

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

LEWIS RAND. A Novel. By Mary Johnston. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston. (The Stone & Barringer Company, \$1.50).

In this story Miss Johnston has reached a degree of excellence which she has not hitherto attained. Her style is clear, her descriptions of people and places, her characters, all good stories in their way, but "Lewis Rand" has a breadth and nobility of sweep undreamed of in the earlier works. The book is a tight and lighter as the story develops and before the end is reached the tragic significance of the whole is forcibly impressed upon the mind.

Miss Johnston's gift of holding a reader's interest from the first paragraph to the last page. Her scenes, whether dramatic or idyllic, never drag nor become tedious. Each has a proper bearing upon the development of the plot and each is told in flowing, lucid English of rare grace and charm. Truth to tell, Miss Johnston is so overfond of a lugubrious curtain, there is perchance a trace too much of the fringing of guns and the flashing of naked steel. But spoils upon the whole, not obscuring the brilliancy of that orb, nor do minor defects vitiate Miss Johnston's title to a very high place among contemporary story writers.

Lewis Rand, the hero of the present work, is a man of the people, but metaphysically, dashes his head against the stone wall of caste, as that term was understood in the Virginia of Jefferson. His father, plain, but of a noble and instinctive, his early circumstances rough, Lewis Rand struggles for an education and wins admission to the bar, where he repudiates his career in politics as a follower of Jefferson is not less remarkable, and he appears to be the coming man in Virginia, at a time when the people are coming man in the republic. Chance throws him in the way of Jacqueline Churchill, an aristocrat of the aristocracy, a daughter of the most exclusive and exclusive families of the South. At that moment she becomes the chief goal of his ambitions.

On her part, Jacqueline is irresistibly attracted by the tremendous force of Lewis Rand's personality and the bitter opposition of all her relatives and friends, she blue-blooded damsel marries the man she loves.

Having achieved what he had long looked upon as a summum bonum, Lewis Rand discovers that he is not yet satisfied. His love for his fair young wife has grown out of a far more elemental and primitive desire of the humanly born to be accepted on their own footing by the upper class. Apparently our hero has beaten the people he envies at every turn of the game. Not only has he won the approval of the aristocracy, but he has also won the approval of the people. He has struck deeper, and won their fairest woman for his wife. But, having done all this, he realizes that he is far as ever from being accepted as one of them.

His first impulse is to win his way to the governorship of Virginia, and become as Elizabeth, the daughter of the Virginian, in the eyes of the aristocracy. Apparently nothing can prevent the fulfillment of his purpose. At this juncture, the serpent in the human form of Aaron Burr crosses his path and whispers subtle treason in his ear. Lewis Rand eagerly embraces Burr's Southwestern project but with a totally different end in view from that pursued by the daring leader of that audacious enterprise. The young Virginian purpose to aid and abet the New Yorker in founding his empire; but that once accomplished, he intends to supplant his leader, in whom he sees many vulnerable points, and seize the supreme power for himself. He fancies things will be on a different basis when he brings Jacqueline back as Empress of the West. The open scheme to the doors of her people will be discovered.

Rand secretly prepares for his journey. On the eve of his departure his whilom rival, the man he envies most among all the gentry, Ludlow Carey, gets wind of the scheme and also of the imminent collapse of Burr's enterprise. For the sake of the wife, who, although late to him, has never faded from his heart, Carey delays by every means possible to prevent him. Before the hubbub dies away, news of the discovery of Burr's plot arrives and Rand's schemes are dashed to the ground.

It has been said of this book that it is a masterpiece because in spite of Rand's great natural gifts and force of character, he accomplishes nothing; and consequently does not loom large in the eyes of our critics. It has been truly remarked that "the fact that Lewis Rand is a man of the people is not a fault, but a virtue, and we feel that although Rand's plans for the conquest of an empire failed, nevertheless in conquering the savage in Lewis Rand, he has achieved heroically and proved himself a man."

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Various authors have drawn various little kingdoms upon the map of our imaginations, and some of the chronicles attached have been clever and some have been dull. The anatomy of all the stories, to change the figure somewhat, has the same general character, and the same general plan. The story is a simple one, and the plot is a simple one. The story is a simple one, and the plot is a simple one. The story is a simple one, and the plot is a simple one.

"Vayenne" is somewhat better than the average novel of its class. It has the above named features, but more than its share of vividly described deeds of "daring do," but it has more. The plot is a simple one, and the plot is a simple one. The story is a simple one, and the plot is a simple one. The story is a simple one, and the plot is a simple one.

