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NEW NOVELS

By OUR REVIEWER.

And Then You Wish, by John van Bruten, is a story written in a realistic vein, revolving mainly round Blanche Bowen, a widow in her sixtieth year. The other characters, among whom are her daughter Madeline, a capable but unsympathetic young woman of thirty-four, and Glyn Haden, a solicitor's clerk, are merely foils to illustrate the character and nature of the elder woman. Mrs Bowen, who is not too well off, shares with her daughter a small flat in West Hampstead, but does not get much joy out of their association, and it is not until her meeting with Glyn at a performance given by the local repertory, of which she was a supporter, that joy really comes to her. Glyn Haden shared with her an enthusiasm for the stage, and had written some fine plays which he had difficulty in producing. How she helped him, and after many rebuffs succeeded in getting one of them produced is worth the reader's while to follow. The Times Literary Supplement, in summing up the character of Blanche, says, "What she did for Glyn Haden she had done for her own sake as well as his, and she alone, among the more important people of the story, finds real pleasure in her ability to help others. From the first she makes a strong claim upon our sympathy and affection.

The Need We Have, by A. Hamilton Gibbs, is a story of an Irish farm, the main characters being Moira and Jim O'Hara and his mother. Moira is deeply in love with her husband, but despite her obvious devotion Jim allows his mind to become poisoned against her by the daily insinuations of the elder Mrs O'Hara, and the crisis came when Tim Sheahan, a disappointed suitor, pays a visit to the farm. Deliberately misconstrued, Moira becomes so overcome by Jim's distrust that she runs away, aided and abetted by Dinny, a young brother-in-law, arriving at a small seaside village. Here they are befriended by an eccentric but good-natured doctor, through whose instrumentality, and after some exciting happenings, a reconciliation between husband and wife is effected. The story is of a conventional type, based more on sentiment than reality.

Time Piece, by Naomi Jacob. Although usually writing on Jewish themes, the authoress has on this occasion drawn her picture from a Yorkshire family, her heroine being Claudia Marsden, a young lady of the Victorian age, who for the period is singularly enterprising. Having a gambling father and ineffectual mother she early takes upon herself to run her home, and plans as much as possible for the future of her brother and sister. Married young, and deserted by a superficially charming man, she becomes useful to her father-in-law, learning the intricacies of and running his large wine business. She has a second marriage, and becomes further absorbed in business interests and the care of her own and her brother's children.

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The nature of her characters are rather too sharply drawn, and in some instances too appallingly open to deceive any sensible woman, but Miss Jacob certainly has the gift of storytelling and the knack of keeping one interested.

SOME RECENTLY-PURCHASED FICTION

- Action for Slander.....Mary Borden
- Anything Can Happen.....Geo. Gibbs
- Angel Unawares.....Netta Syrett
- At Grips with Fate.....H. St. John Cooper
- Blue Silver.....Victor Bridges
- Bud Storm—Outlaw.....A. G. Hales
- The Case of the Bonfire Body..Christopher Bush
- The Cavern.....Angus McVicar
- Check to Your King.....Robin Hyde
- Clue of the Bricklayer's Aunt...Nigel Morland
- Connie Morgan in the Arctic.....J. B. Hendry
- Contraband.....Dennis Wheatley
- Co-op.....Upton Sinclair
- Crisis.....Benson Herbert
- Crocus.....Neil Bell
- The Dark Frontier.....Eric Ambler
- The Desert Castle Mystery.....Chas. H. Snow
- Demon of the Air.....E. M. Keats
- Devil's Brew.....H. Pendexter
- Eggs and Baker.....Jno. Masfield
- Fatal Accident.....C. M. Wills
- A Feather in her Cap.....B. Worsely-Gough
- Five Against the Law.....Stone Cody
- Fragile Armour.....Diana Patrick
- Ghosts of Sin Chan.....Albert Gervaise
- Great Aunt Lavinia.....J. C. Lincoln
- Guncotton in Hollywood.....Rupert Grayson
- Haunted Abbey.....Patrick Leyton
- The Heart in the Box.....Francis D. Grierson
- The Hedge and the Horse.....Hilaire Belloc
- Heydays and Maydays.....Anne Happle
- Highly Unsafe.....Max Saltmarsh
- High Noon.....Ruby M. Ayres
- Hoof Thunder.....Clee Woods
- Into the Sunset.....Jackson Gregory
- It Had to Happen.....Louis Bloomfield
- The Jest of Life.....Arthur Gask
- The King Bird Rides.....Max Brand
- The Knight Errant.....Edgar Jepson
- Laburnam Grove.....J. B. Priestley
- Lady Cynthia Clandon's Husband
Stephen McKenna
- Level Crossings.....Phyllis Bottome
- Lights are Bright.....Anna D. Whyte
- McLean Finds a Way.....Geo. Goodchild
- Malta Fever.....C. V. Osborne
- The Mask of Providence.....Wallace B. Nichols
- Mary Lavelle.....Kate O'Brien
- Man Without Pity.....W. Townend
- Moral Holiday.....Gerard Fairlie
- Murder in the Bookshop.....Carolyn Wells
- The Need we Have.....A. Hamilton Gibbs
- Pagan Parable.....Norman Davey
- Paradise.....Anne Duffield
- The Passionate Adventure.....Sheila Burn
- Post-Mortem Evidence.....Sydney Fowler
- Renegade Guns.....Jas. L. Rauble
- Sage Brush Knights.....Chas. E. Barnes