

Literary Bureau Reads Novels to Order for Busy Millionaires

By STEPHEN LEACOCK.

We lately have been struck,—of course not dangerously,—by a new idea. A recent number of a well-known magazine contains an account of an American multimillionaire who, on account of the pressure of his brain power and the rush of his business, found it impossible to read the fiction of the day for himself. He therefore caused his secretaries to look through any new and likely novel and make a rapid report on its contents, indicating for his personal perusal the specially interesting parts.

Realizing the possibilities coiled up in this plan, we have opened a special agency or bureau for doing work of this sort. Any overbusy multimillionaire, or superman, who becomes our client may send us novels, essays, or books of any kind, and will receive a report explaining the plot and pointing out such parts as he may wish to read. If he can once find time to send us a postcard, or a postal cablegram, night or day, we undertake to assume all the further effort of reading.

Our terms for ordinary fiction are \$1 per chapter; for works of travel, 10 cents per mile; and for political or other essays, 2 cents per page, or \$10 per idea, and for theological and controversial work, \$7.50 per cubic yard extracted. Our clients are assured of prompt and immediate attention.

We are enabled to insert here a sample of our work. It was done to the order of a gentleman of means engaged in silver mining in Colorado, who wrote us that he was anxious to get "a hold" on modern fiction, but that he had no time actually to read it. On our assuring him that this was now unnecessary, he caused to be sent to us monthly parts of a serial story, on which we duly reported as follows:

January Installment.

Theodolite Gulch, the Dip, Canon County, Colorado.—Dear Sir: We beg to inform you that the scene of the opening chapter of the "Fortunes of Barbara Plynlimmon" is laid in Wales. The scene is laid, however, very carelessly and hurriedly and we expect that it will shortly be removed. We cannot, therefore, recommend it to your perusal. As there is a very fine passage describing the Cambrian Hills by moonlight, we enclose herewith a condensed table showing the mean altitude of the moon for the month of December in the latitude of Wales. The character of Miss Plynlimmon we find to be developed in conversation with her grandmother, which we think you had better not read. Nor are we prepared to endorse your reading the speeches of the Welsh peasantry which we find in this chapter, but we forward herewith in place of them a short glossary of Welsh synonyms which may aid you in this connection.

February Installment.

Dear Sir: We regret to state that we find nothing in the second chapter of the "Fortunes of Barbara Plynlimmon" which need be reported to you at length. We think it well, however, to apprise you of the arrival of a young Oxford student in the neighborhood of Miss Plynlimmon's cottage who is apparently a young man of means and refinement. We enclose a list of the principal Oxford colleges.

We may state that from the conversation and manner of this young gentleman there is no ground for any apprehensive on your part. But if need arises we will report by cable to you instantly.

The young gentleman in question meets Miss Plynlimmon at sunrise on the slopes of Snowdon. As the description of the meeting is very fine we send you a recent photograph of the sun.

March Installment.

Dear Sir: Our surmise was right. The scene of the story that we are digesting for you is changed. Miss Plynlimmon has gone to London. You will be gratified to learn that she has fallen heir to a fortune of 100,000 pounds, which we are happy to compute for you at \$486,666 and 66 cents less exchange. On Miss Plynlimmon's arrival at Charing Cross station, she is overwhelmed with that strange feeling of isolation felt in the surging crowds of a modern city. We therefore enclose a time table showing the arrival and departure of all trains at Charing Cross.

April Installment.

Dear Sir: We beg to bring to your notice the fact that Miss Barbara Plynlimmon has by an arrangement made through her trustees become an inmate, on a pecuniary footing, in the household of a family of title. We are happy to inform you that her first appearance at dinner in evening dress was most gratifying; we can safely recommend you to read in this connection lines four and five and the first half of line six on page 100 of the book as enclosed. We regret to say that the Marquis of Slush and his eldest son, Viscount Fitzbuse (country titles are both addicted to drink. They have been drinking throughout the chapter. We are pleased to state that apparently the second son, Lord Radnor of Slush, who is away from home, is not so addicted. We send you under separate cover a bottle of Radnor water.

May Installment.

Dear Sir: We regret to state that the affairs of Miss Barbara Plynlimmon are in a very unsatisfactory position. We enclose three pages of the novel with urgent request that you will read them at once. The old Marquis of Slush has made approaches towards Miss Plynlimmon of such

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Red Cross Liver Pills, a treatment that removes the cause and restores the patient to health; aids in preventing sickness by keeping the bowels active, the blood cool and lowering arterial tension.

Excellent for liver, stomach, bowel troubles, gall stones, appendicitis, biliousness, dropsy, indigestion, dyspepsia, constipation.

Their mild but wonderful laxative action cleanses the blood by natural means, overcoming the various ailments of the digestive system.

Red Cross Liver Pills are put up in watch-shaped, screw top bottles. Sold in Omaha by Sherman-McConnell and other druggists for 25 cents.



With one blow he felled Fitzbuse to the floor; with another he clasped the girl to his heart.

June Installment.

