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JUST PARAGRAPHS

"Sawdust and Solitude" is the story of a woman who was educated for Grand Opera, ran away with a circus, made flapjacks in a second class restaurant, got into another circus, became the leading lion tamer, then went to Colorado and took up land. This is not fiction but a true story and it would be hard to say which of the lady's professions shows a greater amount of courage.

A home-sick English soldier in Palestine took a vow that if he returned from the War he would "wander through the lanes of England and little thatched villages of England and lie on English grass watching an English sky." The vow was kept and its result recorded in a book called "In Search of England."

BEAUTY IN A NOVEL

"STRANGERS AND LOVERS"

By Edwin Granberry
 The Macaulay Co.

In "Strangers and Lovers" Edwin Granberry has written an almost perfect book. A book which makes you reach for adjectives advisedly, some of those adjectives which you keep on an upper shelf of your mind for special occasions and when you draw them out proudly, suddenly strike you as very inadequate. It is a book which, as a reviewer before me has said and which it is inevitable that one say again, must be compared with "The Time of Man," and it does not lose at all in the comparison. It is a book—entirely belied by its sensational cover



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and blurbs—of overpowering sincerity and simplicity. It is written beautifully from first to last, with a restraint which seems to come most naturally in dealing with stupendous, simple things. For the life of Millie Carver is filled with stupendous things—loneliness, courage, fear, love, tragedy—all thrown into intense relief by the simplicity of their background.

Like Ellen in "The Time of Man" Millie is the child of poor white trash in the south, living the life more of a wild animal than a child. But she is happy with the same unreasoning joy that makes the birds sing in the morning, and her life is filled with the beauty shed about her by her own spirit. She and Alec, who worked at the orange grove nearby, might always have been happy, growing up and mating as naturally as the wild things they loved if it had not been for the evil in the world around them. This comes between them, making them suffer almost more than they can bear, but leaving them in the end to look for and perhaps find again their happiness.

The restraint and beauty of the style cannot be shown alas, by short quotation; it would be too unjust to try. But the book is marked always by a classic simplicity.

LIGHT AND AMUSING

"A GIRL ADORING"

By Viola Meynell
 E. P. Dutton & Co.

"A Girl Adoring," by Viola Meynell is an amusing novel, and one that is good enough to be better. The author is possessed of a good deal of subtlety which she uses to her advantage at times and then suddenly allows it to turn against her. She uses it to make exhaustive research into her characters which up to a point you find interesting and then all at once you see that she is going to carry it on to a place where you will be bored unutterably. For example with the brother Morley, we are interested in his foibles and little meannesses for a while and think, "Isn't he well drawn!" Then when the same thing is repeated we say, "This is interesting but we knew it before," and finally when we have been told about his

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Mrs. Merrill Lays Chicago Upheaval to Racial Adjustment

"Current crime and political corruption are results of Chicago racial adjustment, and with its confusion of the day it is a wonder that we do as well as we do!"

Mrs. Anthony French Merrill, lecturing at the Evanston Country club Wednesday morning, April 4, under auspices of the Wells College club, expressed this conclusion of a state of events that is startling Chicago and the world at large.

The age, she reminded, is one entirely different from those which America has known. There is unrest and flow and chaos and confusion, and until the peoples of the various countries making up cosmopolitan Chicago have amalgamated or adjusted themselves, there is certain to be lawlessness and upheaval.

Calls Morbid View Untrue

She believes, however, that the doctrine expounded by Spengler's "Decline of the West," which pervades much of the current fiction and philosophy and would have life "one long crawl up a sewer," is unnatural and morbid and misleading, and therefore untrue. She cited Dreiser's "American Tragedy" as an illustration of this sort of writing—a book, she holds, "written by a man with no sense of values who sees life as a narrow bit of hideousness."

Taking for the topic of her final and summarizing lecture of the Lenten series, which has interested a larger group of women than even her previous popular courses, "The Cream After All," she concerned it with the results of reading and advice thereupon.

One has a right, she affirmed, to one's own opinion and need take no other authority until convinced. The charm of life, she suggested, is its liquidness and debatable quality. There is always change, decay and advance, and we do not always know just what has made our progress.

For Solid Virtues

She made a strong plea for the retaining of the solid substantialities like faith and trust and kindly, generous, unselfish living as opposed to the introspective, selfish primary consideration of self, and it is the task of those who hold with these rather "old-fashioned" qualities to spread their gospel through writing as well as through living.

deep and selfish love of comfort for the fortieth time we cry "But what of it?"

There is much in the book that strikes us in that way, as not very important. It is the story of Claire, an attractive young girl who oddly enough is the least clearly drawn character in the book. Perhaps because she was harder to do, for the more intimately we know a character the more we are struck by contradictions. And Miss Meynell, exhaustive as she is in searching her characters, likes them to run true to type. At any rate Claire in the midst of her variously appreciative and attractive family lives through her youth and wins and is won by the man she loves.

THE SON

By Hildur Dixelius

With a beautiful Swedish village as a background this sequel to "The Minister's Daughter" carries on the story of Sara Alella, her children and grandchildren. Northern mysticism and a strong belief in the supernatural is felt throughout the book. \$2.50

E. P. Dutton & Co. New York