

Esther Gould's Book Corner

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More About China

"THE SOUL OF CHINA"
By Louise Jordan Miln
Frederick A. Stokes Co.

There comes in publishing about December a pause in the year's production. The breathing, breath-taking moment before the trapeze swings over once more into its full round. Then with the first of the year come the beginning of the "spring publications." Among the earliest of these, in fact as early as one could be on January 2, comes a Louise Jordan Miln book of short stories entitled "The Soul of China."

In its Chinese yellow cover it speaks of China without and within. Mrs. Miln's mission in the literary field is to describe and to some extent interpret China to the American and English world. This she does very ably and in a manner that her audience can understand. She has not the delicate strokes which one unconsciously associates with Chinese art, but if she had she would speak in a limited edition to a still more limited audience. There is no great art in her writing but there is knowledge and understanding!

The form of the short story seems a more happy mode of writing for Mrs. Miln than the novel, for it releases her from the necessity of a complicated plot. Her last book for instance, "In a Shantung Garden," carried with it a number of Americans and Japanese and gold mines over which they were fighting. Here we have mainly just glimpses of Chinese life with its strange customs and fascinations.

There is the "Weeping Willow," the tiny Chinese girl who for love of her father sacrifices the man she loves and a life of ease and riches. For his sake she speaks thus of them: "It dazzles me—the days of idleness and music, the food bowls piled with strange foods, maids to serve me, furs for winter times, gauze to wear, perfumed fans to wave, melons to eat every day in the hot flower time. It dazzled me, O Honorable one. But there alone on my quilt I saw it—as it would be in living it. I fear it. I like it not. What have I with idleness and slave girls, high city walls to stifle me, locked court-yards to bolt me from all that has joyed me always?"

We have the dashing bandit of China "Feng Afoochow" who carries off "Maiden O' Pearl" to be his faithful wife both in this world and hereafter. And the comic Chinaman who for expediency's sake proposes to the New England old maid and rather overdoes it. "O dearest Amelia, I adore you. My sweet singing frog. O my darling be my Number Four Wife!"

On the whole there is more to be read and thought of China in this book than in the other books of Mrs. Miln.

A Gossip Fest

"UNCENSORED RECOLLECTIONS"
Anonymous
J. B. Lippincott

Yet gossip is but gossip the world over. If you care vitally that Mrs. Jones never would be civil to Mrs. Brown because of Mrs. Brown's second cousin cheated at cards when Mrs. Jones was playing; or that Mr. Green was a wild youth at college and his sister married for money, then joyfully put on your spectacles and draw up to the fire for a full evening. Change the names to "Lord Blank" and "Lady Blunder" and the offense to one compatible with the wicked and wilful days of the Second Empire in France and multiply it by 328 pages you have "Uncensored Recollections."

The anonymous author has, to be sure, a fluent pen, but one that is often too fluent to keep in check. It trips up one story to tell another, so that it is sometimes, indeed, to use a hackneyed phrase a "crossword puzzle."

But our real quarrel is that we are expected to know so much more than we do know. And that is always humiliating, even though it might necessitate many more years than we would care to claim. "People conversant with the social matters of that time, and who can read between the lines will understand to what I allude." Now we aren't conversant with the social matters of that time and we can't read between the lines about the disgrace concerning George Sheffield and Lord Lyons, and so we can merely rage.

Margot Asquith did the same sort of thing, perhaps with a little more venom, certainly with more literary ability. But she had the inestimable advantage of speaking of people with whom we were "conversant" so that what very small amount was left for us to read between the lines we could at least make an attempt at reading.

The "Recollections" give a vivid picture of the slight morals of the age for that is what gossip is meant for. The author is undoubtedly qualified to speak having been familiar with most of the crowned and titled heads of

Europe in his time, and he has given us a masculine equivalent of Margot's "Knees I Have Sat Upon." But, alas, since so few of us are now conversant with that time we fear the book is about twenty-five years late.

Income Tax Facts

Income Tax in a Nut-Shell
WHO? Single persons who had net income of \$1,000 or more or gross income of \$5,000 or more, and married couples who had net income of \$2,500 or more or gross income of \$5,000 or more must file returns.

WHEN? The filing period is from January 1 to March 15, 1925.

WHERE? Collector of internal revenue for the district in which the person lives or has his principal place of business.

