

# BOOK REVIEWS

**By SALLY KNOX**  
**MEET THE GERMANS.** By Albert Phillips, J. B. Lippincott Co. "Meet the Germans" is a light and friendly book, written at the mental and friendly pro-Mr. Phillips met in his travels throughout the country. The author does not pretend to be an authority on Germany; he writes from his own experiences, transmitting to us his impressions gained by a residence in various parts of the country. For centuries more competent than I have written books about Germany; the experience in the introduction. "But I write about my Germany in the hope that no one has hitherto seen it or experienced it in precisely the same light and manner that I have." In other words, this is simply My Book—a Memoir—About Germany: What I Saw, What I Felt and How I Affected Me.

Mr. Phillips has written a travel book, but not a matter-of-fact travel book, he insists, because he does not think that travel is a matter-of-fact occupation. It is a matter of action and reaction, he believes, a case of seeing things once and revisiting them later, a "process of living from yesterday and sending walking back along the beaten paths of the centuries whose ruins and ruins gradually rise in all their pristine glories to greet us at every step of the foot and of the imagination, until at length we have actually reached and trod the isles of the Blessed Isles."

## Mansion Built by Wealthy Recluse In California Is Real Mystery House

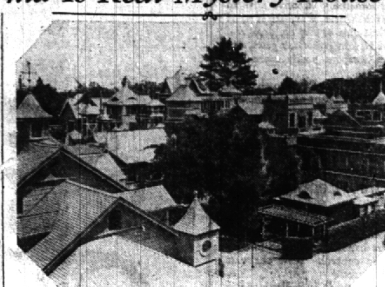
The phantom mansion which was believed only to exist in fantastic yarns and far-fetched novel plots, stands solidly on California soil in the quiet, sequestered valley of Santa Clara.

Exposed though it is to a golden sun, this beauty's residence sprawled confusedly over six acres of ground, is somehow mysteriously shielded in the afternoon shadows. And at night, they say, it is indeed an eerie place.

Some natives of San Jose, about three miles distant, call the place "Spirit House" and "Mystery House." Others refer to it as the "Wander House."

It is not difficult to come by the latter title, for the house has many awe-inspiring features. Consider some of them: the 140 rooms, the thousands of doors and windows, the 15 bath-rooms with their glass and screen doors, the independent heating, lighting and water systems, the three elevators, the 40 stairways, most of them with 12 steps, the 47 fire places, the hundreds of closets, some opening onto blank walls and others into the main hallways, the independent gas and electric light and window shutters to be opened or closed by the turn of a crank.

Who built such a house and why? Who lived in it? And the origin of the countless stories of ghosts, spirits and apocalyptic omens with the house lies in these answers. The Mystery House was planned and built by a spiritist. She was Mrs. Sarah Winchester, daughter-in-law of the founder of the famous Winchester Repeating Arms



The famous Winchester Mystery House is shown above. Sprawled over six acres, this curious structure contains blind closets, stairways, trapdoors and secret passageways.

Company, of New Haven, Conn. The legend in the valley is that Mrs. Winchester was guided by the spirits in planning her odd mansion, since the title "Spirit House" she was eccentric and lived most of her 85 years in seclusion. She preferred to lavish her great wealth on her estate than on jewels, furs and fine clothes. She derived a sort of fanatic delight in adding to and communicating the structure of her house.

Her house became a hedge-podge of amputiously built and furnished buildings each connected to the other by passageways. It was, certainly, a unique and mysterious idea. But what induced this re-

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**WARNING HILL.** by John P. Marquand. The inhibitions of a young boy, who fought a feeling of social inferiority at every turn for more than 16 years, and finally conquered it in young Marquand to rise up strong and splendid, is the theme of "Warning Hill" by John P. Marquand. A fine study in setting forth a sensitive and appealing youth combined with a feeling of reverence with which he approaches his subject and admirable restraint in depicting strong emotions, make "Warning Hill" a really outstanding book and one that ought to withstand the usual ravages of time on popular novels.

Tommy's inferiority for years his forefathers had been the large landlords in a small New England town. Then came poverty, as a result of his father's ineptness in money matters, and his suicide, indirectly caused by the hard-heartedness of the man at Warning Hill—a rich newcomer.

So Tommy, then seven years old, resolves that he will some day go to "Warning Hill"—and enter through the front gate—and show that he is as good as they. But he does not get there until after 15 years of rebuffs and hardship, during which time he becomes a gold prosa graduate of Harvard college, and an officer in the army. The old feeling still persists, until one day, when he is stronger than they—much stronger—and better. And above all, through seeing their rottenness, he perceives that he has been stronger all along, but did not know it.

The father and son relationship, which is one of deep sympathy and attachment on both sides, in spite of the boy's tender age, is artfully handled and is a finer piece of work than the same relationship in "Sorrow and Sin" by Warwick Deeping. Love interest has an important place in "Warning Hill," but it is never allowed to supersede in the importance the psychological element.

## Easy Books Encourage Slow Child

(Editor's Note: Garry C. Myers, Ph. D., is head, Division Parent Education, Cleveland College, Western Reserve University, and editor of Babyhood.)

By GARRY C. MYERS, Ph. D. Recently we inquired into the case of a boy good in most school subjects but a failure in arithmetic. Roland's mother has asked a similar case of reading disability.

