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Books—First Floor  
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 Just Inside the West Davis  
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**NEWEST BOOKS AND BOOK REVIEWS**

**NOVEL OR BIOGRAPHY**  
 "Death Comes for the Archbishop"

By Willa Cather.  
 Alfred A. Knopf

I should like to borrow for Willa Cather's latest book the words that Rebecca West used for H. M. Tomlinson's, "It is another turn in the spiral of perfection." "Death Comes for the Archbishop" is a beautiful book. It has reserve, emotion, charm and fine writing. It is an unclassifiable book hovering between novel, biography and historical monograph. But one does not ask to classify it, one reads it and is glad that it was written. As one is usually glad when reading anything by Miss Cather that it was written.

It is the story of Bishop Jean Marie Latour, first Bishop of New Mexico. A story of faith, of hardship, of a great career. One wishes that there were still vast uncharted stretches of our country where men could go and do such work as that of Father Latour then die as he did, in the shadow of his own cathedral, symbol of a great work done, content, at peace with past and future. There is something sad and something epic in the simplicity of the book.

**FARCE**

"STRANGE WOMAN"

By Elmer Davis  
 Robert McBride & Co.

Elmer Davis can write excruciatingly funny things. "Strange Woman," however instead of being high comedy is light farce. The setting of the farce is this: Dr. Merriam, a university president in the small town of Embury, has by dint of great effort and trouble brought a Chicago opera company to the town for a two-day run. The town is upside down with excitement. But the demoralization has not stopped with the town; it seems that Dr. Merriam himself came so under the thrall of the theatrical atmosphere last year in Chicago that he had become the lover of the leading woman of the company, Dagmar Dahl.

His wife, Lucy, hears of this the night of her reception to the visiting artists. Instead of enraging her it puts her in a queer state of exaltation, she is glad that they are "still people things can happen to." This reckless exaltation makes her so attractive that she is the belle of the evening, driving her own husband at the end to climb up the water spout to enter her window. He is seen, of course, but not recognized and an impossibly ridiculous situation is the result.

For lively amusement and some clear truths in the manner of Erskine's Helen of Troy from Lucy's lips, the book is to be recommended.

**THE NATURE OF THE ANIMAL**

"A SHORT HISTORY OF WOMEN"

By John Langdon-Davies  
 The Viking Press

We seem to have in this particular age an exhaustless interest in the matter of "why we behave like human beings." It might lead us to suspect that many of us wonder if we do. However that may be, John Langdon-Davies, prominent English student and writer, who is lecturing in our part of the country at the moment, has written "A Short History of Women" designed to tell us "why we behave like men and women."

It is a history of the status of women beginning with primitive times and going down through the civilizations of Asia, Egypt, Greece and Rome through the Middle Ages to modern times with an epilogue on the future. It is clearly and interestingly written giving a great deal of data which one knows if one has ever studied sociology and a great deal more of a more popular and picturesque nature.

"The final drama in this emotional emancipation (of women) is being enacted in our own times," says Mr. Langdon-Davies in his epilogue on the future, and for the women of tomorrow he says further we must look to America and Russia.

**AN INTERESTING NOVEL**

"BLACK STREAM"

By Nathalie Colby  
 Harcourt Brace & Co.

After "Green Forest" the very interesting first novel of Nathalie Colby last spring we have been waiting to see what her second novel would be. "Black Stream" is a worthy successor to "Green Forest," in some ways a gain and in some ways a loss over that one. It has gained as second novels usually do in a greater mastery on the part of Mrs. Colby of her art. Her touch is firmer, swifter, more incisive. It has lost, in that this firmness has sometimes led her to carry her peculiar style too far, in trying to do it well, to overdo it.

We are carried in "Black Stream" swiftly into the center of the lives of a little group of people. Our interest does not lag for a moment from the first page to the last. Dr. Farraday, though he is perhaps less charming than was Mrs. Challoner's doctor in "Green Forest" has our sympathy. He is a man longing to do research, with an important discovery he is trying to perfect, but chained to the wheel of a lucrative practice by his family's "social aspirations." Miss Mapes is his secretary who tries to stand between him and the ravenous world. It doesn't sound very exciting or unusual but it is both of those things because it is sympathetically and well done.

If you have not already, read

**AMERICA**

By Hendrik Van Loon

The Review of Reviews says "The Story of our country told in the inimitable manner made known through The Story of Mankind . . . His best effort."

Boni & Liveright \$5.00

**SPECIAL NOTICE**

Dorothy Aldis, author of "Everything and Anything," will be at Chandler's December 17, 3:30 to 5:30 p. m. She will read her poetry and autograph her books. Your presence would be greatly appreciated.

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**COUNT LUCKNER**

**THE SEA DEVIL**

by Lowell Thomas

\$2.50 Doubleday, Page & Co.



**Adventures in Reading**

By May Lamberton Becker

Mrs. Becker, who has made a fine art of reading, herself, passes on her knowledge to boys and girls in this fascinating book. She tells how and what to read and what is more makes you want to do it.

Frederick A. Stokes Co. \$2.00