HOW? Instructions on Form 1040A and Form 1040; also the law and regulations.

WHAT? Two percent normal tax on the first \$4,000 of net income in excess of the personal exemptions and credits. Four percent normal tax on the next \$4,000. Six per cent normal tax on the balance of net income. Surtax on net income in excess of \$10,000.

Your income tax for the year 1924 is less, in proportion to your income than was the tax of 1923. A rate reduction, however, is not the only benefit afforded by the revenue act of 1924. Increase in the exemption for married persons, a 25 per cent reduction on "earned income," and other changes in revenue legislation are of immediate interest to every taxpayer.

The revenue act of 1924 requires that returns be filed by every single person whose net income for 1924 was \$1,000 or more, and by every married couple whose aggregate net income was \$2,500 or more, or whose aggregate gross income was \$5,000 or more. Last year returns were required of married couples whose aggregate net income was \$2,000 or more. Husband and wife, living together, may include the income of each in a single joint return, or each may file a separate return showing the income of each. Net income is gross income less certain specified reductions for business expenses, losses, bad debts, contributions, etc.

The period for filing returns is from January 1 to March 15, 1925. The return, accompanied by at least one-fourth of the amount of the tax due, must be filed with the collector of internal revenue for the district in which the taxpayer has his legal residence or has his principal place of business.

Kenneth Harlan has been signed to play the leading male role opposite Bebe Daniels in her next Paramount picture, "The Crowded Hour." It will be produced at the Long Island Studio.

and another Guedalla Book

A GALLERY

By Philip Guedalla

Close upon the heels of that sparkling gem, SUPERS AND SUPERMEN, is issued this new book, the best, according to some, that Guedalla has written. It includes pictures of Anatole France, Thomas Hardy, Bernard Shaw, Hugh Cecil, Marcel Proust, the Empress Eugenie, Lady Palmerston and a score of others who have made the history of literature and politics. \$2.50

G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS

New York City

A Striking Book from the Far East
THE MOST FAMOUS BEAUTY OF CHINA

By Sh-Chiung

A Chinese authoress in this unique volume tells the story of a famous beauty of old China, who won an Empire, by reason of her beauty and lost it for love. Illustrated in color and black and white by a Chinese artist. \$2.00

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D. APPLETON AND COMPANY
35 West 32d St., New York

An authoritative book about the animals of the circus menagerie
LIONS 'N' TIGERS 'N' EVERYTHING
By Courtney Ryley Cooper
A new book about the gilded jungle—the city of circus cages where the captive wild beasts spend their days. Here are tales of apes and monkeys, of lions and tigers and leopards and elephants—of animals that remembered, and men who forgot. \$2.00 at all booksellers.
LITTLE BROWN & CO.
Boston Publishers

SEEN IN THE CITY

Where to Dine, Shop, Rest, etc.

For further information concerning any of these shops communicate with Blanche Mason

Nip and tuck—nip in the air and surprised little tuck that it makes us take in our breath—nip and tuck we hasten on into January. Whither are we bound, we who fly about so cheerfully, skidding over treacherous islands of ice, luffing ignominiously around the edges of a vicious gale? Is it the waning season, the waxing daylight, or a steaming cup of tea that lures us on? Ah, none of these. At least not just now.

The Golden State Limited—To California

No doubt you heard about the Carnival of Roses—heard about it, shrugged, sighed and turned away. That's the way we do, who plan to spend the winter in the north. Carnival! Roses! Pooh! Probably there isn't any such thing! Yet in California the roses are veritably blooming today. In California Christmas poinsettias grow right out in the garden, just as naturally as anything, and oranges are hanging golden on the orange trees and happy people are probably this very minute standing up on the seats of their parked automobiles, stamping and shouting as the polo teams sweep down the polo fields. The playground of the nation—that's California!

As for you, don't you take any interest at all in playgrounds? As the Northwest blows don't you long for balmy breezes, for sunshine that penetrates, for blue oceans and white sands and living turf? All waiting just around the corner, in California. Once upon a time it used to be something of an effort to cross the continent. But no longer! Today you simply step onto a train—the Golden State Limited, for instance—a train not unlike a splendid rolling hotel, settle down in comfort and leave the winter behind. By tomorrow the weather is mild, for you are moving southward. And then come plains, wild, free and extremely beautiful. And then, almost before you know it, mountains—cities—and the sea.

