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Efficiency Ad Absurdum

By Eugene Zamiatin. E. P. Dutton & Co.

method in which the Russian state is attempting to standardize human life. the whole book. His rebellion has taken the form of a book which has not yet seen the light in Russia but which Gregory Zilboorg has translated into English. It is a thing of cubistic formations, of hard surfaces—cubes and cones and hectagons. It is as restful as the overturning of a box of children's blocks in the dark. Mr. Zamiatin has FULL-PAGE AD ROLL OF HONOR meant it to be grimly humorous, he succeeds in getting enough truth into it to make it tragic.

Instead of Samuel Butler's prophecy that machinery will one day conquer man, it is standardization and efficiency which have done it here. As Butler's "Erehwon" caricatured and satirized our civilization by opposites, "We" does it by extremes. The process of standardization is carried to its logical conclusion.

The story is told by a mathematician of nine hundred years hence. A day opens. "The cheerful crystalline sound of the bell at my head. Seven o'clock. Time to get up. To the right and to the left as in mirrors to the right and to the left through the glass walls I see others like myself, other rooms like my own, other clothes like my own, movements like mine, duplicated thousands of times. This invigorates me; I see myself as a part of an enormous, vigorous, united hody; and what precise beauty! Not a single superfluous gesture or bow, or turn. Yes, this Taylor was undoubtedly the greatest genius of the ancients Breakfast was over. The hymn of the United States had been harmonious'y sung; rhythmically, four abreast we walked to the elevators, the motors buzzed faintly and swiftly we went down." To the underground railway and to work.

And when the author in this cheerful crystalline world develops a soul, a simple surgical operation at the base of the brain undoes the mischief. And "I am healthy, perfectly healthy, cannot help smiling, a splinter has been taken out of my head, and I feel so light, so empty.

O, efficiency experts, workers with D APPLETON AVE COMPLETE men, take warning for this way lies your danger.

Mr. Guedalla Seintillates

"A GALLERY"

By Philip Guedalla G. P. Putnam's Sons

English and American critics of late have fired their best fusillades in honor of the brilliant young historian, essayist, critic, Philip Guedalla. It is good for their souls to do this when the subject is as worthy as Philip Guedalla. He has been lauded ardently enough to become distinctly unpopular if he had not had it in himself to win universal approval

"A Gallery" is scarcely to be compared with the masterpiece of the "Second Empire," the book in which lives a while epoch of French history from the time that Napoleon went unbeaten to Elba, to the crash in 1870. It lives not as facts and dates which march by with wooden soldier like precision, but as thoughts and ideas, and vivid pictures.

"A Gallery" is, as its name implies, a gallery. We walk first through a narrow hall in which there are five landscapes. Colorful pictures of foreign cities-but somehow not hung to the best advantage.

We go on into the main room, the portrait gallery. Here is a feast awaiting us. The subjects are modern and of universal importance. "The Seven Sages," who are literary men, "The Seven Sleepers" who are politicians, "The Seven Lamps of Liberalism", and "Shadows" who passed by. Each character is painted vividly, brilliantly hackneyed as the words are in connection with Guedalla, they still must serve. Our impression of each character is brought out memorably— Wells, Hardy, Shaw, J. Ramsay Mac-

Donald, Lloyd George and the rest. And sprinkled lavishly in among them, so that, as usual with Guedalla, you will feel that you are reading a library instead of one book, are such caustic and delightful criticisms of the world and England as: "Age at any rate has had its due"; (among artists) "and quite a number of bath chairs have been wheeled respectfully up the easy gradients of the British Parnas-

sus. It is a form of good manners in which the people of these islands appear to exel, possibly because, in the highest possible degree, it combines sentimentality with cheapness. It is so obviously a less expensive matter to crown and establish reputation with a handful of bay-leaves out of the garden than to stand Chatterton a square meal; and there is something about the process that is a trifle more flattering to the national vanity. The English have always preferred their young geniuses starving, and almost from the beginning they have specialized in Grand Old Men. It is less perhaps, an inverted A rather frantic young Russian has form of 'Beaver' than an odd survival rebelled against the heavy handed of their primeval taste for Druids." . . . But stop us or we will quote

