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Review of New Books

"Memoirs of Halide Edib." The Century Co. $4.

What book could have more fascination for women in these bonnie days of feminism than the memoirs of Halide Edib, the wonder woman of Turkey, who was born in a harem and yet while in her early twenties overthrew the social order of a thousand years and brought about the emancipation of her sex throughout her native land.

HALIDE EDIB

"The Memoirs of Halide Edib" are more fascinating than fiction. They will be a source of inspiration to women of all countries and add new laurels to the many she wears so graciously.

History has had many women rebels but none of them have rendered a greater service than had Halide Edib, whose revolt was against the barbarism of Turkish customs which has enslaved members of her sex for centuries and whose victory over these evils was of far greater consequence than the overturning of a throne.

The daughter of a politically powerful family, Halide Edib was educated in part by English governesses and was the first to receive the bachelor of arts degree from the American College for Girls. Her training naturally imbued her with a love for western ideals and she was the first Turkish woman to discard the veil.

Married while still a child and the mother of two children, she found that her husband was fascinated by another woman. Upon his prompt reply to her inquiry on the subject, that he planned to take a second wife but that Halide might still retain first place in his household, she divorced him.

She served as the right hand "man" of Kemal Pasha, organized the first Turkish department of education and acted as its first minister. When Kemal made war upon the Greeks, she enlisted as a sergeant in the army, fought spectacularly through a number of engagements, and distinguished herself in the desperate battle of Sakaria, which raged for 23 consecutive days.

Afterwards married to Kemal, she continued the militant movement for the liberation of her sex. But when her husband had risen to political heights of which he had probably never dreamed, he decided it was necessary to discard the wife whose brilliance had made his glory possible, because she was not looked upon with favor by the conservative Turks whose favor he desired.

Halide Edib was discarded and she is now a refugee in the home of wealthy Americans at Constantinople. Only a few days ago the cables carried the news that her former husband had ordered that no passport be granted her to come to America, as she desired, for fear that she would indulge in criticism harmful to his government.

Every American woman who is familiar with her splendid career will be eager to see her and to hear her. But failing in this, they will find a rare substitute in her charming memoirs.

Halide Edib writes as if one inspired. Her story is the story of a Turkish woman from the time of Abdul the Damned until the end of the World war. Another volume, apparently, is to come. That, too, will be awaited with great anticipation.

"The Letters of Sir Walter Raleigh," edited by Lady Raleigh. The Macmillan Co.

The only biography of Sir Walter Raleigh, professor of English literature at Oxford from 1904 until his death in 1922, is contained in these two volumes, made up entirely from some 2,000 of his letters which cover his entire career.

While the name of the modern Sir Walter Raleigh will not find as firm a place in history as that of "The Shepherd of the Ocean" who became the prime favorite of Elizabeth and was doomed to die on the block with a jest upon his lips about "sharp medicine," nevertheless it is lodged in a secure niche.

Sir Walter, who was knighted in 1911, accepted a professorship of English literature at the Mohammedan college of Aligarh, India, in 1885, and after two years there, was forced to return to England because of illness. To his intense regret he was unable to accept an invitation to go to Bagdad as the guest of some of his admirers because of the condition of his health. And the ambition to make the journey tugged at his fancy for more than 20 years. Then as historian for the Royal Air Force, he did make the trip by aeroplane, only to fall a victim of typhoid fever and to die shortly after he reached home.

The collection of letters contains many to his wife, his sisters, his mother and to various friends. They are written purely for the purpose of explaining his views to his intimates and with no thought of publication. For this reason, one of their chief charms lies in their engaging frankness. To his Scottish and Irish ancestry, perhaps, may be traced his disposition to strike straight from the shoulder and his rare sense of humor.

To those who have read his voluminous writings of a critical nature, and especially those who heard him lecture on his visit to the United States shortly before America entered the war, his letters will come as a rare treat. But regardless of the reader's familiarity with Sir Walter's career, his epistles will prove highly entertaining as well as educational. A profound scholar, he has the habit of looking at things through the eyes of a man of the world and of calling a spade a spade whether he perceives it in Great Britain, Palestine, America or France.

"Heather Heretics," by Marshall N. Gould. Houghton, Mifflin Co. $2.

Read but a few pages of "Heather Heretics" and you will appreciate why it is one of the most discussed books of the year.

Scotch humor at its best, has few, if any rivals. And in this novel, Marshall Gould has taken a place alongside Barrie and Ian Hay.