The Rock Island route is best for several reasons—because it is short, takes you directly south and passes through magnificent country. It avoids the altitudes that disturb delicate persons. And on the Golden State Limited the service is superlative. Shower baths! Barbers! Ladies' lounges! Observation cars! As for the fare, it's much less than you might suppose. For details inquire at 179 West Jackson Blvd. or in room 723 of the La Salle St. Station.

Taylor-Made Trunks

And speaking of going south, of course you'll need a trunk. At Taylor's, 28 East Randolph St., you can get a beauty for \$50 or thereabouts. Yes, wardrobe trunk of course. And made to wear indefinitely. I remember once having seen a circus elephant standing on a Taylor-made wardrobe trunk. You see, they're used a great deal by theatrical people because they will stand an endless amount of knocking about. I shouldn't want to stand an elephant on some of the trunks I've seen. But Taylor-made trunks are different—they really are. Fitted with every convenience inside, too—hat box, laundry bag, etc. Prices range from \$50, \$60 and \$67.50 up.

Hats—to Order

Before you go you'll need a new hat or two, won't you? Well, do try Ada McClellan, at 332 in the Republic Bldg. Mrs. McClellan used to be with Henri Bendel in New York. And she makes hats to order out of the very finest materials. I don't know anyone in the city who does work quite like Mrs. McClellan's. Here tailored felts remind me of the ones shown in the better shops of Paris. And her evening models are a dream of loveliness. She imports her own felts and laces from Italy, her plumes from Paris and her other supplies from New York.

Gowns for Southern Wear

Gowns for southern wear will be found in profusion at Lane Bryant's. Yes, you're quite right, Lane Bryant is the shop for stout women. But I doubt whether you quite understand what is meant by that. By "stout women" Lane Bryant doesn't mean women who are very stout, or unusually stout. Lane Bryant means women who have the mature, developed figure. If you have trouble being fitted to stock in sizes in other shops, if the ordinary 38 or 40 is too tight for you in the bust or in the hips you'll be sure to find a gown that fits

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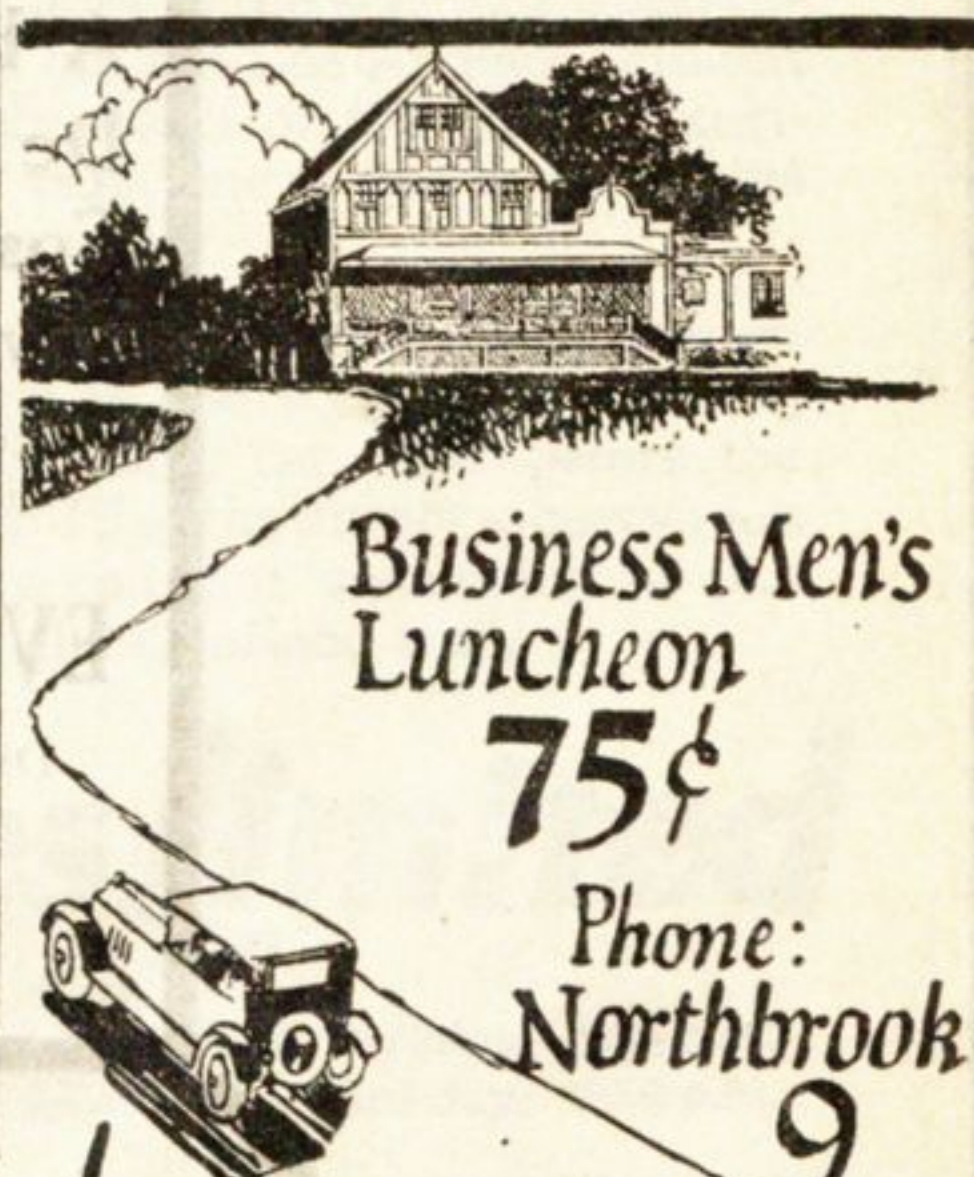
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to perfection at Lane Bryant's. Styles are the very best from New York, or Paris. Sizes run up to 56.

