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Looks at Books

By **CONSTANCE FOSTER**
 People are talking about . . . Good hammock reading for hot days ahead. That means a little on the light side, if you please. Pauses should not be for trying to fathom the deeper meaning you suspect in a passage but for just idly day-dreaming or taking a sip of lemonade beside you. A hammock, a tall frosty glass with a straw, and a rousing good book in your limp hand,—it's the perfect recipe for summer. So here are a few suggestions for books that seem to go with temperatures in the 90s.

THE HIDDEN FLOWER, by Pearl Buck, John Day, \$3.50. This book is pleasant reading. It has definite implications of social significance but Mrs. Buck doesn't hit you over the head with them. Much later,—next fall, perhaps, when the weather is more conducive to serious thinking,—you'll mull them over again. At least I couldn't forget the problem of racial intolerance this story poses. After living for a few hours with pretty Japanese Josui and the young American lieutenant who falls in love with her, you can't help being deeply moved by the outcome. They marry over the objections of both sets of parents. Josui's parents relent although her father's heart is broken, for he knows better than she what difficulties are involved.

Allen's mother proves obdurate, however, and will not even receive her new daughter-in-law. She manages to turn up evidence that they are not legally married, since a Buddhist ceremony is not binding in the U. S., and Allen cannot remarry Josui in Virginia on account of an old law forbidding marriage between the races. The young couple try the anonymity of life in New York, but Allen hasn't the essential integrity to stick it out. In a city apartment Josui isn't the glamor of an ancient culture which he sensed in Kyoto. He drifts back home, so lacking in empathy that he doesn't realize he has fathered a child. Josui has too much innate self-respect to force on him a responsibility she knows he is too weak to welcome.

The "world child" born of this blind union of East and West is the star in the sky of the future, harbinger of a better day when we world-people may understand each other better. In short, in spite of our sorry mistakes and inadequacies, life goes on and we cannot thwart its larger thrusts toward growth and improvement. That is what Mrs. Buck seems to be telling us in a singularly moving, eloquent way.

LOVE IS A WOUND, by Worth Tuttle Hedden, Crown Publishers, \$3.75. Southern stories always have a charm all their own, flavored by the mimosa trees and sleepy drawl of the conversation. So I've included this one in our list, even though it is grim at times. Here's a domestic triangle that will grip you. There's a young Methodist preacher, David Humiston, and two sisters, Ora and Ellen, both of whom are interested in more than his ability to preach a rousing sermon. Each of the three protagonists of this battle in the parsonage tells a portion of it. Ellen gets the minister because she is younger and prettier. But Ora never calls quits. She moves in and takes over the establishment, acting as if David and the children were hers. Mrs. Hedden makes everything that happens seem believable, and the reader can't help sympathizing with the problems of these weak but entirely human personalities who get caught in the web of their own frailties. It's an intensely penetrating study of human nature at its best and worst. Ora's love is a wound that never heals. One suspects that it was really self-love,—that ugly, festering sore,—which proved to be the undoing of what might otherwise have been a happy family. At least you won't go to sleep while reading this tale, thanks to Mrs. Hedden's witchery in the telling of it. She's a North Carolina woman by birthright and hasn't forgotten any of the childhood memories that make this book authentic as a picture of the South several decades ago.

EAST SIDE GENERAL, by Frank G. Slaughter, Doubleday, \$3.50.

Here's a rousing good hospital story if you like the drama of what goes on in the struggle between life and death as much as I do. We are all pretty naturally curious about glimpses behind the scenes, into a doctor's contacts with suffering and life in the raw. Here it is at its rawest, too! At any moment the whole of Manhattan may be blown to Kingdom Come by the explosion of radioactive chemicals, stolen from Oak Ridge and lodged in the brewery

next door to the hospital. Meantime two surgeons are fighting a battle with themselves. Should they let the women in their lives corrupt their ideals and make life easier for them? You might almost be viewing some of the operations that take place by television, so vividly are they recorded by this author who himself is a doctor. The whole hospital is about to go up in smoke during the last one and not for anything would I disclose what happens. It's unfair to authors who hope you will buy their books! It's equally unfair to readers on a summer day. This one will keep you awake long enough to find out for yourself. And you won't be disappointed in the outcome any more than Andy Gray, surgeon extraordinary, was. After all, we expect medicine to triumph in the end!

Ruggles Attends Study Course On Alcoholism

John S. Ruggles, chairman of the alcoholism committee of the State Hospitals Board of Controls, is attending a study course being held this week at Chapel Hill, sponsored jointly by the N. C. Alcoholics Rehabilitation program and the University of North Carolina Extension division.

The study course, of a type not previously held in this state, is featuring a wide range of topics on the social, medical, religious and educational problems growing out of the abuse of alcohol and the illness of alcoholism. The studies are being directed by Raymond G. McCarthy, executive director of the Yale Plan Clinic and author of many books, educational manuals and other works in the field of alcohol problems. Administration is in the hands of ARP Director S. K. Proctor and Extension Division Director Russell Grumman. Attending are persons from all over the state whose work or interests bring them into contact with problems of alcohol and mental health instruction, in schoolroom, church, factory or home.

NOTICE
 Having this day qualified as Executrix of the Estate of Harry P. Johnston, deceased, this is to notify all persons having claims against the said estate to present them to the undersigned, duly verified, on or before April 19, 1953, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment.

