

**ABOUT BOOKS AND THE PEOPLE WHO WRITE THEM**  
 Something New from Galsworthy  
**"THE BURNING SPEAR"**

Reviewed by **Ted Robinson**  
*Literary Editor Cleveland Plain Dealer*  
 Galsworthy has now acknowledged the authorship of this satire, which appeared anonymously (and was received coldly) in England toward the end of the war. It is a farcical tale, and yet its farce is packed with shameful truth. Mr. Lavender, the hero, is a pitiful fellow, a ridiculous little gentleman whose efforts to do his part in the cause of the Allies are pathetically futile. He goes about the country making speeches at the most unfortunate times and to the most unappreciated audiences. In these speeches, he is guilty of all the folly and extravagance that were the stock dope of orators and editors during the war. And people believe him mildly insane—but this is the fault of his bad luck rather than of his words, for the latter are literal quotations from his favorite newspapers.

And at last he comes to a vague perception of his own family, and tries to immolate himself upon a pyre consisting of his books and magazines. Even this heroic attempt is characteristically unsuccessful. The Burning Spear is a sort of Modern Quixote; and indeed one of the characters in the book refers to him constantly as "Don Pickwixote." His chauffeur is Sancho Panza, a character whose crude but refreshing common sense makes a delightful contrast to Mr. Lavender's bosh.

The author says, in his preface: "The fighting that was done with words often seemed to drag our cause down, and to blur rather than to sharpen its reality."

I do not believe it was necessary to 'dope' and 'gas' in my country. I believe the Management underrated the qualities of the Public, as it almost always does."

**"THE DECADENCE OF EUROPE"**

By **Francesco Nitti**  
 Ex-Premier Nitti of Italy, in this rather sour-tempered book, blames France's ruthless post-war policy for the sorry condition of Europe. He damns the peace treaties, the Reparations Commission, the League of Nations and the occupation of Germany, and insists that the aim of France is to destroy Germany. The intimation that France has used barbarous colored troops in the German occupation pops up insistently throughout the argument.

While the author praises the United States for shunning the League, he urges this country, for whose especial benefit he has written this book, to intervene to stabilize Europe. He proposes "a general cancellation of the debts and reparations of the victors and the vanquished" and "an immediate renunciation of all military occupations and of the control of the internal affairs" of the defeated nations. The sugar-coat the cancellation-of-debts pill, the American reader is reminded that this country's industries would benefit from an increased demand on the part of a revitalized Europe.

**"THE VOICE FROM THE VOID"**

By **William Le Queaux**  
 We knew that someone would build a mystery story around the radio one of these days, and William Le Queaux has

done it. The mysterious energy that flits through the air, the mountains, the buildings, to our quivering ear-drums, bringing us tidings of the latest news of Peter Rabbit, was too tempting a medium to be overlooked. The trouble is that in our humble opinion Mr. Le Queaux has not made a signal success of his effort.

The limitless possibilities of radio as a motive power for stories of mystery would, it seems to us, offer no excuse for a bad piece of work. With such a mine of new material to work on the writer of tales of crime should turn out something really brilliantly new. But "The Voice From the Void" offers nothing that can be called outstanding, and the mystery itself is badly involved and nebulous. The hero's rescue is supposed to be accomplished by radio—when as a matter of fact it depends on a letter tossed into a river and delivered by accident to its destination! Radio, as far as we could discover, had nothing whatever to do with the mystery except that occasionally characters would use it in lieu of the telephone.

We think that a real mystery story can be built around radio; but such has not been accomplished yet. We rather think we'll have to do it ourselves; as Mark Twain said when asked to settle the question of divine right of Kings, we might as well; we haven't anything much to do this summer anyway.

—F. Gregory Hartwick

**TARZAN AGAIN**  
**"TARZAN AND THE GOLDEN LION"**

By **Edgar Rice Burroughs**  
 Fairy tales for grown ups. That is what the Tarzan tales really are. But they are made so plausible, present such series of romantic adventures and are so filled with exciting action, that the father eats it up with all the avidity that his son devours Andrew Lang.

