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IT'S PERFECT

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IT'S NEW

Introducing . . . Paul Duval nail enamel . . . a new, a perfect nail enamel that has been widely acclaimed overseas. This new Paul Duval nail enamel won't crack or chip. It gives a smooth, even "glass-like" gloss to your nails that lasts far longer, dries ever so quickly — in a matter of seconds. Available are Naturel, First Night, Gay Gossip, and Vintage shades priced at 3/9; and a remover at 2/6.

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## "GOOD BOOKS PERSIST"

(continued from previous page)

and even persuading into authorship some of the few people who do not believe they have latent talent. The outcome of one of these bright ideas is Monica Dickens, a young woman who had positively no idea of writing until a publisher talked her into it at a party. The result was *One Pair of Hands*, the story of her adventures as a housemaid, and two or three fruitful excursions into other walks followed (*One Pair of Feet* was the story of her war effort in hospital). She is now gathering material as an air hostess.

"The publishing trade will solve its problems," says Mr. Joseph, "because it is an intelligent trade. In fact the whole book business is intelligent—booksellers, libraries and readers. Good books have nearly always had success and recognition in their own day. In this way they are different from music and painting. I don't know why.

"And good books persist, perhaps because a father can introduce his son to his favourite authors more easily and naturally than he can to his favourite painters and composers. I believe that in 50 years' time men will be giving their sons Arthur Ransome to read. Sherlock Holmes? Yes, indeed, he still flourishes. My own daughter began at the age of 10 to collect those issues of the *Strand Magazine* in which his stories first appeared."

Mr. Joseph has been happy living at Paignton in a house formerly occupied by G. A. Henty whom he believes to

be still a much-loved author, along with Marryat and Ballantyne. He considers fiction to be in a very healthy state, in spite of the number of people we know who think that kind of a book a waste of time. Of his own friends, the men perhaps lean towards books about facts. But the sales of novels are increasing. Before the war a book was a best seller at about 50,000 copies; now it would be from 100,000 to 200,000 copies. And a first novel or a book of doubtful success would have a minimum printing now of 5,000 copies, compared with about 1,500 previously.

### Inexpensive Pleasures

Besides this there is an increased interest in the older, established novels. The demand for Jane Austen has been fabulous lately. Arnold Bennett and John Galsworthy are coming back into favour after something of a slump, though William de Morgan is not looking up yet, nor George Meredith.

New Zealand reading taste does not differ much from English, according to Mr. Joseph. We choose mainly the best of what is offered, we can be pretty well relied on to distinguish between "bookstall rubbish" and good fiction, and our book reviewing is respected by the English trade.

"If only people would realise it, books are among the less expensive pleasures, and they are among the few commodities that have not doubled in price in our time. If people learn the habit of reading they will find the good books in the end. Personally, I have no quarrel with comics. If a boy spends sixpence on a story about supermen, he is spending sixpence on reading, and it's probably better for him than an ice cream."

—Dorothea Turner.

## "THE LISTENER" CROSSWORD

(Solution No. 473)

### Clues Down

- Roman residence?
- A saying which may be turned to contradict.
- Roman emperor of the first century A.D.
- With rod Ian makes a hostile incursion.
- Times have changed here.
- This vegetable is all shot.
- One brat (anag.).
- Order.
- Day came to a place of study.
- Part of the feast Ernest provided.
- Form of poster used by conjurers.
- Downy bird?
- Output.
- Draw upside down in a hospital.

No. 474 (Constructed by R.W.C.)

### Clues Across

- The main goal is a flowering tree.
- A blue limestone rich in fossils—the reverse is found at sea.
- Therein (anag.).
- This sphere of action is a near thing.
- If you meddle with a kris, you take what you get.
- A Christmas hymn about America gives rise to revel.
- Now hay is haphazard.
- Byron said "The weak alone —" but according to Pope "A noble mind disdains not to —."
- Gap formed by pure tear.
- Catch sight of.
- Name of a German light cruiser.
- Unequal sided.
- A dry measure?
- Treated as non-existent.

