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Ohio State Engineer

Title: The Bookshelf Speaks

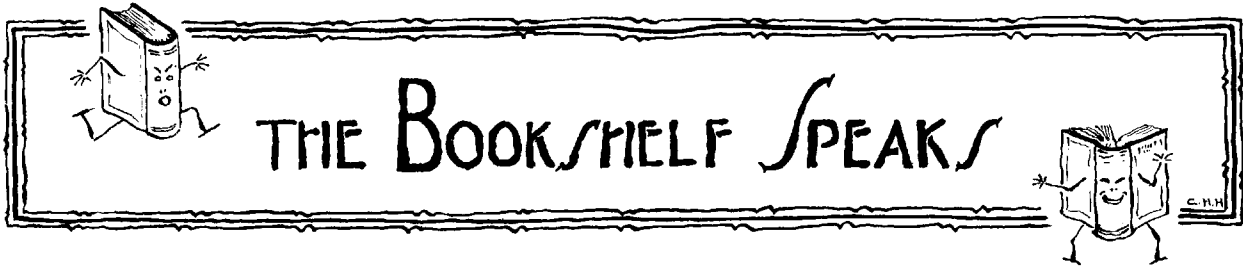
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BACK again, as the osteopath would say, and another quarter has been carefully tagged and filed away beside other quarters, also tagged and filed. In fact it was noticed that there was quite a long line of quarters filed away, not all of them with our initials on the tags but neatly tagged nevertheless. The tag on last quarter was marked with a star, indicating that something interesting had intruded on a very busy period of recreation, amusement, and, of course, work. The star was for *Glitter*, a story of college life written by Katherine Brush, who seems to think that with all the tommyrot afloat about college people somebody should present their cause as it really is, since the poor students themselves seem to care very little about how they appear to outsiders. The theme of *Glitter* doesn't seem to be anything out of the ordinary, merely about some people who go to school for one reason or another, go to dances, and in every way seem to be people that we meet every day. The story never drags or loses interest and is much more interesting on account of the familiar characters. At times, in fact, you'd swear that it was at Ohio State that the handsome young hero strolled from one class to another enjoying the sunlight, or rushed madly to a football game, five minutes late. The hero, Jack Hamill, does many other things besides watch the co-eds try to capture him. In fact before the story ends Jack really becomes a hero, one of the kind that loves his friends more than himself, but manages to keep them in ignorance of the fact most of the time. Then there is a girl, Yvonne, who shows a most wonderful courage and self-sacrifice. Yvonne is quite the most beautiful girl in the story and really loves Jack more than any of the others, but fate takes a trick and Jack marries another girl that Jack in a moment of kindness had started on the road to popularity. It's strange how a good man will come to the top, isn't it? The characters portrayed are much more true to life than the colorful exaggerations that produced such a flurry among the older folks a short while ago. It is confidently predicted that this book will soon be the best seller in college circles.

The *Constant Nymph*, by Margaret Kennedy, is a story of a set of harum-scarums who brought confusion in their wake wherever they went. Sanger, a musical genius, is the outstanding character of the story. Sanger's operas were not appreciated until after his death, which is the common fate of the work of most geniuses so it is at present inadvisable to try that line. After Sanger's death his operas came into the limelight and recognition came with a rush. Sanger's children, and they were many, were very interesting as well as unconventional. They had ideas of their own along with a measure of their father's genius and in the development of both there is much that is amusing. The innocent antics of

these little scapegraces are sometimes funny, but nearly always pathetic, too. One of the strongest and most erratic characters is Dodd, the black sheep of an old English family. Sanger's influence and Dodd's personality dominate the story after Sanger's death. Dodd had real ability but could not control his temper and for this reason he made all those with whom he came in contact very miserable. There is a theatrical air about the whole story that makes you think that there is too much rouge, the powder seems thicker than need be and many other things that are not strictly according to Hoyle, including the morality of the Sangers. They are very interesting however, and well worth reading.

If you like men who are good losers, who are not afraid to say what they think and are not afraid of the consequences when they do, men who like to whittle, then you will like *Queer Judson*, written by Joseph C. Lincoln, the author of *Fair Harbor*. *Queer Judson* was a likeable fellow whose life work was selected for him by his father, with the usual result. The work was for as a partnership in a banking firm. As Judson did not like the work, he allowed the partner to run the business. The partner soon ruined the venture and the firm went into bankruptcy, losing a great deal of money that belonged to lifelong friends of Judson. Many of the losers were very poor, so Judson decided to try to repay the poorest of his creditors. How he fought his way back to a place of esteem among the people that had scorned and ridiculed him is most interesting. When he inherits a small fortune, and the future looks very bright, with his debts all paid from his inheritance, his brother asks for the money, to save the family company from bankruptcy, so Judson's dreams of a home and happiness are smashed. The inevitable woman enters to further complicate matters. She is so kind and gracious though that you can't blame Judson for marrying her when his fortune is finally returned to him. Judson was a naturalist by choice, so when he gets the offer of a position at a natural history museum with one of his old professors, he accepts and ends the story. Judson was truly queer, showing strength in the most unexpected places, but that again is strictly human. One must read the story to catch the charm and vigor of the persons presented by the slyly humorous pen of Lincoln.

Any one who likes slangy verse that expresses more or less the thoughts of modern working people may like "In American" by John V. A. Weaver. While this little volume has been out three or four years, it does not seem old, as so many of its type do after three or four years. It tells of many things, all the way from the fellow who was afraid to bet on a race horse to the man who was driven insane by cats, of shop girl emotions, of the eccentric aunt who loved a poodle dog

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more than her relatives and many other things. The poems are interesting and likeable, though not the kind that are quoted in flowery speeches. It demonstrates one thing very clearly, that slangy English looks even worse when printed than it sounds when spoken.

The time is coming very swiftly now when fishing lines, rods, freak flies, lively minnows, Saturday cuts and other things will again come into their proper degree of prominence. When the wind finally agrees to be sociable and not try to nip all of the ears and noses that may chance to be exposed, and the birds are again among the noticeable citizens we may expect to be among those present at Isaak Walton's four o'clock, out somewhere along a stream, where the chimes are rung by cardinals and meadow larks, and there is a real sparkle on things when the sun comes up. Until then perhaps you'll like to brush up on your philosophy and at the same time have an enjoyable time, so as the first step in overhauling your tackle read some of the things Walton wrote for anglers. Much advice and likewise much wit will be found in *The Complete Angler*, written by Isaak Walton some two odd centuries ago.

"Glitter," by Katherine Brush, as well as "The Constant Nymph," by Margaret Kennedy, and "In American," by John V. A. Weaver were furnished for reviewing by The College Bookstore, through the courtesy of Mr. Long.
