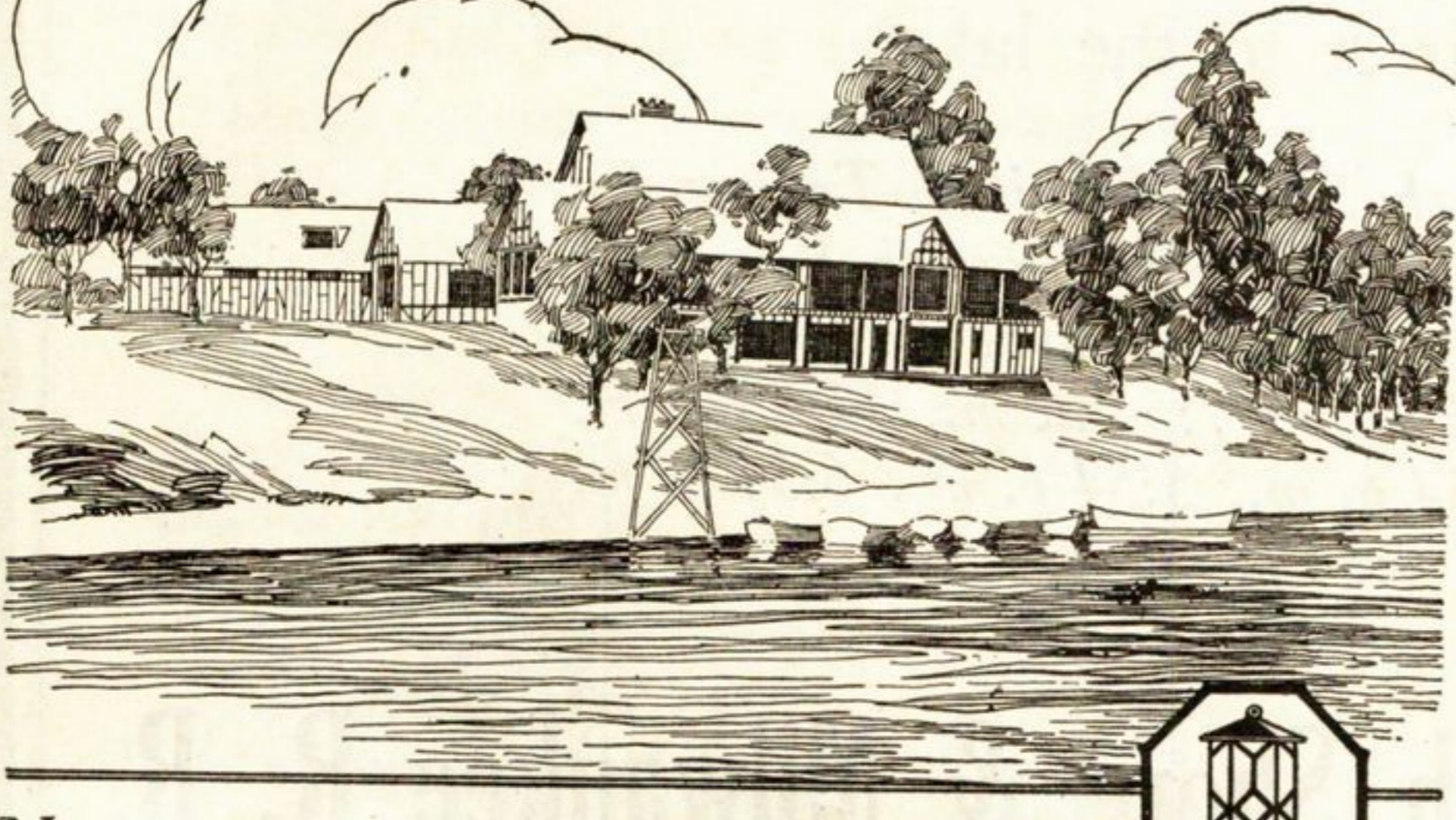
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