"STRAWS AND PRAYER-BOOKS" By James Branch Cabell Robert M. McBride & Co.

What are we to make of Mr. Cabell's epilogue to the great Biography of which we cannot bear to think as being ended? He has for so long been laughing at us. has he at last decided to talk to us seriously as man to man, or he is laughing harder than ever? Like Mr. Shaw in the epilogue, of "St. Joan," is he saying "Now children, you are so stupid that of course you have missed the point to all this so I shall proceed to tell it to you"? Or is he merely blowing more bright hued bubbles for us to watch, and perchance to burst? Alas, only Mr. Cabell can answer this.

So, be that as it may, Mr. Cabell has written a most depressing and delightful book. He announces on page 3, that romance is all that makes life bearable. It is thanks to the maze of romance, written and unwritten, that surrounds us that "Nobody really needs to notice how The Cock, the Mouse and the Little most of us, in unimportant fact, approach death through gray and monotonous corridors." There is no hope in reality since man's knowledge and theories of Round the Year in Pudding Lane, Adlife "are comparable, let us say, to the knowledge which a fly in a dining car possesses as to the management of railways."

But the creative romanticist alone can really escape the workaday world which is so abhorrent. And so mindful only of his own pleasure, Mr. Cabell has created for himself a world in which he can be happy. And in that world he has made no concessions to the useless Professor How Could You, Harry Leon world of facts. "Man is, they say, the only animal that has reason, and so he must have also, if he is to stay sane, diversion to prevent his using it." And so he plays as do infants with straws and old men with prayer-books, but the My Dear Cornelia, Stuart P. Sherman. literary artist plays with "Common sense and piety-and death."

Of course you have not believed a so Big, Edna Ferber. word of all this, but do remember one The Little French Girl, Anne Douglas thing and that is, Mr. Cabell has learned the secret of beautiful writing and of diversion.

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The professor enters a neighbor's house, left empty for a few weeks and camps there abashed at his own daring, yet enjoying his delightful freedom. After a few days he accidentally sets the house on fire and is forced to make a

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hasty exit, disguising himself through the town as an advertising "sandwich

And the fun is only started. Piloted by "Sooner Jackson" whose middle name he informs the Professor is "calamity" our hero reincarnated as "Addison Simms" begins adventures in which he learns among many things to "live his own life." One thing he cannot learn, however, is to use the slang which is to be part of his disguise. He thinks that "Sap" is a word for "gentleman," and we hear him saying to the departing Jackson "I'll be a perfect sap while you are gone." We know that he speaks

"BOOKS AND GIFTS THAT LIVE FOREVER" The following books are enthusias-

tically recommended by Esther Gould's Book Corner: For the Children 4-6 years.

Story of Little Black Sambo, Banner-Bojabi Tree, Rickert. Red Hen, Lefevre.

The Little Mother Goose. 6-9 years. Posy Ring, Wiggin and Smith. dington. The Friends of Diggedy Dan, Norwood,

The Story of Mrs. Tubbs, Lofting. 9-12 years. Kari the Elephant, Murkerji. Hari the Jungle Lad, Mukerji

Men of Iron, Pyle. Katrinka, Haskell. 12-14 years.

Spirit of the Leader, Heyliger. Boy's Life of Edison, Meadowcroft. Boy's Life of Mark Twain, Paine. For the Tired Business Man: Wilson. The Enchanted Hill, Peter B. Kyne.

Rugged Water, Joseph C. Lincoln. Love and Learn, H. C. Witwer. For the Slightly Serious: Passage to India, E. M. Forster. A Gallery, Phillip Guedalla. Voyaging, Rockwell Kent.

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monogrammed in colors, very smartly,

with two initials, and come three in a box at \$3.50, or individually at \$1.25

each. Some of them have cut work

around the initial, there are dozens of

styles, and all were personally selected

abroad by the Hub's own representa-

tives. Now, can you think of anything

Hand Bags from a Smart Shop

which is really the important subject

after all, isn't it, probably as nice a

gift as anyone could select is a handsome hand bag. We all want them,

don't we-and, after all, it isn't easy

to find the really elegant sort. Yet at

the smart Taylor shop, 28 East Ran-

dolph St., the newest and most charm-

ing sort of bags are always to be

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selection easier, two especially good styles are being shown—the capacious

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ing from \$3.50 to \$30. Ah yes, very

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joy to have a new fur coat for the

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gift, and if furs have to be reduced

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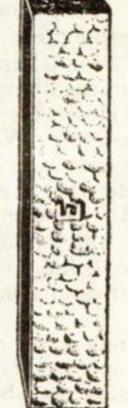
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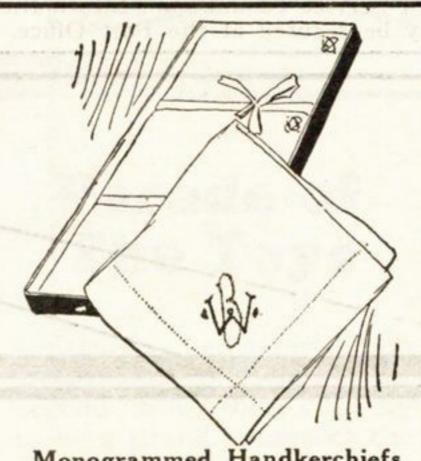
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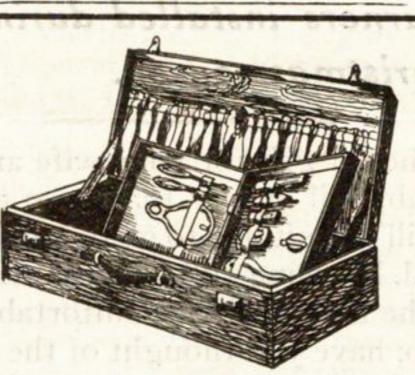
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