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LORD'S—BOOKS
First Floor—Davis

Esther Gould's Book Corner

JUST PARAGRAPHS

Smith College Library, Northampton, Mass. Sounds of singing come faintly through the windows. Elevated songs such as "1920 does your mother know you're out?" and others similar with which older reuning classes favor their younger reuning sisters. Stillness within, where only a few days ago distracted seniors frantically turned the pages of reference volumes and wondered why their families had insisted on a college education. And one sits, wondering also in a distracted manner why book reviewing goes on forever. Class costumes, words to the latest songs, sunlight on the unbelievable green of campus and on Paradise Pond, on rhododendrons and azaleas, seem so much more important. One sighs.

A GOOD FIRST NOVEL

"SHE WALKS IN BEAUTY"
By Dawn Powell, Brentano's

"She Walks in Beauty" by Dawn Powell is a good piece of work. A little more than the "polished second-rate" of so much of our fiction. It is a first novel and it suffers slightly from the looseness, the lack of decision of many first novels. But it is decidedly better than most.

The setting of the book is particularly good, a middle western town and the very queer boarding-house which "Aunt Jule," as she is universally known, keeps there. Her two grandchildren, Linda and Dorrie, both suffer from the social blight of their position, a small town is of course merciless. Linda grows bitter under

the blight but she combats it in her own stubborn way and is at last conventionally triumphant. Dorrie is a poet, it is she who "walks in beauty." Her triumph is more exciting and more ephemeral.

The weakness of the book is in its failure, with me at least, to gain my sympathy. Until the last half of the book I didn't know who to like, I was a spectator at a game not knowing which side I was rooting for. That comes from lack of decision, a common first novel fault, and one which disappears with practice. Miss Powell has a good future before her.

FOR ONE'S FRIENDS

"SHORT CIRCUITS"

By Stephen Leacock
Dodd Mead & Co.

Stephen Leacock, like our winters and the youth of today, isn't quite what he used to be. Humorists more definitely than other pursuers of the literary art reach their peak and fade. That is because there are fewer intermediate gradations, they either hit the ball or they don't. In "Nonsense Novels" Leacock certainly hit the ball, his imagination ran riot and carried his reader rioting along. In "Short Circuits" the type of humor is less riotous and, alas, less humorous.

Yet they are pleasant little sketches of present day life, taking off our foibles in a neat manner. Joe Brown, Champion Pie-Eater, a "quiet unassuming man of a stature in no way out of the common, and having a frank, offhand manner that puts one at once at one's ease" might be any one of our heroes, from a flagpole sitter to champion pugilist. The remarks on the man who is supposed to make a speech at the banquet are peculiarly telling when they, as in my case at present, fit in with experience. In other words there is a good deal of fun in the book, it makes a good present to send with marked passages anonymously to one's friends.

A GOOD BOOK

"A MIRROR FOR WITCHES"

By Esther Forbes
Houghton Mifflin Co.

Esther Forbes has done that rare and gratifying thing, write a second book as good as her first. She has accomplished this probably by doing that other rare thing—making her

second book different from her first. "O Genteel Lady" received such praise that Miss Forbes might have been tempted to try another of that preeminently charming quasi-serious style, but in "A Mirror for Witches" she has tackled sterner stuff. She has gone back to the days of the Salem witches and has not only captured remarkably well the spirit of the age but its diction also, and its quaint primness and severity of tone.

Miss Forbes tells her story with her tongue imperceptibly inclined toward her cheek so that, even as we should probably see it in documents of that day, we see the judges and accusers as the evildoers and the witch herself as the innocent wronged. So her tale becomes not only a narrative but a subtle satire of that stern and self-righteous age.

Bilby's Doll, born of witch parentage in Brittany, was brought to the coasts of the New World by a foster-father who, having rescued her from the fire which consumed her parents, fell so under her spell that he loved her above all mortal things. Though she was always persecuted by his jealous wife, yet she grew up happily enough for she spent most of her time in the woods and fields with him. Then gradually as the years go on strange things which happen in the community and cannot be explained in other ways come to be laid to the memory of witchcraft brought by Doll from those far off infantile years.

So we see how to an imaginative child the picture of witchcraft always held up before herself comes to be believed and she does at last accept the fact that she is a witch. Inexorably then move the wheels of justice, never pausing until they have ground between them this poor guileless and lonely child. As we see the last of her in her miserable cell we are convinced that she is the most innocent one of them all.

TO SUMMER ABROAD

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Lutz and their daughter, Mary, of 460 Hawthorne lane, will sail from New York on July 15, on the Berengaria, for an extended trip abroad. They will tour England, France, Belgium, and Germany. One of the most interesting features of their trip will be the Olympic games in Amsterdam, which they will attend. The Lutz family will return from their sojourn in foreign climes in the fall.

Mrs. William D. McAdams, 734 Lincoln avenue, left on Monday, July 2, for Quebec, and sailed from there for Europe on July 4. Mrs. McAdams will visit France, Italy, and Switzerland, and will return in about five weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. George Greenaway and family of Winnetka are spending their vacation in Canada, visiting relatives in London, Ontario. They left this week-end by automobile.

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Reach of 844 Prospect avenue left on Monday, July 2, for Norway and Sweden, where they will spend seven or eight weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Morton Maddox, 705 Oak street, returned home last week-end from a motor trip in the south.



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