The National Review for December. An author signing "Edna," furnishes the most interesting contribution to this month's Review in "The Lesser Tear—a Character Study." Ferdinand, of Bulgaria, is subjected to a most merciless scrutiny, one which goes behind his apparent successes and superficial brilliance, and reveals what manner of man this princeling seems to the author. Americans have little data upon which to base their opinions in regard to Ferdinand; the present article, while very severe, will materially increase the amount of that data, and bears many internal evidences of credibility. If truth it be, then was worth the day for Bulgaria!

The great economist, Alfred Marshall, has lately taken up the cudgels in behalf of his traditional policy of free trade. His position is attacked in a very able paper by J. L. Garvin. It appears to be but a matter of time before Cobden's policy will be revised and England once more have a stable tariff.

Marguerite. Dedicated to Mr. Richard H. Tiddy. Elam and Dealy Charlotte, N. C. Stone and Barringer, \$1.50.

This dainty little love story has excited no small curiosity in this city, in the first place on account of its anonymity. Piqued by this universal feeling of curiosity over it, the casual reader is charmed by the freshness and fragrance of the little tale it contains. All signs point to a Charlotte authorship, but so far as is known to this column, that authorship has not as yet been divulged.

The old estate in Virginia is described with great vividness and strict fidelity to the life. The characters depicted are few in number, and their outlines are but vague; but a grace and charm makes them lifelike and enjoyable. Not a few pages of the enjoyable. Not a few pages of the enjoyable. Not a few pages of the enjoyable.

THE JANUARY AMERICAN MAGAZINE. Will Irwin contributes an article to the New Year's number of the American dealing with that unique institution "The New York Sun." Among journals "The Sun" occupies a position apart; it is distinctly sui generis. This fact is due in great measure to the wonderful personality of the late C. A. Dana, but in the influence exercised by his successor, W. M. Latham, and the lieutenants he has gathered about him, Mitchell, Mallon, Lord and Clark, it is not to be overlooked. Mr. Irwin is himself an "alumnus" of the Sun, and his article is lively as well as charming.

Ray Stannard Baker continues his series on "The Spiritual Unrest" in "The New Mission of the Doctor." In the first paper Mr. Baker told how the clergy have discovered, first, that the souls in their care are most intimately joined to material bodies; and, furthermore, that sometimes the former cannot be reached save by means of the latter. In this second paper is described a corresponding discovery on the part of physicians, namely, that their patients' bodily ills are quite as often to be reached only through mental treatment.

The Problem of the Intellectual Woman is a letter written by an "American Woman to the American Negro." The author knows the "American Negro" chiefly from the printed page, and her attempt to draw a parallel between her sex and the ex-slave race is somewhat weird and fantastic.

IN THE REALM OF STAGELAND

MAY HEAR MME. CALVE.

Effort Being Made to Get the Noted Singer During the Coming Month as the Local Playhouse.

General Manager S. A. Schloss, of the local Academy of Music, has secured Madame Calve, the noted singer, for two performances in his circuit under big guarantees, and she will have an opportunity to show how well they would like to hear this accomplished woman.

Mr. Schloss controls theatres in Asheville, Raleigh, Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Charlotte, and Wilmington, North Carolina, and Danville, Va. He has not decided which town he will favor with Mme. Calve, but will give each a chance to bid for the attraction, and the town which shows the biggest subscription list by Saturday will be given the opportunity of hearing this celebrated artist and her company.

Mr. Schloss has undertaken a tremendous obligation by guaranteeing Mme. Calve a vast sum for the two performances, and it is hoped that the music lovers of Charlotte and surrounding towns will offer their support and bring the famous singer to this city.

Manager Crovo has arranged with Hawley's Pharmacy to accept all orders for seats, from both the city and out-of-town folks, beginning to-day, so he can notify Mr. Schloss just what his subscription list is by Saturday. Should Calve be sent to Charlotte, it will be during the week of January 25th.

Mr. John L. Crovo, manager of the local Academy, received yesterday the following telegram from Mr. Schloss:

BLANCHE WALSH.

In "The Test," which Miss Blanche Walsh will produce at the Academy of Music to-night, the actress has found one of the most powerful dramas ever seen on the American stage. Jules Eckert Goodman, the author, not only has treated the problems of to-day in a most forcible, intelligent and highly interesting manner, but he has woven into four acts of absorbing dialogue, heart interest and action, a phase of modern life that appeals to men and women in every walk of life.