Dear Sir: We beg to advise you that Viscount Fitzbuse, inflamed by the beauty and innocence of Miss Plynlimmon, has gone so far as to lay his finger on her (read page 170, lines 6-7). She resisted his approaches. At the height of the struggle a young man, attired in the costume of a Welsh tourist, but wearing the stamp of an Oxford student, and yet carrying himself with the unmistakable hauteur (we knew it at once) of an aristocrat, burst, or bust, into the room. With one blow he felled Fitzbuse to the floor; with another he clasped the girl to his heart.

"Barbara," he exclaimed.
"Radnor," she murmured.
You will be pleased to learn that this is the second son of the Marquis, Viscount Radnor, just returned from a reading tour in Wales.

P. S. We do not know what he read, so we enclose a file of Welsh newspapers to date.

July Installment.

We regret to inform you that the Marquis of Slush has disinherited his son. We grieve to state that Viscount Radnor has sworn that he will never ask for Miss Plynlimmon's hand till he has a fortune equal to her



"Hurt to Stand"

Mrs. Elsie Peek, of Inman, S. C., whose portrait is reproduced above, says that she has found **CARDUI**, the Woman's Tonic, of great benefit on two occasions, which she describes as follows:

"I was sick and weak and had a pain in my side. I was so weak-looking until some of my older neighbors asked me about my trouble. I told them how my side and back hurt, and how it hurt me to stand. They told me of Cardui and my husband got it for me.

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"Cardui builds me right up, and I tell my neighbors and friends about it. It is simply fine for weak back and a run-down system."

The medicine which Mrs. Peek took is a perfectly harmless, vegetable extract of mild-acting tonic medicinal herbs. Thousands of other women, who have taken Cardui, have reported recovery of strength and normal health by consistent use of this well-known remedy.

If you need Cardui, go to your druggist and get a bottle, today. It will help you.

CARDUI
for Women's Ills O. L. C.

own. Meantime, we are sorry to say, he proposes to work.
August Installment.
The Viscount is seeking employment.
September Installment.
The Viscount is looking for work.
October Installment.
The Viscount is hunting for a job.
November Installment.
We are most happy to inform you that Miss Plynlimmon has saved the situation. Determined to be worthy of the generous love of Viscount Rad-

December Installment.
You will be very gratified to learn that the fortunes of Miss Barbara Plynlimmon have come to a most pleasing termination. Her marriage with the Viscount Radnor was celebrated very quietly on page 231. (We enclose a list of the principal churches in London.) No one was present except the old family lawyer, who was moved to tears at the sight of the bright, trusting bride, and the clergyman, who wept at the sight of the check given him by the viscount. After the ceremony the old trustee took Lord and Lady Radnor to a small wedding breakfast at a hotel (we enclose a list). During the breakfast a sudden faintness (for which we had

been watching for 10 pages) overcame him. He sank back in his chair, gasping. Lord and Lady Radnor rushed to him and sought in vain to tighten his necktie. He expired under their care, having just time to indicate in his pocket a will leaving them his entire wealth.

This had hardly happened when a messenger brought news to the viscount that his brother, Lord Fitzbuse, had been killed in the hunting field, and that he (meaning him, himself) had now succeeded to the title. Lord and Lady Fitzbuse had hardly time to reach the town house of the family when they learned that owing to the sudden death of the old marquis (also, we believe, in the hunting field), they had become the marquis and marchioness of Slush.

The marquis and the marchioness of Slush are still living in their ancestral home in London. Their lives are an example to all their tenants in Piccadilly, the Strand and elsewhere.

Concluding Note.
Dear Mr. Gulch:
We beg to acknowledge with many thanks your cheque for \$1,000. We regret to learn that you have not been able to find time to read our digest of the serial story placed with us at your order. But we note with pleasure that you propose to have the

Women Name Delegates to Rome Meeting

Discuss Possibility of Selecting American to Succeed Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt.

Des Moines, Ia., April 21.—Possibility of electing another American woman to succeed Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt as president of the International Women Suffrage alliance has come in for much discussion here following the recent convention of the National League of Women Voters. Mrs. Catt, it was learned during the sessions here, plans to retire from office in the international body "essential points" of our digest "boiled down" by one of the business experts of your office.

