Book Reviews

By John Philip Morris

Appreciation and enjoyment that a savage who had just learned to it: read could find any enjoyment in a novel and probably would consider it a meaningless jumble of words.

Each book we read welds another link into the doubly twisted chain of joy and knowledge and soon we begin to find ourselves liking to read about a certain subject or the way in which a certain author expresses himself and so we have discovered STYLE.

Then, logically, we begin pitting the product of one author against that of another and comparing them to the advantage of one and the disadvantage of the other, which is CRITI-CISM.

But we have only a brief lifetime to live out and alas! but little of that, say five hours a day, can ordinarily be spent in reading. Then how to know so as to be able to choose the best?

Mr. William L. Richardson and Mr. Jesse M. Owen have gone a long way towards helping us to solve this problem. Their LITERATURE OF THE WORLD tells in a few hundred pages what best men have written down since authors forsook the carver's chisel for the pen. What Mr. Wells has done for history and what other men are doing for science they have done equally well for literature.

Here is the writing of many lifetimes compressed for you into a week's reading. Here is a chance to acquire the BACKGROUND that will enable you to classify and to rank an author.

Yet again. How many times have I admired some chapter heading or chance sown quotation and tracing it back to its source have had it open up some new avenue of literature. LITERATURE OF THE WORLD is full of such quotations and may open to you some delightful unfrequented byways as well as the broader boulevards of the Masters.

Although disguised as a text book for schools there are none of us who have graduated into the world but can profitably read and study this volume and who will not feel when through that the authors deserve thanks without stint for helping us to a deeper enjoyment of all books through their book.

I know a factory where day after day a workman stands casting little mannikins in a mould. They are funny little figures, distorted caricatures on the human form and yet each one is as regularly alike as they are regularly different from the true likeness of man.

Many, many years ago Mr. W. J. Locke sat down and chiseled with great care and much skill a mould. Then pouring into it the molten metal of his large and unusual vocabulary he exhibited to our gaze one Paragot and of his adventurings he told us in THE BELOVED VAGABOND. It was entertaining, it was something new like the Teddy Bear or the Diabolo and it became deservedly a best seller. Even today it still reads well, and is not dated.

Mr. Locke succeeded so splendidly however, that he has never yet broken the original mould or made another.

The latest casting THE TALE OF TRIONA, could be recognized as coming from the pen of Mr. Locke if it were published by Upton Sinclair under the joint names of Shaw and Shakespeare. There must be a lot of people who read each and every book of Mr. Locke's (liking his style) and to them I cordially recommend Triona.

Its "nippers end in red" but it is the old Locke reliable, the kind you have always bought.

Nom d'un nom, I'm no purist and my spelling is, if possible, worse than my grammar. But if some school teacher reads this won't he or she of write and tell me if this sentence books are indubitably cultivated from D. H. Lawrence's new novel isn't habits and it would seem impossible wrong and what is the matter with

> "Fairly tall and agile, even in his waterproof, he springs aboard a car and greets Annie." Thanks in advance.

> > John Philip Morris.

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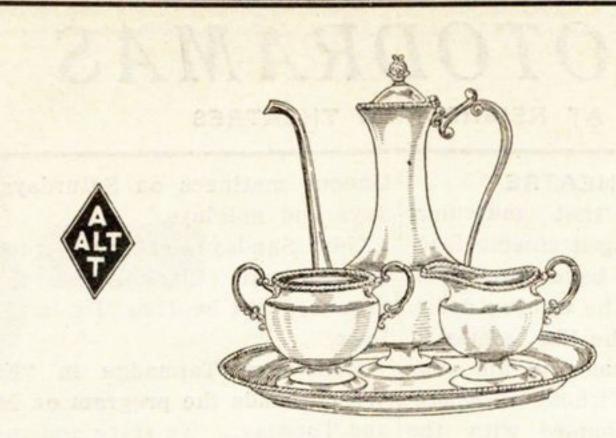
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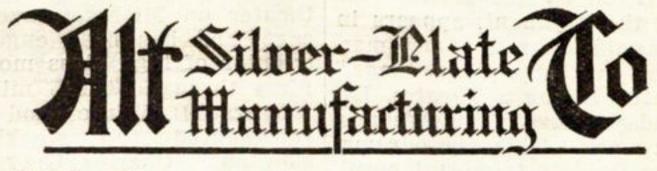
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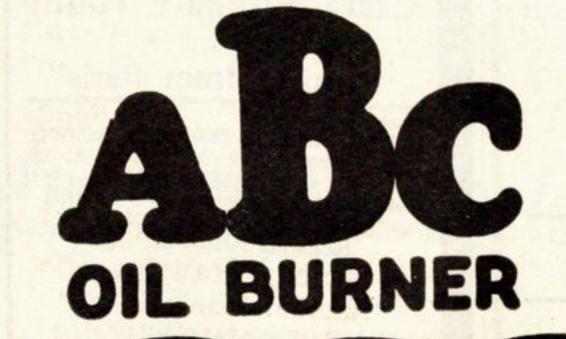
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