

# The Collector's Miscellany

A journal for collectors of Old and Modern Boys'  
Books, Bloods, Penny Number Romances, Etc.

No. 16 (5TH. SERIES). OLD SERIES, No 102. SEPTEMBER, 1949



**Now Ready—Part 20 of the "HALFPENNY SURPRISE,"**  
Containing FIVE STORIES of Thrilling Interest, Splendidly Illustrated—  
The Doleful Gunboat; The White Dragon; The Man Leopard; The Scourge of the Seas;  
Red Hawk. Five lengthy Treatments of  
**DIK, THE CALL-BOT; or, THE MYSTERY OF THE THEATRE ROYAL;**  
And a Beautiful Coloured Gift Plate. Price: Postfree only. Of all Booksellers.

## THE SURPRISE

1/2d

### THE PRIESTS OF THE SERPENT GOD



No. 16 of "THE HALFPENNY SURPRISE" (ISSUED WEEKLY) contains a story of thrilling interest and splendidly illustrated with five lengthy treatments of THE MYSTERY OF THE THEATRE ROYAL, and a beautiful colored gift plate. Price: Postfree only. Of all Booksellers.

No. 87.

Vol. IV.



**SALE                      EXCHANGE                      WANTED**

Advertisement Rates 1d. per word (2 cents)

**For Sale** Black Bess, Black Highwayman, Blueskin, Nightshade, Sixteen String Jack, Merry Wives of London, Charles Peace, Nell Gwyne, Ned Kelly, Captain MacHeath, Rupert Drendnought, Cheerful Ching-Ching, Broad Arrow Jack, Blue Dwarf (all coloured plates), Turnpike Dick, Gentleman Jack, Old House of West Street, Varney the Vampyre, Oliver Twiss and other Lloyd bloods. Tyburn Dick, Harkaway series complete, Ned Nimble complete, Gentleman George, Outlaws of Epping Forest, Dashing Duke and many other Brett and Hogarth House romances. Many vols of Boys of England and Young Men of Great Britain, state wants. Boys World vols 1—4, Young Englishman's Journal vols 1—3, Young Folks vols 7—20, Nuggets, Varieties, Giantland, Desdichado, Thundersleigh, Don Zalva, Kairon, Aldine Half Holiday vols 1—6, Boys Friend vols 9—13. G. W. M. Reynolds' Pierce Egan and G. A. Henty romances. Many others. John Medcraft, 64 Woodlands Road, Ilford, Essex.

**Wanted** Aldine Buffalo Bill novs. Reasonable price. Forsyth. 14 Gilcomston Steps, Aberdeen. 17

**An Inexpensive Hobby.** Collect specimen numbers of old boys papers. I can supply examples from Ching-Ching, Blueskin, Black Highwayman, Island School, Penny Pickwick, Boys of England, Boys Comic Journal, Young Men of Great Britain, Boys of Empire, Boys Leisure, Boys World, Boys Standard, Young Folks, Nuggets, Varieties, Jack Harkaway, many others, 6/6 per dozen. John Medcraft, 64 Woodlands Road, Ilford, Essex.

**A few copies** of Nos. 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 & 15 (5th series), of this journal are still in print, price 1/3d. each post free. Parks, Printer, Saltburn-by-Sea, Yorks.

**Hogarth** House novels for sale cheap. Wanted Budget Story Books. P. Mulhall, Castlecomer, Kilkenny, Ireland. 16

**Please** report all types fantasy books. Henry Bartlett, Shipton Gorge, Bridport, Dorset. 16

# The Collector's Miscellany

*A journal for collectors of Old and Modern Boys'*

*Books, Bloods, Penny Number Romances, Etc.*

---

No. 16 (5TH. SERIES). OLD SERIES, No. 102. SEPTEMBER, 1949

---

## THE FAMOUS FIVE

BY ROBERT WHITER

TO most people the title "the famous five" applies to Harry Wharton & Co. of the Greyfriars Saga, but in schoolboy literature there was and to the best of my knowledge still is another famous five. I refer to the five weekly papers published by D. C. Thomson of Dundee. Books of this kind have been frowned on by parents down the ages and the five in question were no exception. "The Adventure" was first published in 1921, with "Rover" and "Wizard" appearing the following year. "The Skipper" did not appear until 1930, whilst "The Hotspur" the baby of the five first saw the light of day three years later. I can well remember No. 1 coming out, it was dated September 2nd, 1933.