On Roland's report card is a grade in reading labeled "failure." All his other grades are good. Last term the boy's reading also rose to a low level. He was promoted to the fifth grade in September on condition that he would improve in reading. But he hasn't. He is worse!

His family remembers that this subject always has been very hard for him. Many a time he has been urged to read good books "like other children." But Roland never was known to read for pleasure. Oh yes; one day his mother found him, with some primers much absorbed, reading to himself, and she had scolded him for wasting time on baby-books.

"Why don't you read the book Aunt Becky sent you for Christmas?" Roland's mother has asked him a score of times since it arrived. The boy has occasionally, following such pressure, got the book and tried to read it. But it was so hard. The words were long and difficult. He could not find it interesting. Always he would leave it after being bored by it for several minutes.

I can sympathize with Roland. I, too, had an aunt who sent me a book each Christmas when I was a pupil in the grades. That book was not a book; it was a symbol of torment. An older brother made me miserable by wondering why I did not read that book. In addition, he was always urging me to read other books. A lad on the farm always sought the barn and cows and horses far more fascinating.

The books I was supposed to read were suited to my age, but I wasn't. I was several years behind in reading. It was not until I entered college that I learned to read for pleasure. I was not a rapid reader then. Roland's parents and teacher can help him by putting into his hands easier books. If he can read material of second grade difficulty, he should have no books harder, unfortunately a book labeled "second reader" might wound Roland's pride. He is not interested in kiddish content. All he needs is a book with easy vocabulary.

There are such books available. Easy Indian stories are among them. Let Roland's reading difficulty be his starting point. Protect him from the ridicule and insults of his playmates. See that no brother nor sister nor any other person is likely to tell him, "That is a book for babies."

Next time, Mother, you find Roland enjoying primers, try to add to his enjoyment. Encourage him to read aloud to you from easy material. Listen with delight. Praise him for his progress. If he has a baby brother or baby sister, he will be happy to read to him from easy books, thinking only of the joy he is giving the listener and not of the practice he is giving himself.

I know no better means to help a child who is poor in reading. In the meanwhile, you can assure yourself that Roland is going to learn to read and that you are going to help him; by leading him to succeed. But that they succeed he will be motivated to strive for more success.

## Life's Little Laughs

"Another new dress? Where am I to get the money to pay for it?" "I don't know. 'I'm your wife, not your financial adviser.'"—Tit-Bits.

He: When I dance with you I feel as though I were treading on the clouds.  
 She: Don't be mistaken. Those are my feet.—Answers!

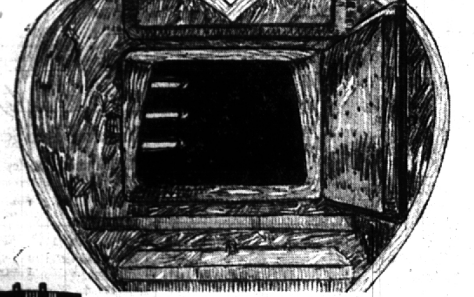
Be a White-haired Boy.—The best method of fire prevention is to do your work satisfactorily.—Boston Transcript.

Dame Nature, Traffic Cop.—When leaves turn brilliant hues, I think They should hang on all winter, then. When comes the spring, like traffic lights, They could turn back to green again.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

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## LIBRARY NOTES

Some of the new books added to the shelves of the Bulletin Public Library the first of February.

**The Sea Devil's Fe'cials** by Louis Thomas. A new collection of tales about Count Felix von Luckner.

**The First Mrs. Fraser** by St. John Ervine. A comedy in three acts, the heroine of which is a middle aged woman.

**My House and I: A Chronicle of Nantucket** by Mary Starbuck. This is the autobiography of a woman whose father was the captain of a whaler.

**Footlights Across America** by Kenneth Macgowan tells the story of the development of the little theaters and the progress towards a National Theatre.

**From Sandy Hook to 62°** by Charles Edward Russell. This is the record of the work of the New York Pilot Service and is full of perils, disasters and rescues which are unusually thrilling because they are true.

**Good-Bye to All That: An Autobiography** by Robert Groves. An English poet writes of the war, frankly and fearlessly.

**New fiction: Cousin Beryl** by Smith; **River House**, by Young; **Overlapping Harpers**, by Wasson; **Incomplete Mariner**, by Nasson; **Married Money**, by Powell; **Birds Got to Fly**, by Blodgett; **Australia Felix**, by Richardson; **Blood Royal**, by Yates; **Passion Flower**, by Norris.

## Jobs in Rest

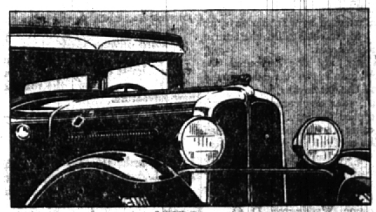
Gene Tunney is not satisfied to let lady drop her suit against him. He doesn't believe in no-decision fights.

The business of supplying wild animals for zoos has slumped in the last few years, an expert says, but monkey sales are increasing. Evidently monkey business is still going strong.

A Member man was helping a lady deposit bundles in her automobile when a passing car grazed him and tore his pants off. And Sir Walter Raleigh was immortalized for merely ruining a coat.

Chicago hasn't enough money to pay its school teachers, according to news reports. No wonder—with all the racketeers Chicago has been supporting.

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