

Books and Men

"Hither and Thither In Quick Shining Trickles"

London Critic on Louis Golding's New Book

IT was at the tender age of six that Louis Golding's literary genius first showed itself. He developed a passion for literature and made his own bow with an epigrammatic poem about a boy who

"... got a big smack,
And said he'd go back
To school,
The fool."

From the time he was twelve till he left Oxford he supported himself by scholarships. He has travelled the face of the globe and he has the reputation



"... OF MAGNOLIA STREET."—Louis Golding, the celebrated author of "Magnolia Street," a best-seller of 1931-32, whose latest book, "The Camberwell Beauty," is reviewed on this page.

of being the most widely travelled English author. In 1931 he wrote "Magnolia Street"—and by that work he added considerable lustre to an already well-known name. In 1935 he has written "The Camberwell Beauty," a book that a London critic has described as "running hither and thither in quick shining trickles."

This new book starts with a bang and has the reader sitting bolt upright until the final breasting of the tape. In fact, it would be almost impossible to find a more perfect example of modern detective fiction. A mere couple of dozen pages leads the reader into the promise of exciting possibilities. A beautiful young shop-girl comes rushing back to London from Sicily with the announcement that her brand-new undergraduate husband has been murdered by a man named Tomlinson, who is also a magician of no mean order, being fully equipped with

demons, skulls, triangles, goats' blood and what not. The shop-girl is so beautiful and her distress so genuine that another undergraduate and a veterinary surgeon's kennelman named Alf volunteer to go back to Sicily to avenge the victim of black magic. The party is increased by the presence of old Mr. Peveril, a butterfly-collector with a romantic soul and a sneaking interest in the occult sciences.

And here, with his story working out in the pleasantest manner possible, Golding picks up a sledge hammer and smashes his shining little jewel to pieces. Mr. Peveril discovers that the Sicilian magician is a butterfly-collector, too, and the two become as thick as thieves. Tomlinson explains that the young husband died of influenza—which is apparently the truth—and there the matter closes. In the meantime the two young men have been kidnapped by the Mafia. In the end they return to London to find that the beautiful shop-girl has already forgotten about her husband and has gone off with a flashy gentleman in a motor-car. Alf, the kennelman, goes back to Sicily to marry the daughter of one of the Mafiosi.

"The Camberwell Beauty," Louis Golding (Gollancz). Our copy from the publishers.

"MONOLOGUES AND DUOLOGUES"

Interesting Little Book,
Edited By Sydney Box

IT is suggested in the foreword by the editor, Sydney Box, that the contents of "Monologues and Duologues" may be used as curtain-raisers for amateur productions, but it will be found that these plays are too short and simple to satisfy the sophisticated audiences of to-day in that capacity. Although these are unsuited to the use suggested, there is, however, much valuable matter which can be used in other directions.

Those interested in variety or vaudeville will find the lightning sketches contained here in such plays as Kate Stevens's "Sabastian's Saloon," in which every word starts with the letter "S," and "The Old School," by Lal Norris, seriously worth considering. Another good twister is W. Tom Williams's, "A Man of Letters," in which

the male character's part consists of the 26 letters of the alphabet in their correct order.

Societies which have, amongst other activities, one-act play and social evenings, have such plays as "Frigid Economy," J. J. Bell; "The Scoop," Stuart Ready; "The Colonel Engages His Daughter," Inglis Allen; and several others.

Child audiences will find great delight in the fantastic fable, "A Saint in the Making," by Laurence Houseman, and beginners have plays which will teach them the rudiments of acting, and at the same time be entertaining to their audiences. Concert artists and entertainers have not been forgotten either, and their store of monologues can be greatly enriched with such as "The Other," Dorothea Rock; and "The Old Actress," Ray Dorian.

"Monologues and Duologues." Edited by Sydney Box. G. G. Harrap and Company. Our copy from the publishers.

BRIGHTER GARDENS

How They Are Obtained

THERE is no need to envy your neighbour his garden display. If you read the "New Zealand Flower-Grower and Home-Lover," many of the mysteries of gardening will be unveiled. The current issue, which is now on sale by all leading booksellers at 6d. per copy, contains numerous articles of outstanding interest. Do you know that it is possible to grow and ripen grapes in the open throughout the year in New Zealand? An unusually interesting article by the Department of Agriculture explains the methods to use and varieties to plant.

Every gardener admires the glorious trumpet lilies—Auratum, Regale, Philipinense and others. They are the subject of a special article by the "Flower Grower's" lily expert in the June 20 issue.

Four noteworthy shrubs you should grow are described and illustrated, a discussion on roses, a method of growing native shrubs by using "cover" plants, are among the features of this issue.

Regular features include special planting guides for Auckland, Wellington, Canterbury and Otago districts, gardeners' problem page, vegetable and orchard departments. In the home section there are special articles on renovating and improving the home and its surroundings, useful hints for the handyman and a page of hard-to-get recipes. The publishers are National Magazines, Ltd., G.P.O. Box 1680, Wellington.