



Siegfried Sassoon, the English poet, author of "The Old Huntsman" and "Counter-Attack." He is coming to America in February. This is the painting by Glyn Philpot, done in June, 1917.

Nina Wilcox Putnam's
"Believe You Me!"

NINA WILCOX PUTNAM'S six short stories making up her volume *Believe You Me!* belong to the slapstick school of fiction, but they are offered with such unctuousness and travel at such an accelerated gait that they redeem themselves. The wit more often than not proves to be broad comedy, but it is all wholesome and entirely removed from the sordid. Marie La Tour, in private life plain Mary Gilligan, is a famous parlor dancer, not averse to taking a flier into

motion pictures, and it is in her extremely vivid and rather luxuriant vocabulary that the stories are written. Each one of them takes up some adventure of the self-sufficient and sophisticated dancer, and believe you me! she gets away with them in fine style.

Her mother, a retired trapeze performer, but now somewhat addicted to en-bonpoint, serves as a chorus, and whenever the action lets down a bit Marie supplies the humor by keeping mother away from too generous indulgence in water taffy or whatever the delicacy is at the moment. Several of the stories were written during the war and relate to various aspects of America during the struggle. There is one that affords Marie opportunity to catch a real German spy mainly because of an ambitious pet alligator that bites a perfectly respectable dancing partner of Marie's on the nose. Then another describes how Marie collects \$25,000 in War Savings Stamps subscriptions by speaking from the stage and requesting each person in the audience who will take a thousand dollars worth to rise. As the standees appear to be rather scanty Marie orders the orchestra to play the "Star Spangled Banner." The result is patent.

Marie may not be much on education (doesn't she have her manager wire to Charles Dickens, care of Westminster Abbey, for picture rights to *Oliver Twist!*) but she is 100 per cent, when it comes to patriotism and indefatigable labor for any worthy cause. The situations she is placed in are entertaining and they are clothed in a breezy, slangy, colloquial style that enhances their quality. For laughable qualities the book may be recommended.

BELIEVE YOU ME! BY NINA WILCOX PUTNAM. George H. Doran Company.

THE LIFE OF MRS. ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON, by her sister, Mrs. Nellie Van de Grift Sanchez, will be published by Charles Scribner's Sons in October. It will be welcome. It has gradually been coming to light, through the years, that Mrs. Stevenson was not only the admirable wife of an elfin husband whom she held happy, but was also a somewhat remarkable person considered by herself. Colvin's most recent edition of Stevenson's letters includes two (we think) of hers—and they hold their own in the collection.

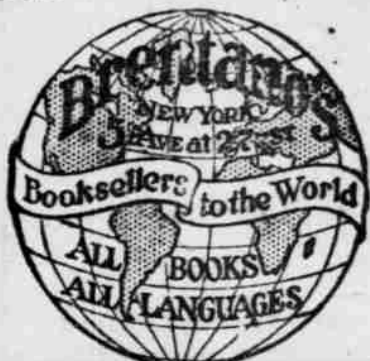
THE OUTLOOK FAIRY BOOK FOR LITTLE PEOPLE (Macmillan), published originally more than fifteen years ago, but recently out of print, has just appeared in a new and attractive edition.

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"Slippy McGee"

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WOMAN
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Tales of the Squared Circle

ELEVEN tales of the prize ring, by Charles E. Van Loan, that have appeared in various publications between 1913 and the present year are brought together in a volume bearing the engaging title, *Taking the Count*. Unless a reader has followed pugilism, either as a devotee or a reporter, the world Van Loan leads him into here will seem a strange place indeed, a world peopled by many ignoble characters, doing base things for money, a world whose language is strange and whose motives spring chiefly from a desire to make money or from revenge. It is from this last name! cause that the pugilistic fan, we learn, gets his heart's chiefest desire, namely, to witness a "grudge fight."

Charles E. Van Loan doubtless never thought of himself as a "red blood" writer or a moralist of the old school. He was a born story teller and he probably would have been content to let that stand for

his record. Yet in the eleven stories in this book he has given the world real red blooded fiction; and there is scarcely one of them that is not based on some of the good old virtues that tract writers always treated as proper nouns. Brotherly love or the legend of Damon and Pythias is the background of that whale of a prize fighting tale *Scrap Iron*. Man's innate chivalry, even if its protagonists are "pork-and-bean" fighters, is the moving impulse of *On Account of a Lady*. And lest any one should think these analogies overdone, plain old fashioned revenge is the reason why *For the Pictures* is such a pulse stirring description of two great fights. Every one who likes good sporting stories will enjoy these tales immensely, for no one has written prize-fight yarns that can come within reference distance to them. In their field they are masterpieces.

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