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24 sheets of tinted paper—in composite effect—that are to be written on flat, then folded and the edges sealed—the edges are perforated for ease in tearing open.

Lord's Book Shop

NEWEST BOOKS AND BOOK REVIEWS

Zona Gale Lectures

on "The New Literature"

To the modern novel nothing that is human is unalien.

This fact Zona Gale impressed upon her Evanston audience yesterday when she came from her Wisconsin home to deliver the lecture in the Contemporary Thought course at Northwestern university.

Writers of the contemporary novel, Miss Gale reminded, discussing "The New Literature," recognize that there is a great area of life—and so for art—in the ugly, the commonplace, the unhappy, the sad, the grotesque and that ordinarily called "uninteresting."

The new novels, she said, no longer present a happy ending. Also, they are honest. They do not present everybody as either good or beautiful. They have likewise extended their method as well as their material. One new method is to use the whole stream of a character's consciousness—to follow with him through his day and year. The new novel consists of the romance of the mind and spirit of man.

There are an endless number of experiments in the novel's technic. One is getting rid of quotation marks—another is refusing to give a full line to unimportant as well as to important sentences in conversation. Another is getting rid of all inessentials either to meaning or to beauty.

An excellent list of 1926-27 books selected by Mrs. Anthony French Merrill is to be found on the club page of this issue.

Reviews of New Books

"THE LINGERING FAUN"—Mabel Wood Martin.

In "The Linging Faun" Mabel Wood Martin has written a vigorous and vivid story of the great maelstrom that was Paris after the War. Russian noblemen and women running taxicabs and doing laborious bead work to keep from starvation, idealists pouring in to the Peace Conference to have their ideals stepped on, the maimed and bereaved making a grotesque and terrible background.

Barbara, the beautiful American, married Prince Serge Petanoff and went to Russia to live. There she came into conflict with all the old tottering unsound fabric of Russian nobility. She tried to change it but she was powerless—and then, she was too late.

She and her husband flee the Deluge and arrive with many of their countrymen in Paris. Mrs. Martin has described vividly the pitiful tortured life they lived there, haunted by fear and buoyed up spasmodically by groundless hopes. The figure of the "faun," a mysterious man from the east, an envoy to the Peace Conference, is weakened by a sort of appeal to the supernatural. He represents mankind with his blind power and his dreams. He represents to Barbara an escape from all the futility and horror of her world, she longs only to get off in the ocean or the desert where nothing can ever happen to her again.

But there is no escape for Serge. He being part of the old regime must pass away with it and he finally takes his own life. The frozen helpless defiance of his reaction is very well drawn. The envoy through a failure of his plans goes away to start over again, and Barbara is left to make a new life, as an American and not as a Russian this time.

"MIRRORS OF THE YEAR"—A National Review of Outstanding Figures, Trends and Events of 1926-27.—Edited by Grant Overton.

"Mirrors of the Year" is original in its conception and in its treatment. It is a new idea to try to catch while they are yet fresh the essence of the happenings of the year and embody them in a permanent form. It is, as the editor of the volume, Grant Overton, says in his introduction, "a union of timeliness with perspective." This is a high attempt and the reader looks with slight scepticism on the possibility of its fulfillment.

But as one goes along one becomes convinced that through a wise choice of contributors and a consciousness on the part of the contributors of the part they were meant to play, a good deal of that very union has been achieved. The men and women who have written the various articles on subjects of wide and interesting range are people with long experience with their subjects, experience which has given them as is the way of experience perspective on things even while they are present.

Herbert Asbury, member of the editorial staff of the New York Herald-Tribune, opens the volume with an ironical and penetrating article on "The Triumphs of Journalism," among which of course are the high lights of the death of Valentino and the case of "Peaches" Browning. He does point out some hopeful trends, however, and

Just Paragraphs

Anne Douglas Sedgewick, in an interview, stated her rules for novel writing. They are so sane that they might do as rules for reading and criticism, as well. "A novel should possess security and unity and be sober and beautiful, if possible. Under no circumstances should it be dull, sentimental or affected. Life—more abundant life—is all that one can ask of a novel." Unlike most of those who lay down rules Mrs. Sedgewick has lived up to them exceeding well in her last book "The Old Countess."

Young America has allowed the Atlantic Monthly prize of \$10,000 for the best novel submitted to be won by a Canadian. Mazo de la Roche of Toronto, is the winner with her book, "Jalna." In a little autobiographical sketch about Miss Roche her publishers go so far as to give out the following, "Miss de la Roche confesses that she never sits at a desk, when writing, but that she does all her work on a drawing board on her knees." Really when this can be stated publicly what can we hope for from the future generation?

Two Recent Jungle Books

William Beebe's books need no introduction. Their vivid description, charming narrative and delightful style have given him a public that any author might envy. He published several years ago a monograph on Pheasants, and his latest book "Pheasant Jungles" is the story of his expedition into farthest India and Burma for studies of rare birds. This book is even more interesting than his others. His servants are such personalities, and their environment breathes romance.

W. O. Krohn's book, "In Borneo Jungles," suffers by comparison. The book appears to be very accurate, but inclined to be too instructive. He reports too many of the obvious and commonplace things in this expedition for the Field Museum and is interesting only in spite of himself. The important thing in reading it is the realization that one can go down to the museum and see the things he talks about.

—ANNE WHITMACK.

gives at least a glimmering hope for better things in the future.

Mark Sullivan writes competently of the "Political Year," and Elmer Davis contributes an essay as amusing as his very amusing books lead us to expect on "The State of the Nation." Taking as his text, quotations from the Declaration of the Day of Thanksgiving by our President, he goes about proving that we have found the ultimate state of blessedness and prosperity by an invention of the economic fourth dimension—time. In other words when we had not sufficient market for our produce to make for real prosperity, someone conceived the brilliant idea of selling it off on the installment plan to the America of the future. Who would not admit that this is as fundamentally sound as Mark Twain's community which made a living by taking in each other's washings?

But there are far too many good and even brilliant articles to quote from all of them, Louise Bromfield, Kathleen Norris, Clarence Darrow, Harry Hansen and many more—each has "done his bit" to make this a stimulating, clever, worthwhile book to read and to keep on one's library shelves.

—ESTHER GOULD.

New and Interesting Books

Fiction

- Mother Knows Best
Edna Ferber \$2.50
- Bernard Quesnay
Andre Maurois \$2.50
- The Back of Beyond
Edward S. White . . . \$2.00
- Pleased to Meet You
Christopher Morley, \$1.50

Miscellaneous

- America Comes of Age
Andre Siegfried . . . \$3.00
- Power
Lion Feuchtwanger, \$2.50
- Brimstone and Chili
Carleton Beals \$3.00
- Sons of the Eagle
George Creel \$3.50
- The Behind Legs of the
'Orse
Ellis Parker Butler, \$2.00
- The Silver Cord, a Play
Sidney Howard \$1.00
- Chicago, a Play
Maurine Watkins . . . \$2.00

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