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LORD'S—BOOKS

Just Inside the West Davis Street Door

Esther Gould's Book Corner

JUST PARAGRAPHS

Edgar Lee Masters has written a long dramatic poem which will be published this month. It deals with American history from 1831 to the present time and is epic in style. The central figure is Jack Kelso, a poet, wanderer and friend of Lincoln.

Already we are getting news of the publishing lists for next fall to whet our appetites. The Viking Press leads off with the announcement of a third novel by Elizabeth Madox Roberts, an historical romance by Ford Madox Ford, a book of poetry by Sylvia Townsend Warner, and plays by Lion Feuchtwanger and Gerhart Hauptmann.

"MEAT"

By Wilbur Daniel Steele
Harper & Brothers

"Meat," the new novel by Wilbur Daniel Steele, should most certainly have been called "Drink." That would have been less misleading. To be sure Mr. Steele took his title from the Biblical verse about meat making my brother to offend, which is quite appropriate when you know about it, but the title itself gives no idea of it nor clue to the book. And surely the whirl of machinery and the shouts of men from a vast stockyards which the title certainly conjures up could not be more effectually dispelled by an earthquake than by the opening picture of New England.

When the sound, then, has died away, we realize that this book is an argument against prohibition—not only in our strict American sense but in all senses—that is, prohibition laid down

for the strong to protect the weak, and thereby taking from the strong their power and privilege of ruling themselves.

There could not have been a more normal healthy and happy family than the India family until Rex India was born into it. With one son and an adopted daughter, with culture and wealth, they felt certain that they knew the secret of living. But then Rex was born. A weakling, not quite mentally or normally responsible, he changes everything. Most of all he changes his mother whose fierce maternal instinct is so aroused to protect him that she sacrifices everything to his welfare. "If it won't hurt him, let him have it. If it will keep it out of his way." It is on this dictum that they live.

One of the first things to go is wine from the table. This becomes a symbol of the deprivations. The result is of course that the strong son is brought up to fear wine, and when he is thrown out into the world he likes it far too well, and the weak son, all the time that he is being deprived of it and told of its horrors, is stealing it from his father's cellar. This is only symbolic of the ruin that this policy brings.

It is a cruel book, not at all pleasant reading, but it is well done and certainly makes its point with clarity.

"THE BONNEY FAMILY"

By Ruth Suckow
Alfred A. Knopf

Ruth Suckow is a writer who reproduces actuality. At the very first paragraph of this latest book of hers, "The Bonney Family," we are in the backyard of the little Iowa parsonage with that family. We come to know each member of it with a calm matter of fact intimacy. This type of writer does not idealize her characters but

**Prof. Mabbott Edits
7 Newly Discovered
John Milton Letters**

Seven letters written by John Milton to Herman Mylius, edited by Prof. Thomas Ollive Mabbott of Northwestern university, will be published for the first time this summer by the Columbia University press.

These letters are edited from the originals in the archives of the State of Oldenburg. The transcripts were made from photographs of the Latin originals, the photographs sent Prof. Mabbott by the archivist of the State of Oldenburg, H. Goent, who located the letters. With one exception the letters have never before been collected, five have never appeared before in book form, and four have never been printed.

Herman Mylius, to whom the letters were written, was agent of the Count of Oldenburg in London. He was engaged in obtaining for his master a safeguard from the English Parliament, and in the course of having this properly worded and translated into Latin, he had some correspondence with the Secretary of Foreign Tongues, Mr. Milton. He took home with him to Oldenburg all the letters Milton had sent him and placed them in the archives there. They were discovered by Prof. Mabbott in his search for the originals of certain letters of state which he believed might be there and which he sought to consult for textual notes for the Columbia University edition of Milton. This discovery was made last year.

The letters are dated 1651 and 1652, and, written as they were when Milton was nearly blind, are not in his autograph except in one brief correction. The importance of the discovery lies in the fact that texts of only about 40 of Milton's letters have survived, and that there are in Oldenburg more original letters of the poet than were hitherto known to exist.

Prof. Mabbott, one of the younger professors on the staff of Northwestern university, left the local school's English staff with the close of this year and will become a member of the faculty of Brown university with its autumn reopening. He is an outstanding authority on Poe and has edited several significant discoveries of that writer's previously unpublished works, has edited a book on Edward Pinkney, a southern lyric poet, and a beautiful edition of short stories by Walt Whitman, previously unpublished.

presents them with the dispassionate-ness with which we see people in life. It is often thought that such a writer will disparage; Miss Suckow is free from that.

The chief danger in this method for the reader, is that he will be bored. Without the illumination of the author's point of view, giving him more than he could see if he were there himself, he is likely to think at about page twenty-six, "Well, what of the Bonney family?" But if he pushes on these characters become more than acquaintances; they are old friends in whose life stories it is easy to be interested.

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