

Esther Gould's Book Corner

Are You Interested in books of Fiction, Biography, Travel, or History? For lists write to ESTHER GOULD c/o your local paper.

SOMEWHAT OF SPECIAL ADVERTISEMENT

"THUNDER ON THE LEFT"

By Christopher Morley.
Doubleday Page & Co.

It was part of the knowledge of ancient Rome that "When men heard thunder on the left the gods had somewhat of special advertisement to impart." And no one will doubt today that this is true. No one, that is, who reads Christopher Morley's book, the title of which is taken from this saying.

It is the sort of book that is as difficult to put a label on as it is to get the long struggled with salt on the bird's tail. It may be a fantasy or abject realism, a tragedy or a dream. We suspect it is one of those fairy tales more real than reality, which people who think that reality ends where unreality begins and do not know that they overlap as a stream overflowing and receding from its banks, will have a very puzzling time understanding.

In any case it is surely the best book that Morley has written. It is full of those sparkling drops that fall from his pen as naturally as water from a raised oar. "In a vague way she recognized a spirit not more happy but more finely unhappy; a spirit concerned with those impassioned curiosities of life which Ruth knew existed and yet knew not how to approach." Or, "The world shimmered like a pale jewel with a flame of uneasiness at its core."

It begins with the children's birthday party, Martin cutting the cake along the little white lines cook made with the icing. But suddenly Joyce slips over to the window to look out at the grownups drinking tea on the porch. The other children, as if drawn by a single impulse follow her. "I wonder what it's like to be grown up." "I wonder if they're happy." "I don't believe they are." "Of course they are it's wonderful to be grown up." And then in the pages that follow they have a chance to know.

A LOVE STORY OF CHINA

"THE RED CORD"

By Thomas Grant Springer
Brentano s

"The Red Cord" is a tale of the flaming east where a maiden tries to

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E. P. Dutton & Co. New York

hang herself for love of a man whom she has seen about twenty minutes. Which is all right in the east but fortunate that it doesn't work that way in the west since western maidens see so many men for at least twenty minutes. Perhaps seeing them longer is the solution of the difficulty.

In any case Wo Loie is a girl of China and not of Chicago. In a time of terrible famine when the Rain God is asleep, Wo Loie's father sells her to the highest bidder so that his son, the flower of his house, may have food. One of those bidding is a young mariner from a far country, the other the rich merchant of the town who holds her father deeply in his debt. So it is the merchant who wins the prize for his sickly son, but the mariner has already won the true prize of the maiden's heart.

Years later the mariner returns. The son of the merchant died on his wedding day. Wo Loie wishes to go with the mariner. But again he is overbid. Then comes the part of the "red cord," when Wo Loie claims her right to go to her husband rather than to another man. But as the noose is around her neck it is found that it will not tighten because of a knot mysteriously tied. The gods have intervened. Wo Loie is saved.

The book is attractively gotten out with a place mark, of the red cord and a Chinese charm.

HELP FROM AN EXPERT

"HOW TO PRODUCE AMATEUR PLAYS"

By Barrett H. Clark.
Little Brown & Co.

Barrett H. Clark has rewritten his excellent book, "How to Produce Amateur Plays," adding much new material and rewriting the old, and bringing the list of suggested plays up to date. It is a splendid book for club and school libraries, or for young people interested in the fascinating science of producing plays.

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Publishers, Boston

teur productions in which some rocks have been struck, either in the choice of cast or play, in setting the scene or planning the costumes. In all such dilemmas a book by an authority would have helped. Mr. Clark knows how to make innumerable practical suggestions while keeping strictly in mind the fact that he is speaking of amateur work, which is not meant to be professional, in fact the worst crime of which, in his opinion, is to ape the professional. The illustrations, alone, offer valuable suggestions in play producing.

Methodist Women Prepare Bazaar for December 3

The women of the Wilmette Parish Methodist church will hold their bazaar Thursday, December 3. The bazaar opens at 2 o'clock, and will continue through the evening. A turkey dinner, "from soup to nuts," will be served. Besides many other things to be sold, there will be on sale some Indian baskets made by a full-blooded Indian woman living in Wilmette.

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By Honore Willsie Morrow

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Frederick A. Stokes Co., N. Y.

What a Man Wants

Does the world belong to the man who can't see a joke? Ammiel couldn't take life seriously. All he wanted was to sit still and smile at the world as it bustled by...and then it wouldn't let him...Read this book about a man who stumbled over his own sense of humor.

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