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NEWEST BOOKS AND BOOK REVIEWS

New Book Reveals Dual Identity of E. Barrington

"THE HOUSE OF FULFILMENT", by L. Adams Beck—published by Cosmopolitan Book Corp.

For the first time in her career, L. Adams Beck, who is also "E. Barrington," signs the two names on the title page of a novel. She has chosen "The House of Fulfilment" in which to make public acknowledgment of her dual personality and I, for one, would prefer that she had kept the pot boiling of E. Barrington separate from the asceticism of L. Adams Beck, as the combination is too disconnected to surpass either of her two former styles.

L. Adams Beck is a student of the Indian philosophy of yoga and if, in her latest book, she had been more specific as to the detail of this teaching; or if she had contented herself with the forthright story telling that has won her acclaim as E. Barrington, "The House of Fulfilment" would doubtless have been of higher calibre. In its present state the reader at times gets a fleeting glimpse of beauty and sound writing, but as a whole the book suffers from a sense of surface writing that cannot be successfully used in a book that pretends to deal with philosophy.

The story centers around the restless Cardonald and is largely a chronicle of his study of yoga. In the story of the discipline of yoga, which freely translated means "concentration" and in the tutoring of Cardonald the reader is given the essentials or first steps of Buddhist philosophy, one of the most fascinating studies of all time.

"Men of Destiny" Is Jovian Laughter at Our Irrationalities

"MEN OF DESTINY" by Walter Lippmann, published by The Macmillan Company, New York and Chicago.

Perhaps there is no more difficult job in this business of reviewing books, than to write an appreciation of a book as excellent as Walter Lippmann's "Men of Destiny," as it is impossible to classify Mr. Lippmann so as to place him for the reader, for he is neither the conventional radical nor conservative. The best way to describe Mr. Lippmann is to say that he is conservative in that he despises loose thinking and the thesis that is carried only to its penultimate conclusion, and he is radical in that he accepts no established fact just because it happens to be established.

"Men of Destiny" is a collection of sketches of the personalities of various characters in the public eye today and a series of articles on the more obvious irrationalities of these United States; with subjects ranging from Alfred E. Smith as presidential timber to an analysis of Borah and the World Court.

In speaking of Al Smith, Mr. Lippmann comments on the fact that this issue gives the American credo of equality of man and opportunity a most resounding opportunity to show the burden of proof. Smith seeks to impose no new policy on the United States; while he is urban he promises the city people no special privileges; he is a perfectly conservative man about property, American political institutions and American ideals; his political reforms are wholly respectable; he has a sure instinct for realities and the verities; and yet—because of an unwritten law, the American people are not ready to elect him. Here is a man strong enough to counteract and defeat the squalid class hatred so financially successful for the Hearst papers and their imitators, and the people refuse him for a pig in a poke.

Mr. Lippmann's tolerance is clearly shown in his assertion that there is more than intolerance against the nomination of Al Smith for president. It is the attachment of American people to village life, vague in its delineation but strong enough to justify the fear that strange things come out of Babylon and that American virtues are bred in the farmhouse. It is this fundamental attachment of the people to the America they love that is Alfred E. Smith's real opposition.

In remarking on the paucity of problems in the Coolidge administration, Mr. Lippmann says that "Mr. Coolidge's genius for inactivity is developed to a very high point. It is a grim, determined, alert inactivity which keeps Mr. Coolidge occupied constantly . . . a steady application to the task of neutralizing and thwarting political activity wherever there are signs of life."

In writing of Bryan in the famous trial in Dayton, Tenn., Mr. Lippmann gives a lucid and clear premise of the weaknesses of the dogma of majority rule. He says that the premise of the right of the majority rule, (for even if it is not wise it is on the road to wisdom) was reduced to absurdity by the people of Tennessee legislating against the spirit that leads to the acquisition of knowledge, using their right to rule to destroy the agency that would teach them how to rule.

To the clear intelligence of Mr.

Pot Shots at Pot Boilers

"Chivalry Peak" is a new first novel that will undoubtedly prove popular, inasmuch as it contains a gentleman bandit with hot brown eyes, a lovely handcuffed lady lost in a forest and a detective. We reiterate, it's a first novel—but it is by the w.k. Irvin S. Cobb.

If you are entertaining a group of friends and fear that conversation may lag during the evening, we suggest that you procure a copy of the September issue of the American magazine and read the nineteen theses which form the body of Dr. Will Durant's article, "Men and Women." To give you an idea of its possibilities as material for discussion, we will quote the first of the intrepid doctor's statements, i.e., "Women understand men better than men understand women."

Another unique way of entertaining guests is provided by "Mind Your P's and Q's," by Jerome S. Meyer. It is graphology while you wait, obtained through the use of charts printed on transparent paper. Or if you wish to bring psychoanalysis (synthetic) into the parlor, get "I've Got Your Number," which is the latest published aid for the benefit of the exhibitionists.

Pardon us, but we are compelled to make room for Walter Lippmann.

B. B.

Lippmann, Mr. Mencken is a outraged sentimentalist and of Sinclair Lewis he says "if he had a real interest in character and not such a preoccupation with behavior, he would express the world through all his characters, and not merely through one mouthpiece, and that mouthpiece the written record of Lewis' distastes."

In commenting on the independence of the irrepressible Borah, the author describes the intrepid senator as a confirmed bachelor who somehow finds himself married to the Executive, and further, "I do not say that he will be unfaithful, but Heaven pity the Executive if it expects Borah to worry about the whole damn family." Mr. Lippmann shows us the very illuminating spectacle of Borah combining a passion for open diplomacy with a passionate objection to every step toward that world organization under which open diplomacy might ultimately become feasible; Borah asserting the sovereignty of majority rule, and paying no attention to the majority if it happens to want what he despises.

In the article commenting on the difficulties of censorship the author gives the most lucid and concise diagnosis of conventional right and wrong that it has ever been our pleasure to encounter. His contention is that in a rebellion against any established institution the "right" and "wrong" means simply friendly or hostile to the institution in question.

It is impossible to give all of the excellence of "Men of Destiny" in a review but it is a book that is important in that it shows the way that the liberals will have to travel if they intend to keep any more than a temporary existence and, as such, it is a book that should be read by those of you who are more interested in the motive power of the passing show, than the show itself.

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