The Body Glove

And under the gown? The body glove! I learned recently that a famous surgeon in the city sends all his women patients to Florence Lund to be fitted with Body Gloves. He considers them the most scientific and healthful corset made. And why not, since Mrs. Lund, who invented them, is herself a graduate nurse? And yet the Body Glove, soft, comfortable, practically boneless, reduces the abdomen and slenderizes the whole figure. How does it accomplish this? Why—ask Mrs. Lund. You'll find her on the third floor of the Republic Bldg., State and Adams St.

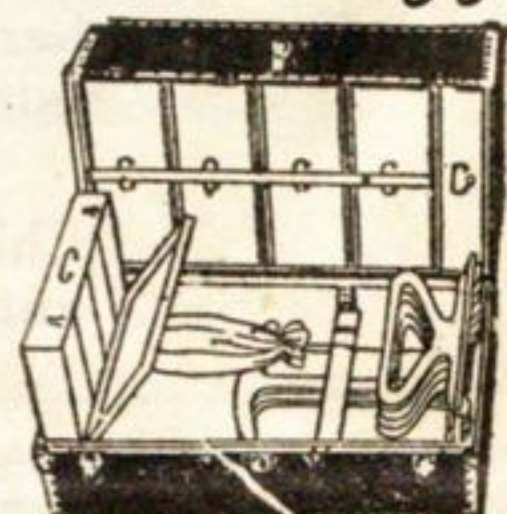
Fur Coats at Cost

Luxury! Ah, luxury! Thou art a fur coat! Is there any garment in the world more luxurious than this? Soft under the touch! Deep! Warm! Becoming! And—just now—such wonderful bargains are offered in fur coats! Take Henning's, on the 2nd floor of the Stewart Bldg., 108 N. State St., for instance. At Henning's all the fur coats in stock have been reduced to cost. A Hudson seal with Kolinsky, formerly \$525—is now \$395. A bronze Caracul with Fox, formerly \$1,000—is now \$750. The high reputation of Henning's makes any recommendation unnecessary. But the values offered are certainly most unusual.

From Lyon and Healy

"Blaa—woomp" remarks the saxophone, and we gurgle with glee. Sweetly sings the violin and our eyes fill with tears. These are the two poles of the musical world—and all a world of music is in between. Every musical instrument known to man can be purchased from Lyon and Healy, the great music store at the corner of Wabash and Jackson, in the city. Radios—at \$14.50 and up. Violins, for students, for as little as \$12—complete. The sheet music department is completely stocked and efficient. The phonograph department is the most elaborate in the city. After all, why not patronize the very best establishment. When you need musical instruments go to look for them at Lyon and Healy's.

Taylor-Made Luggage



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