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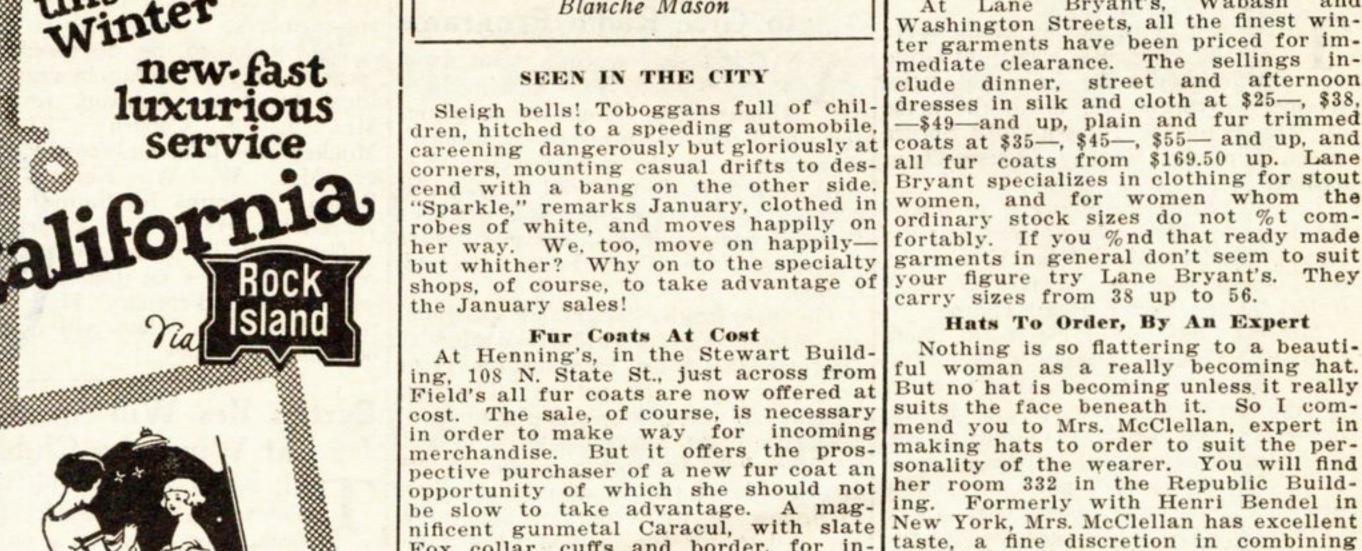
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dren, hitched to a speeding automobile, -\$49-and up, plain and fur trimmed careening dangerously but gloriously at coats at \$35-, \$45-, \$55- and up, and corners, mounting casual drifts to des- all fur coats from \$169.50 up. Lane cend with a bang on the other side. "Sparkle," remarks January, clothed in women, and for women whom the robes of white, and moves happily on but whither? Why on to the specialty garments in general don't seem to suit shops, of course, to take advantage of your figure try Lane Bryant's. They

At Henning's, in the Stewart Building, 108 N. State St., just across from ful woman as a really becoming hat. Field's all fur coats are now offered at But no hat is becoming unless it really cost. The sale, of course, is necessary suits the face beneath it. So I comin order to make way for incoming mend you to Mrs. McClellan, expert in Fox collar, cuffs and border, for instance, was formerly \$1,500-and may now be had for \$1,000 .- More modest furs may be had at very modest prices.

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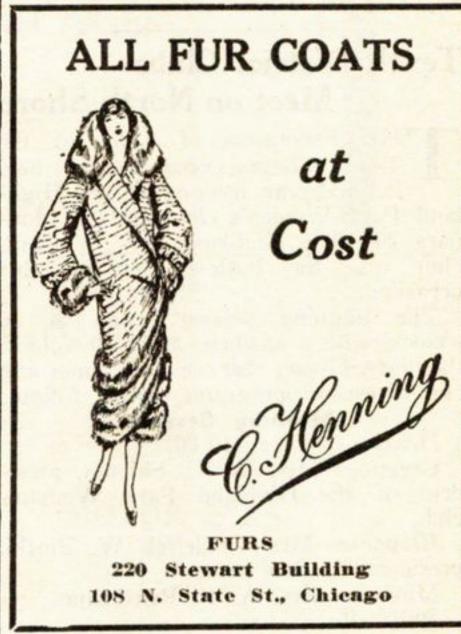
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