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## The Shape of Things to Come

H. G. Wells, the British writer, always has been fascinated by prophecy, and in his new book, "The Shape of Things to Come," published in August, he tells his public what to expect in world affairs in the near and distant future. Apparently, according to Mr. Wells, things will get worse before they get better. Here are some of his pronouncements:

In 1935 will come world-wide influenza epidemics.

In 1940 kidnaping will be very prevalent.

In 1938 the Chinese will drive out the Japs from the interior of Asia.

The last Great World War will begin in 1940.

In 1965 the Modern World-State will be set up as a going concern, from which peace will result.

Mr. Wells will be remembered as having written a splendid World War novel, published in 1916. It is "Mr. Britling Sees It Through."

## Anthony Adverse

Let those who are interested in old fashioned romance and novels of historical background, turn to the best seller of the day, "Anthony Adverse" by Hervey Allen. Ever since its first appearance in the bookstalls early in the summer, "Anthony Adverse" has been a best seller, despite its five hundred thousand words on its twelve hundred pages. When one thinks of the historical novel, one's mind immediately wonders to Leo Tolstoy's "War and Peace" or to S. Weir Mitchell's "Hugh Wynne"; but American readers apparently are more interested in this recent publication of Mr. Allen, set during the tempestuous days of the Napoleonic Wars in France and moving swiftly to the West Indies, Africa, and finally to America. The author, it is understood, has been interested in the works of Charles Dickens with their many characters and counter plots, and has spent years reading and designing the background for his new novel. Surely the public interest in "Anthony Adverse" has exceeded the highest hopes that the publishers entertained. Indeed it is well worth reading.

## The Stranger's Return

Phil Stong has written a new book, and it already has been made into a cinema. Everyone remembers Phil Stong and his "State Fair" and Will Rogers and his Blue Boy; but few, however, will recall "The Stranger's Return," even if they did see Mr. Lionel Barrymore in the screen production. Despite that, the novel is rather good light reading, telling as it does, the story of jaded Manhattan nerves in conflict with the serenity of Iowan farm life. It at least shows that the author of a best seller cannot always repeat himself.

## Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas

Surely of interest to the college mind, especially to the mind who likes or is interested in Ernest Hemingway and his "Farewell to Arms," is the recently published "Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas." It is, in truth, the life of Gertrude Stein, American born Russian Jewess, who migrated to Paris, after an unsuccessful career as a medical student at Johns Hopkins, and set up her own salon, from which, apparently, she has dictated to the none too mature French and American artists and writers. Mr. Hemingway is one of the better known writers who worshipped at the shrine of Gertrude Stein during those dark and gloomy World War days. From her he inherited his bad sentence structure, and, some might add, his worse taste.

Be that as it may, her autobiography is a readable piece of work, showing Miss Stein giving encouragement to the young and unknown Picasso, talking with Matisse, saving the colored funny picture sections of American newspapers for her young artist friends of the Latin Quarter, driving an ambulance during the World War, and influencing in general the growth of the new art, music and literature. Although the title of the book gives the impression that it was written by Miss Stein's secretary, Miss Toklas, undoubtedly it is Miss Stein talking on the printed page.

## The Technical Man Sells His Services

Timely methods suggested to seniors of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for securing engineering jobs during the depression are made available in a book entitled, "The Technical Man Sells His Services," by Edward Hurst, published by the McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York. Professor Erwin H. Schell, who is serving as Chairman of the Placement Committee at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology reported:

"Though still too early to measure its effectiveness, we feel that Mr. Hurst's book relates itself to the needs of the engineer more closely than any other available material. We are looking forward with interest to the final results of this experiment and are confident that the author's specific suggestions will prove of real value to our students. . . ."

The Hurst method aims to utilize in placement the analytical methods studied in the engineering study courses. In addition, undergraduates should plan well in advance of their senior year for the jobs they hope to get upon graduation, according to Mr. Hurst. They should prepare a logical list of employer prospects, visit them during vacation periods, work for them during that time if possible, and look for problems needing solution.

In his preface, the author, an alumnus of Massachusetts

Institute of Technology and an executive of a large manufacturing corporation, states: "For eighteen years it has been my occasional privilege to help some young graduates, and some not so young, to get jobs. More or less as a hobby, notes were made of these experiences. Reasons for failure and also for success were recorded. Careful scrutiny of these data led to definite convictions which are set forth in this book. There are many college men utterly unable to solve their own personal employment problems, yet possessing ample ability to perform infinitely more difficult tasks, and it is for them, principally, that this book is written."

Too many men newly out of college, and too many job-seekers generally, in their search for work concentrate on large firms in large cities, in the opinion of the author. "Don't overlook the big opportunities in little industries in small towns," Mr. Hurst says, "for there is much less danger of taking 'coals to Newcastle' in the smaller communities than in the larger."

"One of the chief errors made by technical graduates in seeking jobs," Mr. Hurst says, "is that they fail to apply to their own situations the methods of analysis and study that they have spent at least four years to learn. Too many men," the author says, "merely apply for jobs; they fail to 'sell' their abilities and training, they do not study the organizations to which they apply for jobs to find the position or activity in which their training will make them most useful, they fail to examine themselves from the prospective employer's point of view."

Mr. Hurst emphasizes the point that the technical man must, for the purpose of securing employment, practice the art of selling, with his training and abilities as the commodities for sale. "The technical man in search of employment," the author declares, "should regard the employer as the purchaser of his services for profit, and, like all good salesmen, the technical man must consider the employer's point of view." In behalf of the employer Mr. Hurst declares: "Make no mistake, he is searching for exceptionally competent help. He has plenty of troubles and plenty of unsolved problems. He will meet you more than half way if you first go your half. It will be a great relief to him not to be required to dig out of you pertinent data indicative of your value to him. . . ."

Throughout his book Mr. Hurst emphasizes the point that employers hire technical men because they expect to make a profit on the training and abilities of the men they hire. It is up to the applicant, the author adds, to show any prospective employer that he will make a profit by hiring the applicant. The profit may come from improved production methods, improved purchasing plans, new designs, or from many other sources, but profit must be shown, the author concludes, before employment can be expected.

—*Westinghouse Technical Press.*

"Lady," said Mike, "would you lend me a cake of soap? Me partner's got de hiccupps and I want to scare him."

## Ah, Wilderness

Eugene O'Neill, American dramatist extraordinary, has written a new play, which is being produced in New York under the auspices of the Theater Guild and which has been published by Random House. It is called "Ah, Wilderness!" and is styled on the jacket as "a comedy of recollection." With a setting of a small New England town, it deals with events in the life of one Nat Miller, editor of the town's only newspaper, and his seventeen-year-old son, Richard. Plainly, "Ah, Wilderness!" is a commentary of pre-War home life and presents a study of the trials of an adolescent mind. It reads well, very well; it reads even better than some of the other O'Neill plays.

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## Flush

Dog lovers will be interested in "Flush," the story of a red cocker spaniel that belonged to Mrs. Robert Browning (nee Elizabeth Barrett). Apparently Flush was Miss Barrett's first love before Mr. Browning appeared in Wimpole Street, and the story of his life, his loves, and his trips to Italy with his famous master and mistress make splendid reading from the pen of Miss Virginia Woolf. "Flush" is attracting unusual attention in literary circles all over the country.

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