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Cabodrus, a friend of Erskine's, is a truly religious man inspired with a living faith, and is the true hero. The summing up of the 'Times' Literary Supplement says "Miss Tennyson Jesse has handled this little drama with great ability, enlivening it with pictures of the society that haunted Fraxinet, giving texture to her narrative by the well-matured opinions of those of her characters who are capable of expressing them. 'Act of God' is a short novel, but it has substance and quality, a parable of belief, and unbelief, and the strange mystery of Life."

'Probationer Pat', by Winifred Carter, is a book that should appeal to feminine readers. Pat O'Brien, a wild Irish Colleen, is the chief character in the book. She lives with her father in a dilapidated old house called Ballycross Castle, and is his constant companion in everything until after a trip to London on business while Pat stays at home to look after the farm and especially the horses. On his return he brings back unexpectedly a stepmother for Pat, and this breaks up the old comradeship and engenders a hatred for her father's new wife. From here the story tells of the constant friction between the two, and how a friend, Lady Monnigan, takes Pat to London, procures her a position as probationer in a hospital at Great Gables. Her experiences with the staff, good and bad, and especially the two doctors, Michael Wallace (the hero), Victor Dereham (the villain), and how it all turns out happily in the end are for the reader to find out. Surmise to say the story is simply and well written, full of Irish humour and pathos.

'Highland River', by Neil M. Gunn. The book is one of the higher class of novels, and as the Literary Supplement says, "is not easy to review, for its artistic point is that of poetry or music rather than prose. Mr Gunn's technique has steadily improved, and the scenes of boyhood by a river and among a fishing community of the Highland shore of the great Moray Firth are projected with crystal clarity, sharply defined, like objects seen in a slightly diminishing mirror. The strange focus is intensified by a counterpoint of images drawn from Kenn's late experiences, as a gunner in the War and as a research worker in physics that drift in and out of the recollections of boyhood. When the man returns again to the place of his childhood he tracks to its source the river that seems to him to penetrate the country from whose body and soul he was fashioned." To readers of light fiction only the book may not appeal, but those who like something deeper "will find something here that they will remember as a piece of beauty, creative in the most real sense of the word."

### SOME RECENTLY PURCHASED FICTION

Ace of Knaves.....Leslie Charteris  
Act of God.....F. Tennyson Jesse  
All Her Days.....W. Cumming Tate  
Armour of Light.....Cosmo Hamilton  
Bird of Light Plumage.....Diana Patrick  
Blackshirt Takes a Hand.....Bruce Graeme

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Erle Stanley Gardner  
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Clouds of Glory..... John Moore  
Cowboy Lynd.....R. A. Bennet  
A Cumsha Cruise ..... E. Laurie Long  
Envoy Extraordinary.....E. Oppenheim  
Forgive Us Our Trespases....Lloyd C. Douglas  
The Frightened Man.....Gerald Verner  
Gentleman Harry Retires.....Philip Lindsay  
Gunsmoke Girl ..... Clee Woods  
Highland River.....Neil M. Gunn  
In the Flashlight.....Ottwell Binns  
Ivory Ladies ..... Gavin Holt  
Leisure of Living ..... Nellie M. Scanlan  
The Marsh.....Ernest Raymond  
The Master Spy ..... Arthur Gask  
The Mystery of the Tarn.....Carolyn Wells  
Nothing is Safe.....E. M. Delafield  
Nurse to Dives ..... Paul Trent  
Ostrich Man.....Andrew Soutar  
Owner Gone Abroad ..... Ruby M. Ayres  
Probationer Pat.....Winifred Carter  
A Regency Rascal.....W. P. Drury  
Seagull and Seapower ..... D. and M. Dixon  
Sea Spy.....E. Keble Chatterton  
The Silver Cord ..... Valentine  
The Soothsayer.....E. W. Savi  
Storm Ranch ..... Denver Bardwell  
A Strange Destiny.....Carlton Dawe  
The Striped Umbrella ..... Guy McCrone  
Summer Spell.....Sara Seale  
Sunset at Noon ..... Ruth Feiner  
Terry Orcutt's Guns.....Chas. H. Snow  
These Names Make Clues.....E. C. R. deLorsa  
This Way to the Stars.....Eliz. Carfrae  
Treat Them Gently ..... F. E. Bailey  
Victoria Four-thirty.....Cecil Roberts  
West of the Pecos.....Jane Grey  
Woman Called Willow ..... Joan Kennedy

### BOOKS RECENTLY PLACED IN THE NON-FICTION ROOM

Road Through Kurdistan. By A. M. Hamilton. The narrative of an engineer in Iraq. One who knew the Kurds described them as "Shedders of blood, raisers of strife, seekers after turmoil and uproar, robbers and brigands; a people all malignant, and evil doers of depraved habits, scorning the garment of wisdom, but a brave race and fearless, of a hospitality grateful to the soul, in truth and in honour unequalled, of pleasing countenance and fair cheek, boasting all the goods of beauty and grace."

What a wealth of paradox, yet words hardly calculated to reassure a new engineer. In spite of all the worries the job entailed, and overcoming all the obstacles of nature and the elements, this great scheme held a wonderful fascination for him and later stirred the imagination and brought also the co-operation of the very people whom he thought his worst enemies—the Kurdish tribesmen themselves. A stirring episode of life on the outposts of Empire.

J.H.