The moral lesson is there in all its intensity, but is never permitted to trench upon the enjoyment of the work as one of true dramatic art. The scenes are laid in New York, and the story, briefly, is this: In the past a man, Treiman, has stolen for a girl he loves, Emma Eltyne. Another man, Frederick McVane, tells the girl that if she will yield to him, he will free Treiman. The girl consents, but McVane proves false and Treiman goes to prison for ten years. When the stage story opens, Emma has fallen in love with Arthur Thone, a young novelist of broad views, who shows a great deal of her past. His sister, Peggy, wants to marry McVane, whom she knows to have lived an extremely unconventional life, but who has given many assurances that he will reform.

The motive of the play is furnished by the opposition to the marriage of Thone and Emma, while the marriage of McVane and Peggy, is considered proper. To add to the interest of the situation, Treiman's term in prison is ended and he returns. This different status of a repentant woman and a repentant man, as brought out in vivid contrast.

Although the play deals with the sex problem, in one of its most vital phases, there is not the slightest suggestion of offensiveness. The author has swept deftly and in broad compass, over emotion, and Miss Walsh brings her audience down to finalities in a great sweep that almost takes the breath away. As realistic as a scene as was ever witnessed in the theatre, is the closing part of the fourth act, when Treiman, Thone, McVane and Emma Eltyne meet and "thrust it out" among themselves.

Miss Walsh, who is supported by an exceptionally large and capable company, regards the character she plays as the greatest in which she has ever been seen.

"COMING THRO' THE RYE." The whirlwind comedy "Coming Thro' the Rye" has been selected as the attraction at the Academy of Music, Friday matinee and night.

THE DELIGHT OF MUD.

The Swiss professor who says American children are kept too clean, and thereby started on the high road of mollycoddledom, his theory is not only a great deal of nonsense, but a great deal of nonsense, but a great deal of nonsense.

There are three great, booming events in a boy's life. The first, perhaps, is the moment when the despised dresses are discarded for the first pair of trousers; the second is the thrilling hour of the first circus, but none of these events is so important as the moment when the first time a kid, happing from the mother's watchful care, to complete abandon and sweet defiance of domestic tyranny, gets his fill of the ecstatic delights of clean dirt and luscious mud.

Philadelphia Record. The Charlotte Observer says: "Pennsylvania is living up to its record as the state of graft. There is nothing particularly surprising about the recent developments in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, which are well accustomed to looking for such things there, in Philadelphia and Harrisburg."

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MARK TWAIN A CORPORATION.

Ken Name Incorporated to Prevent Halls by Pirates. New York Times.

For the purpose of allowing his two daughters, Clara L. and Jean L. Clemens, to receive the financial benefit of the copyright in the books of their father, Mark Twain, Samuel L. Clemens, America's greatest humorist and man of letters, has incorporated his pen-name of Mark Twain.

The plan has been under discussion by Mr. Clemens, Ralph W. Abernethy, his literary agent, and R. A. Mansfield Hobbs, his legal adviser, for more than a year. So greatly interested has Mr. Clemens become in the idea and so anxious has he become to keep the financial benefit of his long and arduous life's work within his own family instead of allowing it to be picked away by strangers that Mr. Abernethy has spent every week-end of the past few months in living since last June.

As a result of these negotiations it was decided that the surest way to keep the earnings of Mr. Clemens' books continually in the family, even after the copyright on the books themselves expires, was to incorporate the "Mark Twain" name itself.

The Mark Twain Company of New York has accordingly been formed, the purpose of which is to secure to the author and to his family all rights in the books of Samuel L. Clemens, himself president of the company, Mr. Abernethy secretary and treasurer, Mr. Clemens' two daughters and his secretary, Miss Isabelle V. Lyon, are the directors. Mr. Hobbs, the attorney, represents the company in connection with the Secretary of State on Monday, and they were formally placed on file yesterday.

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A CHORUS GROUP IN "COMING THRO' THE RYE."

ACADEMY OF MUSIC. To-Night at 8:30. One of the Most Sensational Hits Ever Produced on the American Stage. BLANCHE WALSH. In Her New Play THE TEST. By Jules Eckert Goodman. The New York Herald says: "It is a play that should be seen by every man, woman and child in every walk of life."