The cover, quite in keeping with some of the bloods of the past depicted an incident from one of the stories contained inside namely, "The Swooping Vengeance," the picture showing a terrified pilot in a plane looking over his shoulder at a giant vulture about to attack. Given with No. 1 was a black cloth mask which went well with one of the other stories entitled "Son of Scarface" which dealt with the son of a gangster who is killed by the police, the gang wanting the boy who is captain of his school to become their boss.

Other stories in this first number were "Buffalo Bill's School-days," "The Colorado Kid," "The Traitor of the Team" and last but not least, two stories which were to appear as current series became famous in the history of the paper. One was "The Big Stiff," a story of a schoolmaster who had revolutionary ideas on the teaching of boys, inasmuch that he abolished all corporal punishment, letting the boys do just about what they liked, putting them on their honour as it were and achieving remarkable results with them at examinations. He later became a School Inspector travelling all over the country trying, generally with success to impart his ideas to awkward pupils and teachers alike at the various schools he visited. He was I remember the perfect master and inspector from the average schoolboy's point of view.

The other story, or rather series I should say, was based somewhat on the Greyfriars stories but with a difference. It dealt with a school which owing to the red sand stone of its construction and the fact that the buildings were in a circle round the quadrangle was called the Red Circle School. The difference lay in the fact that whereas at Greyfriars and its fellow schools the boys led a Peter Pan existence, at the Red Circle establishment, the boys grew up and each year changed forms, with the Sixth form chap leaving, the Fifth moving up and a new school captain, perfects, etc. being elected.

As the years passed, every story in the paper dealt with a school of some kind, whether it was about a circus with the lion tamer acting as master to the sons of the celebrities, or a leader of the Jacobite rebellion acting in the same way to the sons of the other chieftains. Then a story would appear with a school for teaching crime or some other legitimate or illegitimate trade. In fact every sort of yarn that could be entwined around school life in some shape or form.

During the war, a school for the Gestapo was evolved. Yes the "Hotspur" believed in being topical. Space does not permit me to add more to this, what must be a very brief outline of the "Hotspur," one of the famous five of the Dundee School.

#### FINIS

AN advertiser in a popular weekly advertising medium, a lady by the way, recently offered £1 each for "Gems" Nos. 356, 358, 359 and 375; 10/- for No. 334 and 5/- for No. 644. Some collectors may think that that this gives added prestige to the hobby but we are inclined to doubt it. Until this advertiser is supplied all copies of the "Gem" owned by persons outside the fraternity will be considered by their owners as good as one pound notes. Once this advertiser is supplied however, and they may be lucky to get 2/- each for the same numbers. No doubt this advertiser only needs these numbers to complete a set or a very long run, in which case they may be worth the price offered but the value is entirely fictitious.

A copy of a story written by Richards and published in the "Boys' Friend Library" was offered and sold some time ago for over 30/-.

We are in urgent need of articles and news of old boy's books particularly those dealing with the later periodicals.

## Widows of Celebrities I'd Interview

By the late R. A. H. GOODYEAR

**E.** Harcourt Burrage's widow is an octogenarian and still a live wire in her own home. It cannot be doubted that her memory is richly stored with reminiscences of her author-husband, whose fame is so firmly based in the main on his inimitable "Ching-Ching" series of stories. She probably knew his methods of working better than anyone else in the world. Did he have an office in the City wherein to write his tales or did he originate and write them at home? When did he start work, how many hours a day did he devote to writing and did he have proofs of his yarns sent to him for correction?

This matter of proof-reading may be one of the most serious drawbacks to a life of authorship. If Harcourt Burrage wished to make sure that there were no printing or constructive errors in his serials he would have had to insist upon seeing proofs. For myself, I have always read the proofs of every book I have written five times before passing them for publication. To show you what that means, I ask you if you would borrow a volume of 80,000 words, or thereabouts from your town's library and read it through, without missing a word or even a single letter, over and over again until you had perused it five times? Of course you wouldn't; It would seem like lunacy. I cannot think that Harcourt Burrage was so punctiliously exact about proof-reading, writing so many serials as he did and having so many of them printed simultaneously. Possibly he relied entirely on the publishers' own proof-readers and seldom himself corrected a proof; if so his widow would know.

Mrs. Burrage could doubtless also tell us who were the men who visited him. Among them may have been Brett and Fox, for whose publications he wrote so much and so well. He would almost certainly know many of the authors who wrote in friendly competition with him—George Emmett, Ralph Rollington, Bracebridge Hemyng, Vane St. John, P. B. St. John, Charles E. Pearce and their contemporaries. At rare times they may have relaxed together in Burrage's home. I think his widow could recall a good deal of their conversation and could give us graphic word-pictures of the authors who came.