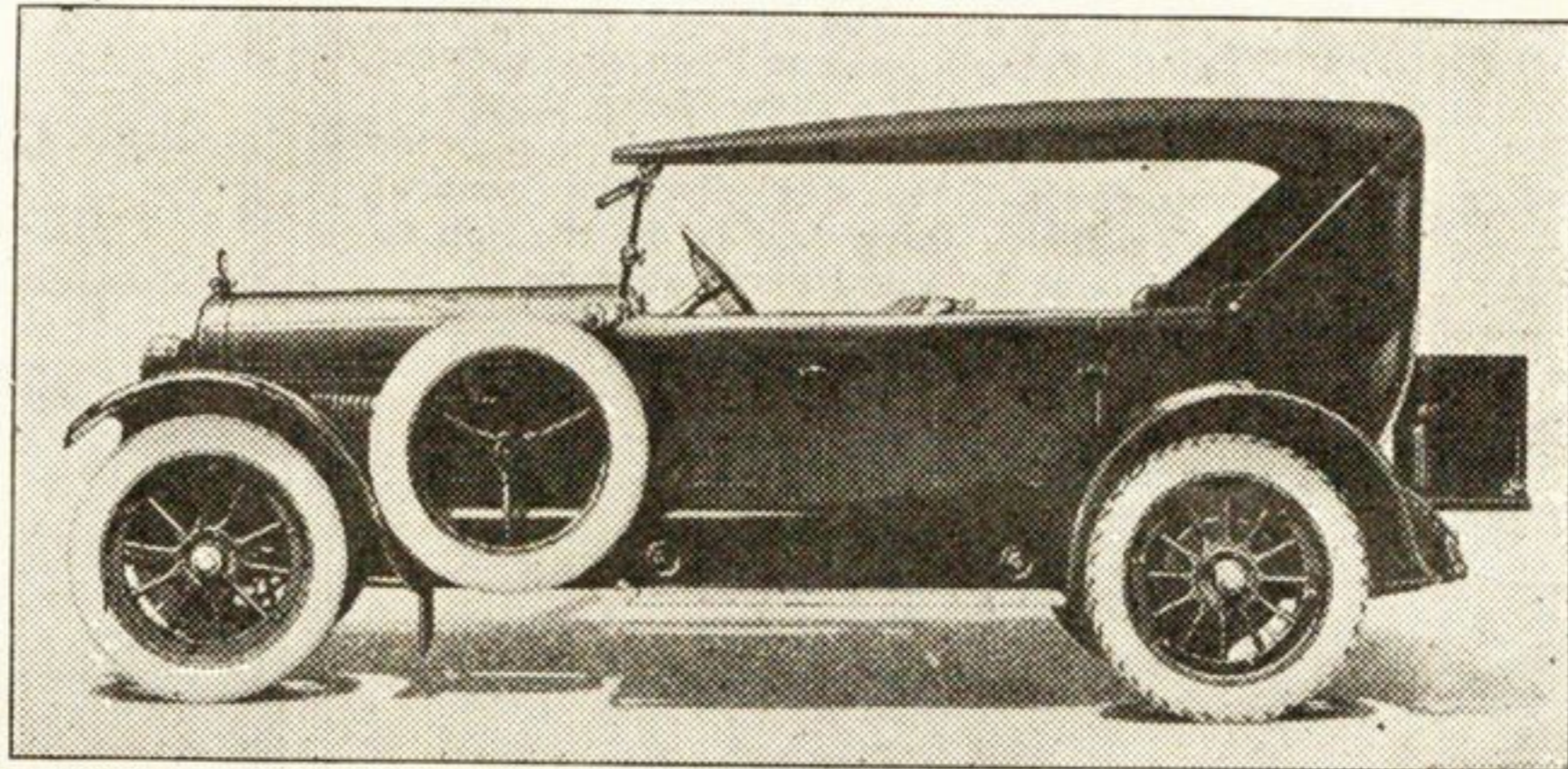
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