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**BOOKS**

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LORD'S—BOOKS

First Floor

Just Inside the West Davis Street Door

**Esther Gould's Book Corner**

**JUST PARAGRAPHS**

It is interesting to note in this year when the manuscript for "Alice in Wonderland" has just sold for a record breaking sum, and the book "The Ugly Duchess" is a best-seller, that one of the most famous of Sir John Tennile's drawings, that of Alice's duchess was inspired by a portrait of that other actual duchess. If you have seen the two pictures the resemblance is really remarkable.

Too many people seem to have been struck with the excellence of Mr. Disraeli's advice. He said, "When I want to read a novel I write one."

**HONESTY**

**"BAD GIRL"**

By Vina Delmar  
 Harcourt Brace & Co.

"Vina Delmar is the literary sensation of New York," announces a literary paper. Now what that means or who decides it and why is beyond us to know, yet what we do know is that Miss Delmar has written in her first novel "Bad Girl" an astonishingly honest book. Not honest particularly because almost the entire book is taken up with the experience of a girl marrying and having a child, but honest because the author has stepped across into her characters. There are no barriers, she isn't standing off being cynical or critical or pitying, she is in them, and in consequence so are we.

We are on the boat that night on the Hudson when Eddie meets Dot, gay, impudent, striking random notes on her ukelele and singing in a husky

voice off key. From that point on during the succeeding weeks, we move with their romance, from the boat to the Chinese restaurant, to the dance hall, and to the rainy night and the seduction. Then because Eddie is a nice boy who wouldn't let Dot down we go with them next morning to the marriage license bureau.

It is all so real, so acutely and simply honest that during the reading of the book we are identified with Dot and Eddie and their problems. And they are so ignorant, and so natural in their desire to be happy, and do what their world has taught them they ought to do, and more than all they are so inarticulate! It is a real accomplishment, this book of Miss Delmar's, one which shows mastery and nothing of the amateur.

**WANDERING**

**"MID-PACIFIC"**

By James Norman Hall  
 Houghton Mifflin Co.

"Mid-Pacific" is another of those fragmentary, haunting books of travel which fortunately for us, James Norman Hall knows how to write. Next best to being able to wander at will over the globe is the opportunity of having the sympathetic and casual record of his wanderings from one who can. Though Mr. Hall is a journalist by occupation as his passport has it, yet his travel is the real thing and his writing a by-product. His books are the leaves of a notebook which he carries and in which he jots down his experiences or his musings as the spirit moves.

He has a charming style and a gift for conveying atmosphere, so we care little whether he is describing the almost mythically odd characters he has met in his far, unknown places, or whether he is musing on the "Person from Porlock" who, dropping in on business one afternoon, disturbed Coleridge at his writing and drove from his mind that priceless remainder of "Kubla Khan."

There is sensitiveness in Mr. Hall's writings and, perhaps we are wrong, but it seems to us a little more wistfulness than there used to be. Is it the wistfulness of one who cutting himself off from all that ordinary people think worth having, finds that he is reaching out for illusions? He writes at length about a man who did what he has done, left civilization to find happiness and a free life, and

**A GIRL ADORING**

By Viola Meynell

"Has the fragile exquisiteness of rare Venetian glass. The author handles her story with a simplicity and finesse of touch."

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**MAGAZINE FOR A FEW**

"The Exile" Edited by Ezra Pound, Is Addressed to Special Public

There is a magazine called "The Exile" volume three of which has been offered us for review. It is published by Pascal Coviçi.

"We are a magazine," its editor, Ezra Pound explains, "addressed to a special public. Part of our program is to compare the current day with day before yesterday." Then he proceeds to refute the idea that it is a mirror of the day that Americans really are wanting. It is rather, he believes, that they want "America gingered up." "I mean," he writes, "they want 'pickles,' either sweetened or soured."

The Exile, he states, is much too small to serve as any sort of general anthology for new work and can't possibly have room for all the odds and ends of possible verse and prose he had hoped to use chiefly to show publishers where material might be found, and he originally had the idea of limiting its contributors to people who had at least one book ready for the press. So he does within its little red covers something of what he would do, and he does it well enough to please the reader that goes in chronically or occasionally for the advanced sort of literature with continental coloring. The contents of this particular number, the first which has been brought to our notice, have variety, a certain novelty, a grace out of the ordinary and plenty of material for careful, attentive reading. It has a pleasant swing for all its "highbrow" aspect, and its idea is one worth the patronage. D.

whose heartbreaking record appeared in a book called "Isles of Illusion." Mr. Hall is certainly not disillusioned as that man was and he sees far too much to interest him and to enjoy in the world and in men ever to become so, yet there is that recurring note, as if looking back from another country he called to us, less adventurous, behind him, "Yes, it is wonderful but there doesn't seem to be quite what I expected, what I was looking for."

**A REAL BOY**

Mary Montague Davis has as a background for her writing the California mountains, Berlin and Cambridge, Massachusetts. She has written many short stories but Dr. Pete of the Sierras, which was published on April 24, is her first book for boys. At present Mrs. Davis lives near Boston but for many years her summers were spent in the Sierra's where her father was chief engineer for the Southern Pacific railroad. The Mt. Shasta region she knows particularly well for her father ran a railroad line through the mountains to Oregon. Mrs. Davis' son is just the age of Peter, the hero, so her knowledge of boys as well as her knowledge of the western mountains is based on first hand material.

**A ROYAL GEOGRAPHER**

Constance Lindsay Skinner, historian of the American frontier and author of articles on polar exploration published in magazines here and in England, has recently been elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical society (London, England) and also a Fellow of the American Geographical society, New York. She is also the author of historical fiction for boys and girls. Her two latest books, The Tiger Who Walks Alone and Roselle of the North, are among the successful juveniles of the current season. Several of her histories are in general use in American colleges and high schools.

Mrs. John White of Oxford road, Kenilworth, gave a luncheon Thursday afternoon of last week at her home, and on the following Tuesday Mrs. Leslie McArthur, also of Oxford road, entertained at luncheon and bridge.

Mrs. Richard Wolfe of Essex road, Kenilworth, will give a luncheon next Friday afternoon at her home.

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