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Ohio State Engineer

Title: The Bookshelf Speaks

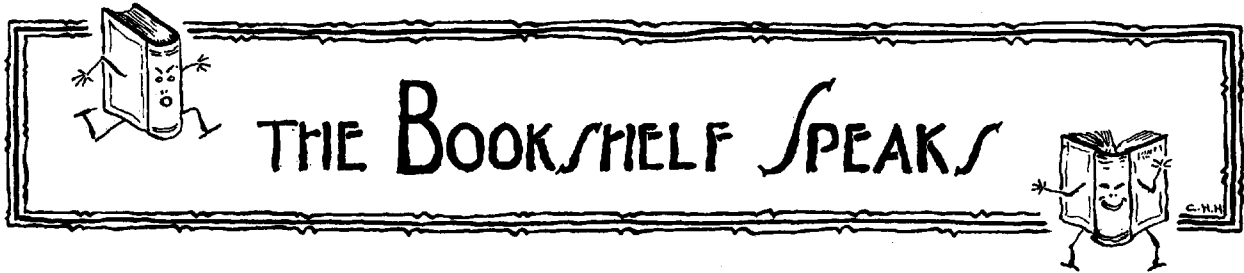
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THIS year should be started off with a laugh if it is to be much of an event, so we found a good one for you. It is a very good presentation of characters that can be found almost anywhere today, including the ever-present club woman and reformer. In fact, the club woman is the central figure on an ever-changing stage, always in the spot light and always ready to offer well meant advice.

First on a trip to Europe, then later in Florida, the important Mrs. Shimmyall followed her vocation of prying into other people's business. Her first great adventure was in assigning herself to Y. M. C. A. work in Paris during the war. Her husband was a baker who seemed human in spite of the fact that he was Mrs. Shimmyall's one and only husband. He, being a good sport, died at the proper time and in so doing left his wife a sizeable fortune. She soon picked up a young Frenchman who liked her money and helped himself to it at each opportunity. The young man of course had a sister who also needed money, so the delusioned woman had to support them both. The smug satisfaction of Mrs. Shimmyall is the most amusing thing in the whole book.

Ethel Harriman is here living up to her past reputation for humor and wit. In "Romantic—I Call It" she produced something that is good for many long laughs.

A SMALL blacksmith shop, then a larger shop, more shops and still more shops. Enormous wooden buildings, which brought in money in an ever-increasing stream, all controlled by a master. Then a fire, licking up greedily the accomplishments of a lifetime of hard work, ruining the owner and killing him. Then two of his grandsons shipping out on a windjammer, going around the Horn in winter, taking their grog and beatings, fighting, fighting anyone who would fight, fighting for each other always. That is the way in which "Sweepings," by Lester Cohen, begins. Mighty men, whose gospel was fight, who could have control of any situation, no matter how stupendous; men who made money on "Black Friday" when finance was hysterical, when men went mad, when everyone else lost. That is the story of the Pardways. Later, when one became a broker the other became a monarch of merchandising. The one had daring, a gambler who would be "either a king or a bum" and who was both during his lifetime. The other, the merchant, had several children who were all failures. After dreaming of the power that his sons should have, the conquerors that he intended them to be, is it any wonder that he became bitter, that he gave his whole fortune, his stores, the pride of his heart, to a Jew that he hated rather than to see them be squandered by his incompetent children? He was but human.

The story is one of conquerors and their fate, of men who never found the limit of their strength until their death. Too much stress is placed upon the dissipations and shortcomings of the broker and his nephews, in our opinion, but that too accomplishes its purpose, which was to give a background for the characters of the two brothers. The first half of the book is thrilling and ab-

sorbing. The rest is sensual and suggestive of a general decay of mental power and moral character. However, it is well worth reading and probably the best book that will be seen for a while.

his knowledge, mused over it, clarified it, presented it with a philosophical touch which gives the book a deeper

IMAGINE YOURSELF to be a wealthy bachelor who one day should be informed by a lawyer that he was the guardian of a fourteen-year-old girl. Then you will appreciate the position of Hilary Fraser when he found himself in like circumstances. The girl's mother had died when the girl was yet an infant and her father was a drunkard, as well as an artist of great genius. Through a childhood dominated by fear of her father, into a girlhood in a convent, then into a marriage alliance with Hilary is the fate of Celia, the orphan. A character strong and lonely, yet not desiring more than solitude and her own thoughts was Celia. She had married Hilary merely because there was nothing else to do under the circumstances. When a young violinist came into her life she thought that she had at last found love. The realization that she loved Hilary came only after she had started to elope with the musician. Acting on the impulse of the moment, she returned to Hilary to find that he cared for her. The finale runs true to the accepted standard for best sellers, and presumably they lived happily ever afterwards.

CHRIS'S NEW BOOK

"Original Ohio Land Subdivisions," being Volume III of the Final Report of C. E. Sherman, Inspector of the Ohio Co-operative Topographic Survey, published by the State and for sale by the State Geologist, Columbus, Ohio, \$2 with large map on paper, \$3 with large map dissected and mounted on cloth.

THE purchaser of a postage-stamp of land near Los Angeles or of a lot in Paradise Vista may find his purchase under water or so shaken and blown that no landmarks remain in their original places, yet be pretty sure of the fact that it's *his* land because it is tied to the original Government subdivision lines which are located astronomically and hence is no danger of being shaken down or blown away. Like a vast net-work these lines cover plain and forest in the Public Domain, a framework for tying in corners and lines, a system of rectangular coordinates with convenient parallels of latitudes for x-axes and "principal meridians" for y's, making ownership secure and development rapid.

Like many other good things, this admirable system was developed in Ohio. Its evolution was slow and the settlement of the State was rapid and cosmopolitan, so Ohio contains varied patterns whose general plan and history must be understood before one can locate lands or trace titles. Beginning in the Virginia Military District where irregular tracts were granted or sold in "hit-and-miss" fashion, the law-makers and surveyors experimented with large sales, subdivided at the whim of the

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purchasers into regular and irregular lots, five-mile townships, and finally arrived at the six-mile township system, which so proved its fitness that it was used over all the rest of the public land.

Confidence in the knowledge of the author is prerequisite to confidence in a book. Civil engineers who have studied surveying under Professor Sherman know that he knows Ohio. As a surveyor and engineer, as a student of Ohio history, as a topographer, he has added to significance than would attach to a mere explanation of the framework upon which depends the ownership of the twelve or fifteen billion dollars worth of real estate in Ohio. There's care in it, excellence in the large maps drawn by Professor Turnbull, precision of expression indicative of the ten years taken for the writing, and all the way through the genial personality of the author, who takes time to mention Delia Bacon and the Bacon-Shakespeare controversy and traces the probable origin of the rectangular subdivision system to the ancient Roman Empire.



Where dependability is vital

IN connection with a new pumping station at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, additional feeder mains were required. It was necessary that one of these should carry an unusually large proportion of the water supply, and 54-inch pipe was decided upon. Although pipe of material other than cast iron had a lower first cost, Cast Iron Pipe was chosen because the possibility of interruption to service had to be reduced to a minimum.

The photograph above shows a section of pipe being lowered into the ditch in the process of laying it.

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