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"I would have the librarian make his services known, if not as constantly at least with as eager an emphasis as the brewer. I think the result not unlikely to be equally beneficial. . . Adequate publicity would do much to increase the public we serve. But with what are we to serve them? Roughly, I think readers are divided into four groups: (1) there are those who read as a way of occupying their leisure; (2) there are those who read for self-development; (3) there are those who read to acquire some specific information needed occasionally or for a limited and immediate purpose; (4) there are those who use the public library much as the scholar uses the British Museum. We need adequately to serve each of these groups."

I wish I had the space to quote Professor Laski's sympathetic and understanding remarks on each of these groups of readers, but you can read them for yourself. It will be time well spent.

The address concludes with an eloquent appeal to librarians to stand firmly on the side of intellectual freedom. "Your essential task is the guardianship of culture. But the inner essence of culture is freedom; its life-blood is security. Unless, when it is attacked, you are prepared, as librarians, to leap to its defence, its hope is poor indeed. . . The librarian is in charge of the tradition of civilized man. He is required by his office to be militant about its rights."

14/12/1935.

NEW NOVELS

By Our Reviewer.

Something to his Advantage. By W. F. Morris. Readers of "Bretherton" and "Behind the Lines" will look forward to this new effort of the author. The story opens with Noel Oliver, a successful novelist, and George Gould, a lawyer, as companions on a trip to East Anglia. Gould's business is to bring to Cullen, a young schoolmaster, the good news of an unexpected legacy, but unfortunately on the eve of his arrival Cullen mysteriously dies leaving his possessions to Isobel Trevor. Oliver discovers in Isobel an old flame of his schooldays, and begins energetically to make up for lost time, while Gould, suspecting foul play, starts enquiries, and the

evidence he collects seems to point incontrovertibly to Isobel and a male companion as guilty of murder. How Oliver remains true to his old love and finds a happy way out of their difficulties will be for the reader to discover for himself.

Selina Is Older. By Sheila Kaye-Smith. Selina South is the elder of two daughters of a Hastings doctor, a distinctly precocious child, developing a literary talent. The story covers a period of her youth, and appears to hold an element of autobiography, giving it a true quality of life. The simple straightforward telling of the story should hold the attention and interest of adult readers.

Put Up the Shutters. By Mrs Henry Dudeney. Of this book the "Literary Times" says:—"If only for Talbot, the delightful dog, this new book of Mrs Dudeney's would be well worth reading, but besides Talbot, there is a group of persons whose acquaintance is pleasant and profitable too." A very old lady, her daughter—Talbot's mistress—a companion, and a few others occupy the foreground, and the story "is full of the individual quality and tranquil humour one associates with Mrs Dudeney's name on a novel."

The Turquoise Arail. By W. C. Tuttle. For Western thrills and humour Mr Tuttle is already well known, and the present book is well up to his usual standard. Although containing two stories, the main character is the same, and the book may be read as two incidents in the career of Irish O'Shea, a handsome smiling cow-puncher working with the "Seven Cut Outfit." In the first story kindly old Bedrock Bolton, the boss of the Outfit, is murdered, and O'Shea tracks down the murderer, while in the second story he is seen rounding up rustlers on the Mexican border. The dialogue is humorous, and a light romance is also introduced.

Victorious Troy. By John Masefield. Although implied by the title the story is in reality very remote from the ancient city of Troy, unless the theme can be compared with the heroic defence of that city. It is purely a story of the sea, with Dick Sands as the chief character, and relates the adventures of a grain ship on her way from Australia to England. Commanded by a tyrannical and determined old captain, who insists on carrying more sail than was safe in a cyclone until she is dismasted by a huge wave breaking on board, which also swept away all her officers and injured the captain. It is now that Dick Sands assumes control, and takes measures to save her from immediate foundering. The "Literary Supplement," in commenting on this book, says of Mr Masefield that "he tells us about the officers and crew, as a historian of the sea; and, as a poet, about the winds and waters in increasing tumult. For those not familiar with nautical terms a glossary is provided at the back of the book."

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