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**Esther Gould's Book Corner**

**JUST PARAGRAPHS**

A book by a deep sea diver looks as if it might be a real coup in the history of publishing—that is until someone gets one by a whale or a shark. This is a book promised for the Fall by Thomas Eadie who received the Congressional Medal of Honor for rescuing his fellow diver in working to salvage the "S4."

With a sort of touching faith the literati of the country apprise their publishers and the literary departments of the papers of their whereabouts for the summer. It is as if they had an ever-springing hope that there might be a royalty check from the former or a philanthropist's check from one of the latter trying to find them.

**A NEW DEPARTURE**

**"UTHER AND IGRAINE"**

By Warwick Deeping  
 Alfred A. Knopf

It is a great temptation, when an author well known for one type of thing turns to another, to compare the two, usually to the disparagement of the newer. But this, tempting as it is, is palpably unfair. If Warwick Deeping, author of the very popular "Doomsday" and "Sorrell and Son," wishes to try his hand at an historical

novel this should be judged as an historical novel only.

"Uther and Igraine" is an historical novel and of a period of which it is particularly hard to write convincingly. Mr. Deeping has done well in many respects but he has in large extent failed, as so many historical novelists do fail, in being convincing. To turn back to an age of barbarism and write of a time when life was held so lightly, loves were loved so fiercely, is to stretch our credulity to the breaking point. That it stretches the author's, too, is evidenced by the fact that his characters are seldom more than puppets taking part in acts for which history pulls the strings.

But what Mr. Deeping has done is to make a glorious tapestry. He has changed his style to one rich, positively riotous in color, but with stiff straight lines like those old tapestries made in the ages before they dared allow themselves, in art, the informality of curves. For instance, in description of a struggle between two women, "Igraine despite her spirit was faint from loss of blood and all a-tremble." This rigidity and pomposity of style which though I might quote endlessly I could not illustrate properly away from the whole, is, while slightly tiresome, yet appropriate to the subject.

Uther and Igraine were the father and mother of King Arthur of Britain.

**Everyday Life in Japan Told by Mission Workers**

Did you know that the ricksha was originally a baby-buggy adapted by an American missionary to the needs of his invalid wife? "Unfathomed Japan" by Harold W. Foght and Alice Robbins Foght gives his bit of information and much more that is of very real interest.

It is a lively chronicle of the daily adventures of an American and his wife in Japan, traveling not so much the beaten tourist paths as the less known byways, where the real heart of Japan is, where live its real makers—the tillers of the soil; the seekers after food in the sea; the small artisans and the homely sages.

**A LIFE OF THOMAS HARDY**

Plans are under way for a memorial to Thomas Hardy in his native Dorsetshire and his biography is to be published early this fall by Macmillan. The material for this book was gathered by his wife, Florence Emily Hardy, from his own words and diaries, and most of it was actually read and revised by him.

Mr. Hardy's latest poems, made ready for publication shortly before his death, are also to appear shortly, under the title, "Winter Words in Various Moods and Metres."

This is the story of the stormy years before they came together, when Uther, after having rescued the girl from a terrible death at the hands of barbarians, leaves her, thinking her a nun. She was only a novice but had not told him. Then follows a long period of woe for both of them, ending at last in a duel between Uther and the girl's husband. Merlin and sorcery enter into the story which is, on the whole, worth reading for the colorful picture it presents of that far off time.

**A PSYCHIC NOVEL**

**"THE DOOR UNLATCHED"**

By Marie Cher  
 Minton Balch & Co.

Marie Cher is a talented author, an American, whose novel, "The Door Unlatched," as well as a collection of her essays, was first published in England. Miss Cher has taken as this first subject for her talent a curious one, a story with great difficulties which she has handled skillfully.

Roger Darrington, living in Paris and without any very decisive interest in life, becomes very much enamoured with the history of the French Revolution. Living in rooms which played a part in those stirring days and creating them over again for himself he suddenly finds his personality taken over by an alien one, a man who actually did live a century and more ago and played a vital part in that great half lives, this strange Raoul taking drama. From that time on Roger only possession of him and putting him through these heart rending experiences at his pleasure. To add to his fantastic dilemma the child for whom he is tutor and her mother both fit into his dream. This places him in the unpleasant position of being whisked from reality to unreality in the presence of others and thereby sometimes losing his proper dignity. The story moves soberly and to an inevitable climax. The book is, as I have said, exceedingly well done, the style is easy and vivid. It may or may not be appealing to you as a story. To me it was not. I found myself regretting that Miss Cher, with so much at her command of literary talent and historical background, of knowledge of contemporary Paris and contemporary human nature, should not have found different, perhaps more vital, use for them.



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