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Boris Sokoloff

Introduction by Theodore Dreiser

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Lord's—First Floor

Just inside the West Davis Street Door

**Esther Gould's Book Corner**

**JUST PARAGRAPHS**

"Whitehead's Duplicate Auction Bridge" has just been published in time for the holidays. It includes duplicate contract bridge, and gives the very latest on rules, scoring, arranging of tournaments, etc.

Edward J. O'Brien's "Best Short Stories of 1928," just out, includes excellent contributions of Fanny Hurst, Dorothy Canfield, Katharine Brush, Irvin S. Cobb, and a story of Louis Bromfield's, "The Cat that Lived at the Ritz" thought by some to be the best thing that Mr. Bromfield ever wrote, though the short story is certainly not the field in which he is best known.

**TOO LEAN**

**"Lean Twilight"**

By Edward Shenton  
Charles Scribner's Sons

"Lean Twilight" by Edward Shenton is, alas, lean in more ways than one. Attractively gotten up by its publisher, neat in its proportions it rather allures one, but the contents fail to carry on. It lacks vitality.

It is the story of a girl disillusioned or perhaps, rather, disappointed in her first idealistic love, who becomes in her effort to conquer the

hurt of it increasingly hardened and shrunken in her inner self, though outwardly she attains success in the form of a rich marriage, position, friends. A good enough plot but it fails to strike the necessary spark, or it did with me. Unfortunately for the poor novelist probably sometimes the lack is in the reviewer himself, the mood, the moment. However the lack was there. Mr. Shenton's style borders first on the poetic becoming decidedly wordly, then it shrinks to positive telegraphic proportions.

**STATESMAN PAR EXCELLENCE**

**"The Intimate Papers of Col House"**

Arranged by Charles Seymour  
Houghton Mifflin Co.

In these last two volumes of the "Intimate Papers of Colonel House" is told the fascinating and remarkable story of what went on in our country in the realm of high diplomacy during those all important years of our participation in the War and the making of peace. Once more one is amazed at the extent to which Colonel House took part in those events. Nothing was done in Washington in which, either from New York or from his summer home in Massachusetts, this super-ambassador had not had a hand. He suggesting of his influence, often it was to the country's loss. But there was never any definite break between these two who as House so truly said, had "minds which ran parallel."

Freed as House was by his lack of official position from the details of actual administration, he was able to keep his mind clear for the long view. Statesmen abroad as well as officials at home recognized his unique posi-

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tion and so came to him with every imaginable project, knowing that if he wished he could put it through to the president in far less time than would be taken by the ordinary channels. All this gave him a life of such astonishing significance, importance, and infinite variety as to make it a sort of statesman's dream.

It was House who suggested the "debate" between leading papers in America and Germany on the aims of the War which might if it had been carried through have led to great things. But this was one case where the Colonel's project was not adopted. It was House that the country had to thank for the fact that when the Peace Conference did come its statesmen went to it well informed on matters of earlier foreign diplomacy.

Toward the end of House's relations with the President there was a lessened, planned, advised, toned up or toned down with a shrewdness which does seem to have been almost infallible as it was untiring.

**IT GOT IT**

**"The Father"**

By Katharine Holland Brown  
John Day Co.

Probably many a young aspirant for literary fame and the not too frequent fruits thereof, will sit up all night over this book, "The Father," by Katharine Holland Brown, trying to decide wherein and why it was the recipient of the largest prize ever given for a work of fiction. Probably next year there will be a flock of contest novels dealing with the troubled era just before the Civil war.

But no particular era will insure the prize. "The Father" got it because it is a good story. Rather old-fashioned to be able to be described like that, but nevertheless true. It has a plot which moves along, it has plenty of normal human interest, it has a murder trial of the hero at which the heroine testifies to save him, it has mob burnings of the father's printing press. In other words it will appeal to anyone who likes a story for the story's sake and who incidentally will be interested in the background of Illinois in the pre-Civil war days.

The Dutton Mystery for  
December

**THE MURDERS IN SURREY WOOD**

by John Arnold

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