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LORD'S—BOOKSHOP

First Floor—Just Inside the West Davis Street Door

Esther Gould's Book Corner

JUST PARAGRAPHS

Two books which should give an interesting opportunity for study and comparison are "Norway's Best Stories" and "Sweden's Best Stories." Anyone who has been as vague about these two very different countries as we have, will be glad to read simultaneously some of the literature of each. It is said by reviewers that the Norwegian stories have the crisp vigorous qualities of the saga, while those of Sweden are colored by the bright poetic qualities of the lyric.

Really, literature is becoming too arduous. The future publishers of the Bremen flyers' account of their trip come forth with the statement, "On May 23rd the Bremen flyers concluded their goodwill tour of the United States and for five days will go into retirement and finish their book "The Three Musketeers of the Air." They didn't dare say "write" instead of "finish" though that's what they meant.

GOOD READING

"SKYWARD"

By Commander Richard E. Byrd
 G. P. Putnam's Sons

Life for Commander Richard E. Byrd has been truly the great adven-

ture. That is the first thing that forcibly strikes one on reading his new book "Skyward." Let anyone who doubts the opportunity, the struggle, the hazards and the rewards of aviation find here his proof. Commander Byrd writes with such sincerity and such conviction that those who have thought we were jogging along pretty well, we had better let aviation alone, will realize that that is what lots of people said about railroads one hundred short years ago. "Hurling through the air at fifteen miles an hour" sounds like a joke to us now, but there will come a time when our demurrings at a hundred and fifteen will sound as funny.

No, as Commander Byrd says, there is something in human progress which is bigger than the individual or his desires or safety, and when that spirit of progress in the concrete instance lays hold of a man he is as putty in its hands. So when his eighty-seven year old grandmother said to Byrd before his flight to the Pole, "Well what will you do with the North Pole when you get it?" although he couldn't explain it in words, yet he knew there was something he could do with it.

Byrd's life has been a life of unselfish devotion to the cause of aviation. If his book did not convince you of that it would just be one more book

describing the spectacular. Since it does convince you it becomes a history of aviation, a record of the human effort and sacrifice that has been spent upon it, so that an aeroplane glimpsed from your sitting room window is not just a moving speck and a noise, but an achievement of the human mind and will and a promise of great things for the future. This is a splendid book fascinating reading for anyone.

DESPISED AMERICA

"THE OTHER SIDE"

By Struthers Burt
 Charles Scribner's Sons

What alchemy is necessary to turn one of the most finished, suave and delightful of novelists into a slightly tiresome and almost peevish essayist? Whatever it is I fear it has been practiced on Struthers Burt to make him the author of this book of essays or sketches, "The Other Side." It is unworthy of the man who wrote that most charming book of last spring "The Delectable Mountains." The title refers to the other side of the question, the side which seldom has the nerve or lung-power to raise its voice against the Mencken ballyhoo. That is well and good. We are anxious to hear someone speak up on that side. But somehow, unfortunately, we are not particularly interested in the way that Mr Burt speaks. He is just a little too reiterative, a little tedious.

The major premise of the book is a good one. It is that America is getting a decidedly "raw deal" just now in the form of criticism both at home and abroad. Americans traveling in Europe think it their duty to run down as vigorously as possible their own country in order to seem grown up and sophisticated. At home they do it because it is the form of noise, like jazz, most popular at the moment. As Mr. Burt makes clear, this sort of thing can be carried too far. As he says, "All you need to condemn a thing is to call it American." "We have become a derogatory adjective." And the bad result of all this is, not that our feelings are hurt, but that it destroys any possibility of real international understanding, it lays the foundation of hatreds and therefore the foundation of wars. We agree with all this, we hope more people will write to the same question, and we hope, without malice, that next time Mr. Burt will write a little more interestingly.

THE GRAPHIC BIBLE

Lewis Browne's new book, "The Graphic Bible," which the Macmillan company announced for publication in April, will not be ready until late August. The book is a survey of the Old and New Testaments presented geographically as well as historically, and includes one hundred "animated maps" drawn by the author.



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