

Lord's

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BOOKS

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Percy MacKaye

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Albert Londres

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E. Alexander Powell

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Brentano's\$3.00

Esther Gould's Book Corner

JUST PARAGRAPHS

The second book by the aged adventurer, Alfred Aloysius Horn, has been chosen as the new book by the Literary Guild. As Trader Horn was the Guild's own discovery we don't know whether this is a feeling of loyalty or whether the new book, a novel, "Harold the Webbed or the Young Vikings," will prove to be as widely fascinating as his first volume. The trade edition of the book will be published on June 8.

Ellen Glasgow in a very interesting article on the novel turns her brilliant mind and slightly caustic tongue to a comparison of the American and Russian manner. She makes a new and well put criticism of the former, that we are afraid to treat of things of the spirit or "soul" as the Russians have it, that "Notwithstanding our inordinate zeal for improving and reforming the body, we continue to treat the soul as an impoverished female relation who is welcome only so long as she makes herself useful about the house. With the soul that loafs or star-gazes or is slow to lend a hand in our legitimate business of making over the world we have as little patience as if it were both in fact and in theological fiction our deceased wife's sister."

"STRANGE INTERLUDE"

By Eugene O'Neill
Boni & Liveright

The country has been ringing with excitement over the Eugene O'Neill play "Strange Interlude." The play



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which causes you to come at five o'clock and take a rain-check so you can go out and get some dinner. New York and as much of the itinerant population as could get there has stood eagerly before the box office and waited as docilely as if it were Charlie Chaplin they were going to see.

This means first that Eugene O'Neill is the fashion and secondarily that Mr. O'Neill is our only great playwright and he has in this play done a tremendous thing. It has the length and scope of a novel, and it does what no play has ever done before in just this way, it gives the thoughts as well as the words of the characters. It is a play of such complexity that even those who intend to see it would do well to read it first, and those who do not, and do not ordinarily like to read "just a play," will find in it the ordinary depth and breadth of a novel. The "Strange Interlude" of the title is life itself, the way it appears to the main character, Nina. After the stress of love and life are over she feels that it has all been only an interlude, a period of storm between the dreaming of happiness of her youth and the rest from life which comes with age. She says to the man who has always loved her, and who has been waiting for this time, "I want to go back to my father's house where I dreamed of happiness in my youth before I fell in love with Gordon Shaw, and all this tangled mess of love and hate and pain and birth began." It has the quality which is in all O'Neill's plays, a haunting sense of tragedy, the impossibility of finding what we expect in this world.

A POT-BOILER

"ASHENDEN OR THE BRITISH AGENT"

By Somerset Maugham
Doubleday Doran & Co.

There is one thing about it when a good writer writes a pot-boiler—the pot-boiler is usually well written. So under the sharp regret that Somerset Maugham, author of "Of Human Bondage" and "Moon and Sixpence" wrote "Ashenden or the British Agent" there is a certain degree of gratitude that he did. For the fact makes it a good story. There is no particular plot to the book, it is simply some of the experiences of a man, perhaps Maugham himself, since he is a novelist and playwright of distinction who during the war was a member of the British Secret Service.

At the beginning of the book it is casually suggested to this writer that with his profession as a screen he would be a valuable member of the secret service. He is not averse to the idea and is sent to Geneva in a position of responsibility. Then follows an account of his experiences, none of them concerning him very particularly, but all of them interesting. It is one of those loosely

Book Notes

Soon to be published is Arthur Stringer's new novel, "The Wolf Woman," a story of a Canadian girl, three-quarters wolf and one-quarter woman, who comes to New York prepared to tame it.

"De Chinesche Papegaaï" has just been published in Amsterdam. What! You've never heard of it? Well, translated into American it means "The Chinese Parrot," and was written by Earl Derr Biggers. Biggers' new Charlie Chan novel, "Behind that Curtain," has just been published and is being read avidly by the Charlie Chan fans whose name is legion. Charlie Chan is the delightful Chinese detective who solved the mysteries in three Biggers' books—"The House Without a Key," "The Chinese Parrot" and "Behind That Curtain."

Judge Marcus Kavanagh, whose book, "The Criminal and His Allies," is being widely read and discussed, maintains that in no country except America is the law held in contempt. "One day, a year or so ago," writes the judge, "during a quarrel between a bookmaker and a horse-owner at the Windsor race-track the gambler swung his hand to a revolver in his hip-pocket. 'For God's sake, Jim, don't shoot!' cried a friend. 'Remember you are in Canada.' Jim didn't shoot."

John Erskine has just returned from a three-months' lecture tour all over the United States. He was amazingly successful, and tremendously popular, having been widely heralded by his three novels, "The Private Life of Helen of Troy," "Galahad," and "Adam and Eve." Professor Erskine is now working on his new book, a modern score which will endeavor to portray the American scene as he found it on his lecture tour.

The only element ever to have been discovered by an American chemist is illinium, found by Professor Hopkins of the University of Illinois. An account of its discovery is given in Floyd Darrow's book, "The Story of Chemistry," recently published.

Youthful Opinions Make Success of "River Gold"

Grown-ups who believe that children have no critical ability will be interested to know how they have reacted to Mary Paxton's book, "River Gold," recently published, which tells a piratical tale of buried gold in Missouri. When one considers that Mary Paxton wrote the book for her son Pat (one of the heroes in the book) and her two small nephews, it is not surprising that "River Gold" pleases all children. Mrs. Paxton says that she went to her boys constantly for suggestions and advice and followed their ideas in every detail. It had to satisfy Pat before it was published, and that, no doubt, is the reason for its success. The book is published by Bobbs-Merrill.

knit, episodic books, but contrary to the general rule in such books, it holds our interest and makes good reading.

CHANDLER'S

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of the MONTH for April
REEDS and MUD

By V. BLASCO IBANEZ

Here is an unconventional love story—a rugged novel of man's battle for a livelihood in a marshy island off the coast of Spain. \$2.50