"Heather Heretics" has for its hero a singularly modern "little minister," a humorous and sturdy man, yet full of tenderness and passionate idealism. Gradually he becomes more and more liberal in his interpretation of the "word" until he finds arrayed against him the dour Wee Frees whose point of view is quite similar to our own fundamentalists. Of course, among the latter is Morag, the father of the girl the minister loves. The church is split into two groups, the heroine runs away and her name is stricken from the family Bible. But all's well that ends well and "Heather Heretics" comes to a pleasant ending.

"Heather Heretics" is a sparkling romantic tale. And for those who are interested in the transitory period in which religion now finds itself, it will have an added appeal, whether the reader be liberal, conservative or neutral in his spiritual views.

"Madame Judas," by Margaret Turnbull. J. B. Lippincott Co. $2.

Dr. Gilbert Eliot is accused of poisoning his associate and dear friend, Dr. Charlie Fairfe. Eve Hamilton, a close friend of both, arranged with Andrew Dickerson, a criminal lawyer of renown, to defend Dr. Eliot. The chief witness for the prosecution is the young and beautiful wife of Dr. Fairfe.

It takes all the skill and resourcefulness of the able Andrew Dickerson, most ably aided by the vivacious Juliet Jackson, known among her newspaper friends as "The Female Parrot"—to eventually bring the guilty parties to justice and free the innocent person from the shadow of the gallows. While the plot is not very deep and a good gamer can solve the mystery long before the author's denouement, the story is told in such an entertaining manner that the reader's interest is held to the end.

"The Ivory Graves," by Sir Hector Duff. Doubleday, Page & Co. $2.

Deep in the wildest part of Africa is a hidden cave called the Ivory Graves. In it is stored the accumulation of centuries of ivory hunting by a now extinct tribe. The secret way to the cave was known but to one Zulu chieftain who on his death bed passes on the secret to a young British officer who had earned his friendship.

An outfit is gathered together and the journey into the wilderness started. The adventures and trials before the party reach the Ivory Graves and the subsequent return provide the reader with plenty of thrills. This is an adventure story of the higher type, told in a most attractive manner of a subject that is always interesting.

"The Vengeance of Hercules Williams," Geo. H. Doran Co., N. Y. $2. By Gordon Young.

This romance of the "wholesome" type would seem to show very clearly the working of the law—the final closing in of the net that is spread by authorities once a suspect is sought. It also shows that a reckless youth may improve his morals after receiving a sudden shock, preferably through mistaken identity.

The story has to do with life in the islands of the Far East. Things are unusually quiet and the quaint existence of a sleepy native town is undisturbed until the arrival of the white man. Like many another misunderstood character, Williams has left civilization with most of it under the impression that he is a murderer. However, Williams, it seems, has always been credited with many crimes that he never committed. He usually is being hunted the world over for particularly gruesome crimes committed—he always find out just in time—by his enemies.

Since the author, early in the tale leaves a broad hint that right will be right and vengeance restored to the much abused—or amused—we hardly know which—Williams, there are grounds for not being keyed up to the very high pitch of expectation and excitement which the simmering down to an inevitable happy ever after ending might stir in the reader.

"Forty Immortals," by Benjamin DeCasseres. Joseph Lawrence, New York; Published. $3.50.

Who are your forty immortals of literature?

If this question was asked of every person in the world, and the response was one hundred per cent, no other list would correspond with that submitted by De Casseres. But if perchance it did, we have the slightest doubt in the world but what Ben would pass out of the same complaint which closed the chapter for Dame Van Winkle.

Therefore what list of immortals could be of as much interest as De Casseres? Here are his twoscore Titans:

Nietzsche, Maeterlinck, Thomas Hardy, Spinoza, Arthur Symons, Victor Hugo, William Blake, Edgar Saltus, Jules Deliautier, James B. Cabell, Remy de Gourmont, Thoreau, D'Annunzio, Richard Jefferies, Jules Laforgue, Balzac, Shelley, Emerson, Baudelaire, Lord Dunsany, Anatole France, Walt Whitman, Hearn-Ibsen, Strindberg, Marinetti, Gustave Le Bon, Poe, Max Stirner, Leconte De Lisle, De Maupassant, Stendhal, Hawthorne, Flaubert, Amiel, Emile Tardieu, Ibsen, Verlaine, Monsieur Satan, Shakespeare and Rousseau.