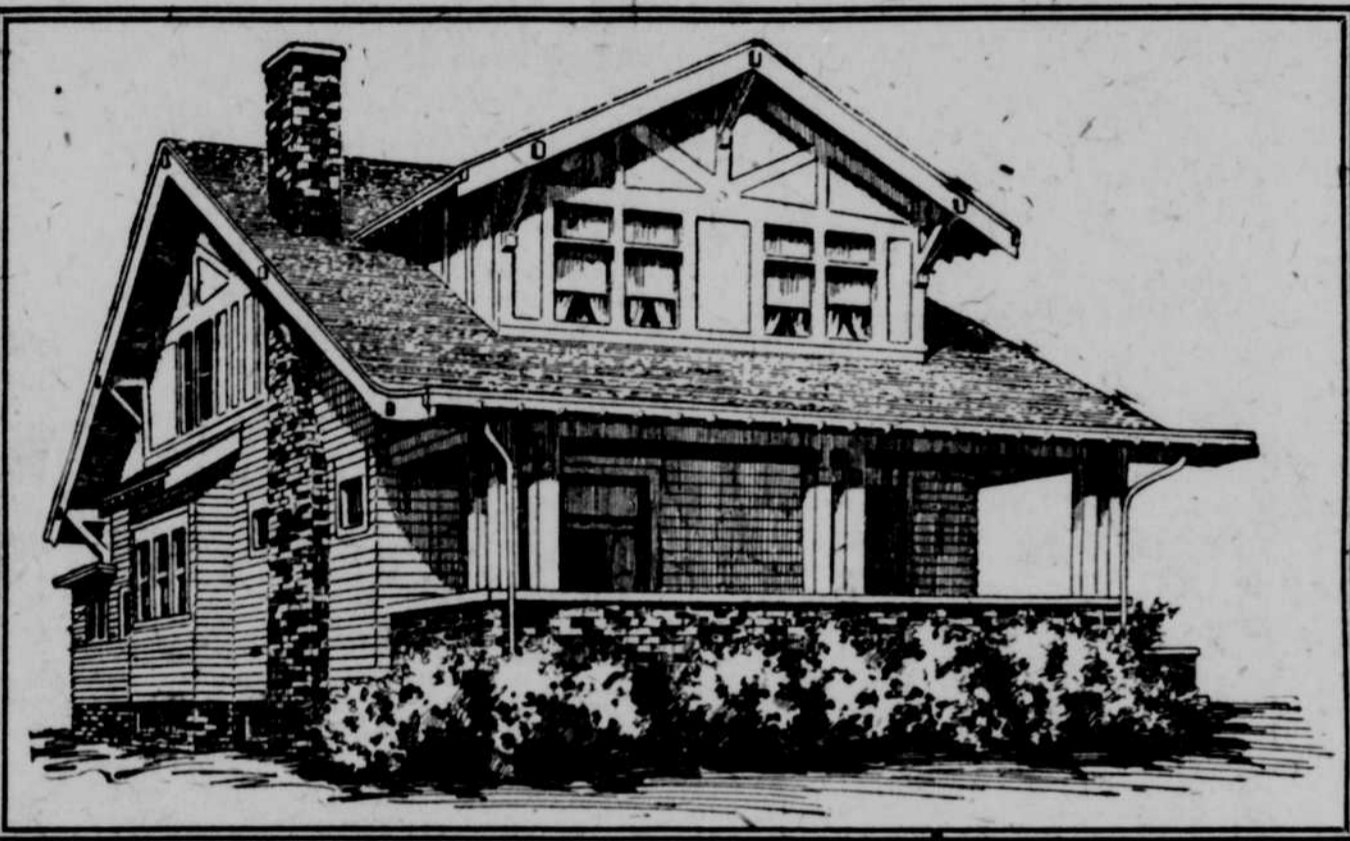
at the ninth annual congress to be held in Rome next month. The American delegation to the Rome congress, announced tonight, includes: Mrs. Maud Wood Park, Mrs. Frank J. Shuler, Dr. Katherine Davis and Mrs. Frederick Nathan, New York; Mrs. James G. Paire, a member of the Minnesota legislature; Mrs. Ann Webster, chairman of the social hygiene committee; Mrs. W. Y. Morgan, Hutchinson, Kan.; Miss Caroline Roberts, Baltimore; Mrs. Craig Miller, Marshall, Mich.; Mrs. James Morrison, Chicago; Mrs. Gifford Finchet and Mrs. John Jay O'Connor, Washington, chairman of the committee on child welfare.

The alternates are: Miss Alice Howell, University of Michigan; Mrs. Julian Nathan, Paris; Mrs. Genevieve Parkhurst, Mrs. Evie D. Prendergast, New York; Mrs. John T. Murphy, Santa Fe; Mrs. Henry Twitchell, Santa Fe; Mrs. Gaillard Stonely, Washington; Mrs. Walter Peck, Providence, R. I.; Mrs. Helen Lovell Millon, Des Moines; Miss Janet Richardson, Washington; Mrs. Frank Griswold, Radnor, Pa.; and Mrs. Martha H. Elliott, Boston.

men's activities and report to American women's organizations. Landlords in France are liable to fines varying from 500 to 5,000 francs if they refuse to rent homes to families with children, or if they make children a pretext for raising the rent.

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There's no longer the slightest need of feeling ashamed of your freckles, as Othine—double strength—is guaranteed to remove these homely spots. Simply get an ounce of Othine—double strength—from any druggist and apply a little of it night and morning and you should soon see that even the worst freckles have begun to disappear, while the lighter ones have vanished entirely. It is seldom that more than an ounce is needed to completely clear the skin and gain a beautiful clear complexion. Be sure to ask for the double strength Othine as this is sold under guarantee of money back if it fails to remove freckles.

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Omaha Lumbermen