

Esther Boula's Book Corner

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF OSCAR WILDE
Cosmopolitan Book Corporation.

Time is a wondrous thing. One dies. There is a flash, a flurry, and a great quietness in which time begins to do its work.

Then in a few years men find themselves looking directly at the departed man's accomplishment whatever it may be. As on hazy days one finds oneself looking directly at the sun. The haze does not obscure the sun, it is the rays, the light, which blind one's eyes which are obscured. So it is with the personality, the colour, the life of the artist who dies—time obscures all that, his work remains.

The reawakened and constantly growing interest in Oscar Wilde's works is proven by the increasing number of new editions which we find. The latest complete edition which the Cosmopolitan Book Corporation has brought out contains in addition the only thing which their other editions have not contained, the "De Profundis." This five volume set of Wilde, exquisitely clothed in lavender limp leather, is an ideal gift set—if you can part with it!

There are the "Plays of Wilde" those brilliant flashing things for which he is perhaps best known. "Lady Windermere's Fan" with its acrobatic words, "Salome" with its menacing poetry.

"The Novels and Fairy Tales," the best known of them the brilliant "Picture of Dorian Gray," the pitiful "Birthday of the Infanta."

"The Poems of Oscar Wilde" the rather formal early ones overshadowed by the great sincerity of "The Ballad of Reading Gaol" and that sonnet which is so like a sigh, "Helas."

"The Essays of Oscar Wilde" with their caustic comment on books and authors, dress reform and dishes.

"The Prose of Oscar Wilde" with its satire and paradox.

There is a satisfaction in having the complete works of an author. It is indeed having "the last word."

"Shackled" of that class which is long short stories or short long stories, is a tale of modern Algiers. Its chief claim to fame is its style, which like its length, is in the borderland between good and bad. It aims to create an atmosphere, an atmosphere which is inseparable from our idea of Algiers whether we are reading a "Round the World Cruise" poster or looking at the latest artist's conception of "Midnight in Algiers." It is a thing of wide desert spaces, of burning sands quenched by velvet night—the velvet night pierced again by glittering stars.

Sometimes we have it truly and with a certain freshness: "The noises of the outer world seemed far away. There was, after a while, just a memory of street cries lifting their hungry starved arms; just a murmur of whispering desert wind chasing the morning clouds that clung at the sun's gold with cool, slim fingers of white and silver." Or "Not a blind quivered. Not a glimmer stabbed through the wooden gratings. There was not a sound. Life seemed hidden away secretly; barred behind the veil of Islam. There was not even a rag of wind fluttering, sighing."

Then with a shattering sound the illusion is broken by words which strive too hard to be effective. "He skirted the edge of a cemetery where the graves dreamed with cluttered brittle emblems . . . and out on the desert's rim a

screen of palm trees leaning against the sky's base with lanky nostalgic arms; arrived at his house that reached out at him suddenly from the tangle of the hectic, encroaching bazaars, opened the gate as morning was beginning to boom on the horizon with a golden, staccato, wedge-like gesture. "Nostalgic," "stabbed," "livid," "hectic," are good in their place, but like sharp tools they should be handled carefully.

The plot, interspersed with paragraphs of curses on each other's heads, is slight; a proud though starving Shareef, his losing fight with life, his beautiful daughter who leaves him to marry a holy man, "desert rat" as his father-in-law picturesquely styles him.

If the style were very much better we would call this a work of art, if the story were very much stronger we would call it a good novel.

At The Movies

HOWARD

Agnes Ayres comes to the Howard theater Sunday in "Wordly Goods," the screen version of Sophie Kerr's story. Pat O'Malley, Victor Varconi and Edythe Chapman head the supporting cast. The production is a modern matrimonial farce. An automobile salesman sells himself to the girl he loves on "talk" and through luck his "sales talk" comes true.

Vanna Du Maurier, a great actress whose wishes have never been balked, is determined that her advancing age, should not interfere with her lifelong ambition to own her own theater and continue in pursuit of her art. So she regains her lost youth by a delicate operation in Vienna, and under what cost can be seen in "Vanity's Price," which will be at the Howard theater Monday, Tuesday and

There is a ruthless tearing aside of the veils from human life in this "The Uncertain Feast," by Solita Solan. Newspaper man, successful, envied by his old companions, finds his marriage and indeed his life, an "uncertain feast." It is essentially an American story, Daniel Geer is an American man.

G. P. Putnam's Sons
New York City

What They Are Saying About The Widow's House

By Kathleen Coyle

The N. Y. Times: "In her mastery of focus—as well as in her power of conveying poignancy, Kathleen Coyle stands high. She is mistress of the drama of souls."

The Boston Herald: "As a work of characterization and for the high quality of its style it marks Miss Coyle as a candidate for the first group among contemporary English novelists."

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Wednesday featuring Anna Q. Nilsson and Stuart Holmes.

A timid young man who, on his first adventure in the world of men, encounters tragedy, love, hate, vengeance, fear and courage beyond his wildest dreams. That's Charles Ray in "Dynamite Smith," which will be the attraction at the Howard theater, matinee and evening of Thanksgiving. Jacqueline Logan and Wallace Beery are in the supporting cast. "Manhattan," Richard Dix's first picture as head of his own company, is a tale of a wealthy young New Yorker who is left millions and finds the teas, dancers and routine calls of his social set dull. He hies into the center of gangland and gets into mixups that finally end with the New Yorker winning the sister of one of the gang. "Manhattan" will be shown at the Howard Friday and Saturday.

By EMANIE N. SACHS
TALK

"You will be cheating yourself of some great reading if you miss 'Talk'" says John V. A. Weaver

HARPER & BROTHERS
Publishers

A Nation-Wide Best Seller
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By Mary E. Waller
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TWENTY YEARS AGO

Twenty years ago the Bell Telephone System, with much trepidation, tried out one of the new "horseless carriages." Now the motor fleet of the Bell System comprises more than 9,000 cars and trucks, and new tires have to be purchased on the average of one for every three minutes.

Telephone companies in the United States employ 190,000 telephone operators. In addition, thousands of telephone operators are employed by

large business houses, banks and hotels.

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OUR obligation as a public utility requires that we make every effort to furnish service to all who apply. In doing this we constantly add to the value of our service to old subscribers by extending their range of communication. Cost levels to-day are much higher than in the past and result in more expensive plant construction, thus increasing our average capital investment per telephone, upon which a fair return in interest and dividends must be earned.

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