



"THINGS THAT HAVE INTERESTED ME"

By Arnold Bennett
Reviewed by Thomas L. Ford
Literary Editor, The Los Angeles Times

This is a volume which Aunt Dinah would have described as "a gran' clarin' up" of random articles, a thrifty utilization of literary odds and ends in the making of a book for trans-Atlantic consumption.

The first "Thing" chronicled is a human object of thought, known to fame as W. H. R. Rivers, one-time well-beloved director of studies at Cambridge University. The classification of this honored gentleman as a thing among other things, carries no intention of belittlement, being merely one of the eccentricities of Mr. Bennett's coruscating genius.

A number of the columnist productions of this volume treat of theatrical matters including a careful and playful analysis of managers of actors, actresses, playwrights, critics, finances, and audiences. The conclusion of the whole matter is the profound discovery that, in a financial sense, at least, the audience is the thing.

This audience, undemonstrative, hostile to anything new, too easily satisfied with the mediocre, with no sensitive appreciation of beauty and lacking in artistic keenness, is to be pleased. For it is absolute monarch. So Mr. Bennett says, with his usual common sense; "I should as soon dream of finding fault with the law of gravity as with the public."

The best thing in the book is the clarifying review of James Joyce's "Ulysses." Mr. Bennett sees its every merit, but sees also its oblique and partial visualization of life.

Stones in a Life's Pathway
"STONECROP" By Cecile Tormay

Stonecrop is the story of the dawning girlhood of Yella, a Croation peasant girl, her swift elemental desires and actions standing out pure and relevant against the background of the wild rock-filled mountains where she lives. The tragedy moves slowly, compellingly, arising from the natural coercion and self destruction of the instincts mankind has within itself. Like the harsh mountains over which she wandered and felt herself a part, Yella's life was sown with stones, and reaped stones for its harvest. Daughter of a mother who for her passionate beauty had been coveted by all the men of the mountain village, Yella fought constantly the assumption that she would be as easy a conquest as her willing and desirable mother. Terrified and revolted by the strange lust of Davorin a peasant boy, Yella marries an old man who lives as a hermit, and who lets her wander at her will among her beloved mountains. The story of her love for Andras Rex, a man from the plains, and his desertion of her, is told with a restraint and simplicity which remind one of Sudermann, and of the modern Scandinavian writers.

Miss Tormay is a writer of profound understanding and of rare technical skill. The stark simplicity of her style is well adapted to set forth life as she sees it, as a game in which the players inevitably lose, but in which they may discover terrible beauty on their road to destruction.

— Helen M. Dick.

A New Jane Austen Discovery
"THE WATSONS" By Jane Austen

More than a hundred years ago Jane Austen planned and started this novel, but she laid it aside, unfinished. Now, in 1923, it comes to the public, concluded by Miss Oulton. The book opens delightfully, in a small English town, where the talk is of the assemblies, and eligible men of the neighborhood, and where the daughters of the family are all frankly looking for husbands. Emma, the almost-too-sweet heroine of the tale, is handicapped by her sisters and the low social status of her family, but her beaux are many; even a lord follows her footsteps.

It is to be regretted that Jane Austen never finished this book. There is much material here, many interesting people: Tom Musgrave, the charming, philandering, social climber; Lady Osborne; even Emma's sisters, the good-natured Elizabeth and the sharp-voiced Margaret; but they are not complete, well-rounded characters. There are many loose ends, threads of plot barely touched upon, as the love story of Lady Osborne. When I finished the book, my first reaction was to go to the book case and take out "Pride and Prejudice," for "The Watsons" had recalled to me Jane Austen's charm, and I wanted to see her at her best.

Dorothy S. Phillips.
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MONROE THEATRE OPEN THIS WEEK

"Silent Command" Seen at
New Fox Picture House

Announcing a show policy of first-run motion picture presentations for indeterminate engagements, William Fox will open his new Monroe theatre, formerly Barbee's Loop theatre, Friday of this week with "The Silent Command," a J. Gordon Edward's production which is said to be one of the most stupendous and thrilling pictures on the Fox 1923 schedule of releases.

One hundred thousand dollars has been spent to improve the Monroe and Dearborn street house since Mr. Fox acquired it under a long term lease three months ago and Mr. John Zanft, the Director in General of the William Fox circuit of theatres, gives assurance that in artistic appearance and entertainment policy it will rank high among the Chicago photoplay theatres.

Many Improvements
A large force of workmen have devoted the greater part of the three months to enlarging the seating capacity of the Monroe, erecting a marquee over the entrance and other improvements. The entire interior of the theater has been redecorated and many innovations have been made with a view to the comfort and safety of the audiences. The booth equip-

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ment in the lobby has been improved and rest rooms and a cosmetic room have been added to the accommodations for women.

Elaborate electrical equipment for lighting and motion picture projection has been installed in the theater, necessitating a special feed for electricity. Harry Greenman, the manager, has assembled a corps of efficient ushers and has put them through a course of training in efficiency and courtesy to do away with the annoying confusion in seating audiences which is evident in so many theatres.

Story Of High Seas

When arrangements for the opening of the new theater were completed, Mr. Fox faced the necessity of deciding upon a production with which to christen the latest link in his chain of more than fifty theaters. With Winfield Sheehan, general manager of the Fox Film corporation, he se-

lected "The Silent Command," a compelling story of love, intrigue and the seas, written by Rufus King. Anthony Paul Kelly was responsible for the scenario which, it is said, will help put the production among the biggest of the year. In the cast of "The Silent Command" are Edmund

Lowe, Betty Jewell, Martha Mansfield, Alma Tell, Florence Martin, Bela Lugosi and many others.

Mr. Guy Osborn, Jr., 330 Cumnor road, has gone for a two weeks' vacation in the North Woods, near State Line.

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