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BOOKS

that herald the
 autumn season

The Fringe of the Moslem World

Harry A. Franck

A travel narrative covering Egypt, Palestine, Transjordan, Syria and the "new" Turkey—lifting them out of their hitherto remote associations. Illustrated. The Century Company. \$4.00

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Maurice Baring

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William Macleod Raine

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Faith Baldwin

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Mathilde Eiker

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The Strange Case of Miss Annie Spragg

Louis Bromfield

Frederick A. Stokes . . . \$2.50

LORD'S—BOOKS
 Just Inside the West Davis
 Street Door

Esther Gould's Book Corner

JUST PARAGRAPHS

"Coming of Age in Samoa" is a book which the worried parents of the young and wild generation might do well to read. It is a brilliant study by Dr. Margaret Mead of the simple primitive civilization of that island with a view to discovering what part of us is human nature and what part is human nature plus the unnatural restraints of civilization.

Hugh Walpole gives high praise to Rebecca West's new book of criticism, "The Strange Necessity." He says, "Whoever may be at the head of male English letters since Thomas Hardy's death, there is no doubt at all that Mrs. Woolf (Virginia Woolf) and Miss West divide the feminine honors between them. It is not in fact an exaggeration to claim that 'The Strange Necessity' and Mrs. Woolf's 'Common Reader' are the two finest volumes of literary criticism written by women in the English language."

A BOOK OF INTEREST

"The Strange Case of Miss Annie Spragg"

By Louis Bromfield
 Frederick A. Stokes Co.

Louis Bromfield has long been marked out as One of the Young Men to be Watched in American literature. In his new book, "The Strange Case of Miss Annie Spragg," he justifies once more that classification. It is a book to be read with great interest, a book of finely developed skill, though with less of his usual feeling. None of Mr. Bromfield's books have equalled in feeling his first, "The Green Bay Tree," or, best of all (each one to his taste) "Possession." None

of his characters has ever moved him or us as did Lily or Ellen.

In this book his characters are all presented exactly, with that devastating clarity which is increasingly Mr. Bromfield's tool, but more or less derisively, too, as bugs impaled and held up on the point of a pin. Annie Spragg moves us perhaps most of all to pity. Yet we know very little about her—the story opens with her death, and even the pages that go back to deal with her directly do not take us very close to her. Daughter of an impostor prophet, sister of a fantastical preacher, she seems to have had as poor a break from this old world as would be possible. So we pity her, but remotely, as we would someone read about in the dim past, not warmly with the pity which makes us weep for some characters as we would scarcely do for ourselves.

The other characters, from poor, bald, little Mr. Winnery to the wild Princess and her lovers, are interesting but we care nothing about them. This is not adverse criticism, it is fact. Mr. Wilder's "Bridge of San Luis Rey" was of the same type of impersonal fiction, it was nothing against it. Mr. Bromfield has used, by the way, something of the same, and difficult method of Mr. Wilder, that of relating many incidents seemingly unconnected, but all converging at the point of the story.

AMERICA PRODUCES A SAGA

"John Brown's Body"

By Stephen Vincent Benet
 Doubleday Doran

In "John Brown's Body" Stephen Vincent Benet has done a tremendous-

Seven New Biographies Coming Out This Fall

Seven books in the field of biography will be published this fall by The Macmillan company.

"Lenin: Thirty Years of Russia" is written by a young Austrian, Valeriu Marcu, who met Lenin during the latter's exile in Switzerland. It is a deeply absorbing account of the part Lenin played in the Russian Revolution and after. (Publication date, September 4.)

"Jubilee Jim: The Life of Colonel James Fisk, Jr.," by Robert H. Fuller, recounts the career of a Vermont boy who began as a tin peddler and ended as a notorious gambler in Wall Street. (Publication date, October 2.)

In "Masks in a Pageant," William Allen White dissects and displays the characters and records of eight Presidents and some other politicians, including Al Smith. It makes lively reading.

"Schumann-Heink, the Last of the Titans" tells her own story to Mary Lawton, and it is packed full of amusing incidents and famous people.

No novel of life at sea could be more thrilling than "John Cameron's Odyssey," which he himself relates and which Andrew Farrell has written down. Cameron, a Scotch sea captain, tells with vigor and humor of his often perilous adventures on three oceans.

The last European monarch of the old school—"Francis Joseph of Austria"—is portrayed by Joseph Redlich, who was long a member of the Austrian Parliament, and in 1918 Minister of Finance of Austria. For sixty years the Emperor's was the deciding will throughout his wide realm, and Redlich shows him as an Emperor indeed.

"The Life of Thomas Hardy," by Florence Emily Hardy, his wife, contains not only the story of Hardy's career, but many of his opinions and observations.

ly difficult thing—written a long narrative poem which doesn't drag, which is full of spirit and interest through every one of its three hundred and eighty some pages. It is a work of great scope and of great feeling. It was evidently Mr. Benet's purpose to embrace all of America in this work, America past and present, and particularly, of course, America at the crucial time of the Civil War.

It is this wide scope for which Mr. Benet should particularly be praised, it took the eye of a visionary to see it and the brain of a poet to reduce it to something which others, too, could see. It, more than the excellent verse, the command of historical material, make the book memorable, worthy to live as I believe it will.

In order to give this farflung picture of an age Mr. Benet has taken many figures from north and south, from east to west, the sons of southern gentlemen and raw-boned Yankee farmers, all marching off to a War:

"North and South they assembled, one cry and the other cry,

And both are ghosts to us now, old drums hung up on a wall,

But they were the first hot wave of youth too—ready to die,

And they went to war with an air, as if they went to a ball."

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By Louis Bromfield

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 "Beau Ideal" and "Brook Evans"