Dated this 19th. day of April 1952.
 DELLA JOHNSTON, Executrix
 ml16-j20inc

PILOT ADVERTISING PAYS

Local, County Students Win Degrees At Commencements Held Far And Near

CEPHAS TAYLOR PATCH III, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Patch, received the Bachelor of Science degree at commencement exercises held last Friday morning at Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va. He was the only senior to receive a degree in chemistry. He has previously received the Lind medal in chemistry, and the Taylor scholarship in mathematics. He will go to Princeton in September on a fellowship, to be an assistant instructor and laboratory assistant, and do graduate work. He attended Southern Pines High school, graduated from Belmont Abbey, and, after several years' Navy service, entered Washington and Lee in 1948.

JENE BOWEN, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Bowen of 345 East Illinois avenue, received his diploma as a college sophomore at Campbell college, Buies Creek, last Friday, and will continue his education at State college, Raleigh.

Jene, known as Tink to his young friends here, attended Elise High school at Robbins and spent his senior year at Southern Pines High school, graduating in June 1949. After working a while at Robbins he entered Campbell college, where he has been an outstanding athlete and varsity football player.

KATHARINE CURRIE of Carthage was one of 103 seniors receiving the Bachelor of Arts degree in commencement exercises at Agnes Scott college, Decatur, Ga., Monday of last week. Miss Currie, daughter of W. H. Currie, took her degree with a

major in music. As a student she was president of the Presbyterian student group, a member of the glee club, the athletic board, the Christian Association cabinet.

BOBBY STEWART of Carthage was among those graduating from Presbyterian Junior college at Maxton last Friday. Bobby graduated from the high school department with second honors. His academic standing has been high since his entrance last September. Bobby plans to enter Davidson college in the fall. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Myrton Stewart of Carthage. Mrs. Stewart is a member of the woman's advisory board at PJC.

Several other Moore County young people were graduating from colleges, universities and other institutions of learning last week.

Among these were Frances Ann Clegg, Carthage, B. S., Woman's college; Kay Boyette, Carthage, B. A. University of North Carolina; Ruth Knight Tillman, Carthage, B. S., Woman's college; Lilly Ellen Wise, Carthage, Peace; Wesley Ray McCaskill, Pinebluff, B. A., University of North Carolina; Robert S. Barefield, Aberdeen, B. D., Duke; Mary R. Mc-

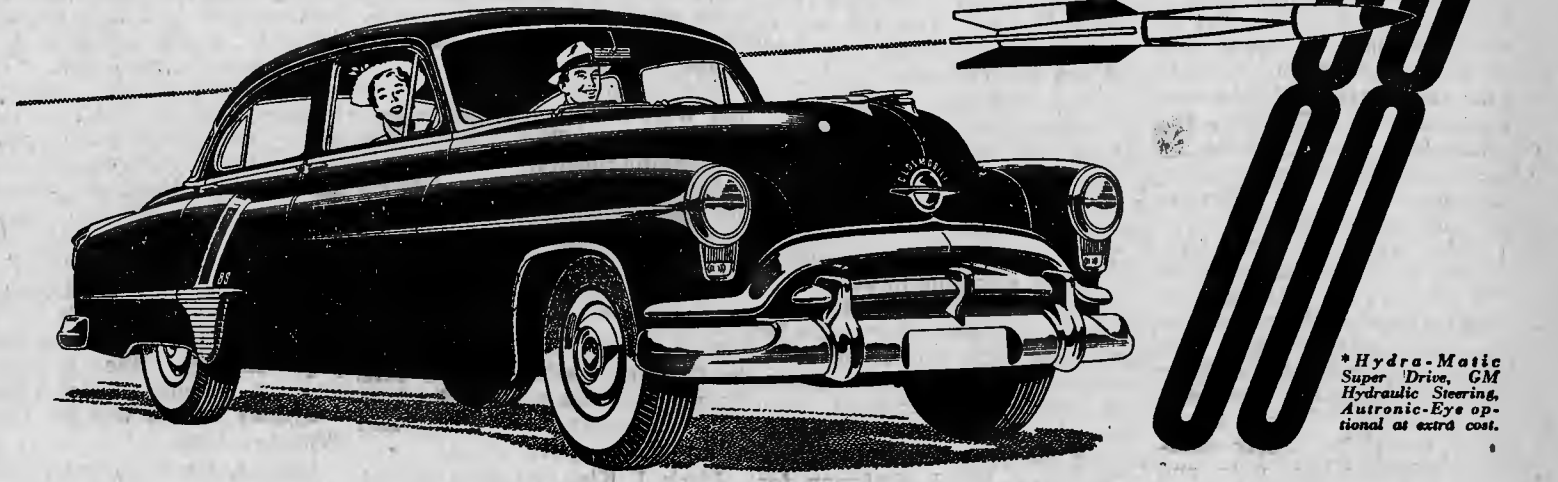
Caskill, Carthage, B. D., Duke; James R. Regon, Aberdeen, B. D., Duke; Zeb Vance Moss, Aberdeen, B. A., Wake Forest; Kathryn Deaton Kuzminski, Pinebluff, A. B., Flora Macdonald; Billy Finnison, Carthage, Pfeiffer Junior college.

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