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Books of the Hour

By Esther Gould

New York is still the same energetically dazzling city. Ford Madox Ford is still insisting that "New York is not America"—a statement that meets with no contradiction since no one is conscious of having ever said that it was—and still giving farewell parties and then turning up the next week. Isa Glenn is serving tea charmingly and declaring that cooking is the proper avocation of a writer—cooking without a recipe that is—since "there are no words in it" and backing up her theory with Elinor Wylie's experience. Louis Bromfield is preparing to sail precipitously for France where a modest little apartment with six bedrooms will help to recoup an America-riddled fortune. And everyone is saying that he is awfully tired of "wondering what a certain old trader thinks when the postman brings him his morning check for \$5,000." This last is undoubtedly only jealousy, however.

THE END OF IT
"SOUTHERN CHARM"

By Isa Glenn
Alfred A. Knopf

It is the new tradition in southern books to break up the old tradition which earlier southern books have so painstakingly built up. It is a good sign and shows as all revolutions do show, new blood. Miss Isa Glenn is coming to the fore as one of the most able of these revolutionists. In her new book, "Southern Charm," she has made the most devastating case for the far-famed charm of southern womanhood.

Following the new dramatic method of novel-writing which plunges the reader directly into an important moment and from that vantage point allows him to look back into the past and forward into the future, Miss Glenn gives us a crowded twenty-four hours of a charming southern woman's life. Mrs. Habersham brought up her two daughters in what was to her the most approved style. She taught them that to be pretty and innocent and charming was everything since their only possible careers in life would consist in by this method keeping the upper hand over some man. She taught them this and nothing else. So years before, Laura, the wayward daughter, who had not "gotten her figure down" as had her older sister, Alice May, and therefore could not expect to be attractive to men, had gone astray and had an illegitimate child. Her mother leaving her in Rome where this regrettable incident had happened announces to her relations that she has died of the fever.

Twenty years later in New York City Mrs. Habersham and the docile daughter, Alice May, run across Laura. They have a dramatic meeting in which without illusions they look at each other and themselves. Then, the shock over, they each go back to their way of life, but slightly changed.

My Life

The truly great autobiography of ISADORA DUNCAN

"All the great autobiographies . . . seem made with artifice beside the tumultuous outpouring of this free spirit." Harry Hansen.

Boni & Liveright\$5.00

A new writer has been discovered for America, though he was discovered as has not seldom been the case, in France. He is W. B. Trites, whose small volume, "The Gypsy," is being met with paens of praise. American critics who have seen it have joined the chorus, among them the Hartford Courant, which says, "It glows with sharp color, and yet conveys the expression of stern restraint. It surpasses in its grim power and its superb artistry anything written by an American novelist since "Ethan Frome." "The Gypsy" is scheduled for publication Jan. 26 by Frederick A. Stokes Co.

One of the interesting books of the spring should be "The Rise of the House of Rothschild" by Count Egon Caesar Corti. Count Corti, who is celebrated abroad as a historian and biographer has spent three years in the collection of his material.

NOT SO GOOD

"SOMETHING ABOUT EVE"

By James Branch Cabell
Robert M. McBride Co.

Alas, Mr. Cabell! That you who wrote "Jurgen" should also write "Something About Eve!" There was much in "Jurgen" besides its shockingness. There is little in this latest book of Mr. Cabell's besides that shockingness grown, we are sorry to say, staler and less passable with the years.

There is a similarity in theme between these two books: Jurgen who went out to find the justice, the beauty, which he craved, and found it nowhere in all the experiences vouchsafed him by a more than indulgent Providence, and Gerald Musgrave who leases his natural body to a spirit and goes off in quest of his illusions in the land of all the gods.

The theme is much the same but the manner is different. There is less freshness, less poignance, or rather no poignance, in Gerald's disillusionment and there was in Jurgen's. Who can say without being able to go back to that rare experience of reading "Jurgen" for the first time just what is lacking? It is something so subtle as to escape labelling, yet so important as to change by its absence the tone of the entire work. It merely seems to us that in this book Mr. Cabell has failed.

Gerald Musgrave's most amusing act is, on the very border of the land of Antan, over which he as god is going to rule all the gods, to be domesticated by the plain woman, Maya, and spend the rest of his truant years in her little cottage. Then he returns home content to have found Maya instead of a kingdom, and the spirit released out of his body goes forth in search of his kingdom of illusion. So the eternal cycle of youth is maintained.

The novel that has captivated the country:

DUSTY ANSWER

By Rosamond Lehmann

A best seller everywhere! Christopher Morley said of it. "We have not had since 'The Constant Nymph' a first novel of such brilliant cruel and tender beauty."

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