And he has written an essay on each of them. Or is it proper to say that De Casseres ever writes? Rather he hacks his sentences out with a broad-axe. Nor is he ever satisfied unless he is standing waste-deep in the crumbled bits of the idols he has just shattered. He is a writer who is different from all writers that have been or ever will be. And how like him it would have been to have omitted Shakespeare from his hall of fame. But that would have been for him to do the expected which he never permits himself to do. Instead of reading the hand of Avon out of his niche in history, he closes his essay thus:

"All the planets are named for a god except the one we live on. The Earth should be renamed Shakespeare."

But he is not above billing some of his immortals in oil, for a moment or two, even though he does rescue them before they char.

"Hawthorne" he says "was a giant—but a giant leashed in cobwebs. He was a thinker whose thoughts were always at halfmast for the sorrows that sicked at his heart."

De Maupassant was "a strange ethereal beast, a satyr at sprawl amid the pillars, a storm-ranging butterfly perched in a compost."

Nietzsche "took the universe of thought and slambocked it in the retorts of hatred to a poisonous spittle which he then fell in the face of humanity."

When Anatole France, the pacifist, "became a warrior in 1914 . . . the smile and the tear married and became a sword."

"Literary childbirth killed Balzac. There are some thoughts so huge, so complex that they require the aid of instruments to drag them forth. Balzac bore his books to the world in that manner."

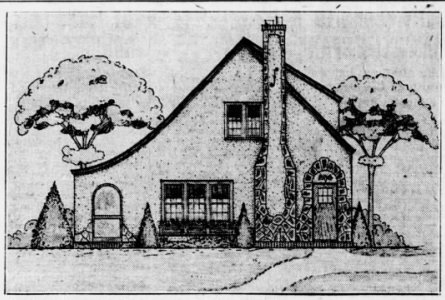
"We have played flunkey before so many European literary and semi-scientifico celebrities lately that I am wondering whether we shouldn't move away from the shine-em up stands long enough to rise and salute a great American literary genius, James Branch Cabell."

These quotations give a small snapshot of the way De Casseres frames the pictures of his immortals.

Brilliant, virile, refreshing is Benjamin De Casseres' volume of immortals. With the vigorous Ben feeling you about his art gallery, you will see the statuary from an entirely new and novel angle.

The General Education board during the past year made an appropriation aggregating $2,534 to the departments of education of two states, to assist in maintaining divisions of schoolhouse planning in those states.

The English Cottage Type Combining Beauty and Practicability



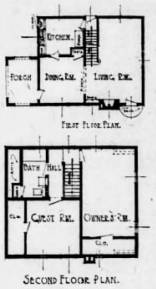
For the one who wants to combine beauty of design with practicability probably no other type of home offers as much as the English cottage. Some space is sacrificed, yet the soft curves and easy angles make a background for landscaping that should be a joy for the one who likes to garden. It is the one type of small home that can be built and still carry the impressiveness of the larger home and it need not look out of place in any location.

The one building a home of this type should choose a builder experienced and a user of quality material and workmanship as the cut-ins on the roof must be carefully made if leaks and cracks are to be avoided and proper proportion must be carried throughout if right appearance is to result. If a breakfast room is desired the porch might be built back over a portion of the kitchen and a nook thus provided without a very great expense. If this were done the porch could more readily be used as a dining porch during suitable weather. The kitchen as now arranged provides for a cabinet across one wall with a sink built into the cupboard and under the window. The ice box takes up the lower part of the cabinet in the outside corner. The two windows are arranged to give cross light so that it need never be dark over the range. If three bedrooms were necessary or desired the house could be increased slightly and the one large room could be divided into two.

The color scheme, excepting possibly the roof, should be kept in reasonably light shades and not built with too heavy stone or too rough finish on the stucco. Either moist air or hot water heating plants will work efficiently in this type of home and if care is used in insulating it should require not more than five tons or less of fuel.

It is the small things overlooked in plans and specifications that entail a great deal more expense. Plans should be as complete as possible and then changes made only when they are to correct mistakes. Choose a builder experienced, well reputed and so financed that you will not need to take chances.

Plans and specifications furnished by Pioneer Building company.



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Modern Home Types, No. 4, Suburban Colonial

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If your intentions are to build a home, it could be started within the next few days, or even weeks, and yet be ready before the annual moving day in the fall. If you are only planning to buy a home already built, it will be beneficial both to the seller and the buyer to consummate the deal a month or two ahead of the possession date. It is always a difficult matter to find just what you want at your price whether you build or buy. The details of building especially are perfected only by going over the plans and specifications, while in the ready built home there are many things to be taken into consideration if you are to be reasonably sure that the home is what it should be for the price you are paying.
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