No previous volume in the series is more entertaining than the present one. The fortune of Tarzan having been all but wiped out by the World's War, he undertakes another trip to the gold mines of the hidden city of Opar, which is full of peril. It happens that, at the same time, an expedition of four exceptionally heavy villains led by an adventurer is bound on the same mission. One of the villains impersonates Tarzan and causes all kinds of misunderstandings and disasters.

Sharing with Tarzan the spot light is the mighty golden lion which he has reared and trained from cubhood so that he has all the affection and devotion of a dog. He earns his place on the title page.

James Walter Doughty.

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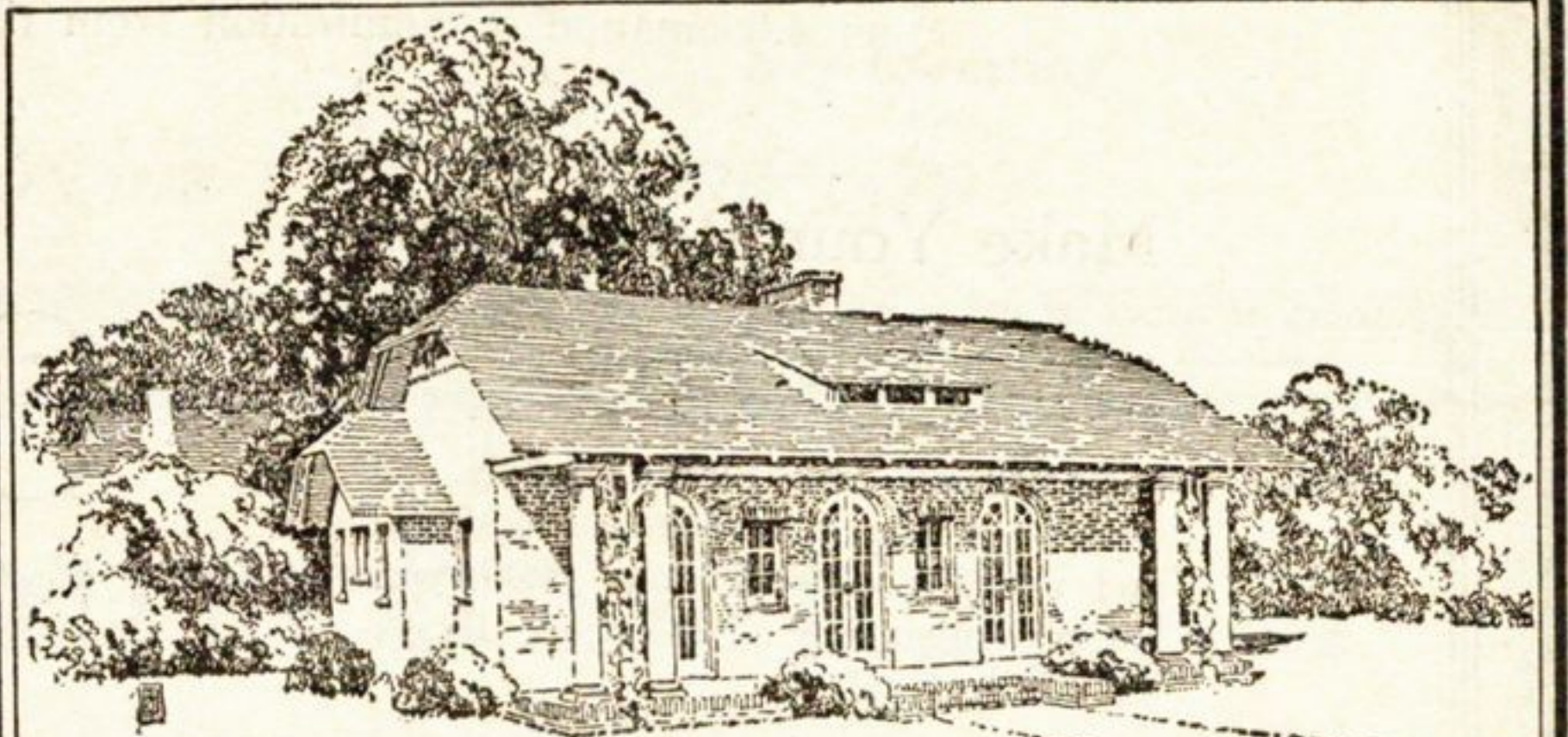
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