Perhaps they gathered together in the garden in summer and discussed plots and plans among the roses and lilies. "What's your next idea for a chingy tale, Burrage?" Rollington might

have said ; "Let's hear it and see if we can suggest anything." Much more likely, it would be the other way about — Burrage making the suggestions and Bracebridge Hemyng or George Emmett eagerly seizing upon them. I cannot believe Mrs. Burrage would be averse to a little chat on these subjects if ever I could have the privilege of interviewing her and I should not tire or distress her with too obvious curiosity or urgency.

Of Mrs. Barry Ono I should seek information on quite a different plane. Whether or not it is generally known that Barry Ono was a music-hall artiste I cannot say. I don't remember exactly what he did on the stage ; he may have been an impersonator ; I believe he sang. His patter was swift and his act was so strenuous that it took it out of him tremendously, as he told me in his letters. Unless you are recognised as a music-hall star of the first magnitude, he told me, it is a truly terrible task to get regular engagements.

From Mrs. Ono I should surely learn many enthralling details of her husband's search for those fierce penny bloods which so irresistibly attracted him. His long letters to me revealed him as a man of cheery disposition and originality of outlook. With no wish to belittle the collecting of old boys' books as a hobby, I have often wondered if Barry Ono's great abilities and indomitable perseverance couldn't have been better employed than in the persistent and enthusiastic search for sanguinary publications of the "Sweeney Todd" and "Spring-Heeled Jack" type, many of which, I make bold to say, were poor stuff from a literary standpoint and at times blatantly ludicrous besides.

I am not now suggesting that any journalist should attempt to interview E. Harcourt Burrage's widow or Barry Ono's. Certainly he shouldn't without tactfully approaching the dear ladies by letter first. All I do say is that, with their consent, the recollections of each lady would make a long and fascinating revelation if published.

#### FINIS

THE first "Gem" I ever read was somewhere round 1912. The picture on the cover showed a fat boy tied up and unable to get at a table laden with good things. If my memory serves the picture was entitled "The Tortures of Tantalus." I should like to know the name of the story and the date of the publication.

D. J. D. (Australia.)

## THE LURE OF THE FEARSOME TITLE

BY JOHN MEDCRAFT

THE penny number romances of the spacious days of Queen Victoria present an absorbing field of study to all who love these quaint old books. During the sixty years in which they flourished, a wide variety of stories in almost every conceivable period and setting were written by men of varying ability; stories of cabin boys and others who became admirals via the Black Flag, historical tales with swashbuckling gallants and noble apprentices, the High Toby with real and fictional heroes of mask and pistol and crime in every aspect, all linked by a common bond of full blooded heroics. Many of these stories were well written and vastly interesting, others but a sequence of thrills strung together as a story while some are frankly unreadable. A perusal of one of the latter brings a mind picture of the old penny-a-liner, lacking his accustomed tonic and flogging a tired brain in an effort to complete the instalment; or, maybe, taking a short cut by the aid of plots or whole incidents shamelessly lifted from more notable works.

But to the student of the lore of the Penny Dreadful, the story is not all important, even more interesting are the fierce titles, the grimly suggestive sub-titles and the wide range of illustrations from the grand work of John Gilbert, Robert Prowse, Hebblethwaite and Maguire to the crude efforts of the faker artists. The attraction and selling power of the title was fully appreciated by Edward Lloyd, many of the fiercest were the product of his own fertile brain around which Thomas Preat or Malcolm J. Errym would weave a story.

Even the comparatively innocuous titles of the domestic romances had a subtle something calculated to appeal to the many feminine readers who helped to swell the circulation of the Lloyds. Actually, these domestic tales lacked little that their fathers and brothers enjoyed in "The String of Pearls" and "Gentleman Jack or Life on the Road" for red blood and purple passion pulsed through all and if the ladies were spared vampires and highwaymen the balance was evened with a generous measure of pirates and smugglers, abduction, seduction and murder. The delicious suggestion of "Kathleen; or, the Secret Marriage" is carried on by "Angeline; or, the Mystery of St. Mark's Abbey" and progressively by "Amy; or, Love and Madness" to "Geraldine; or, the Secret Assassins of the Old Stone Cross." The grim

possibilities of "Pedlar's Acre ; or, the Wife of Seven Husbands" are amply bourn out in a story which concerns an angelic lady who disposes of a succession of husbands by the aid of molten lead poured in their ears at midnight. Another more forceful if less subtle title is "The Maniac Father ; or, the Victim of Seduction" while what epicure of horror would not be satisfied with "The Death Ship ; or, the Pirate's Bride and the Maniac of the Deep." Clever indeed are these sub-titles whether inspired by the bludgeon of horror or the rapier thrust of insidious menace.

Lloyd was also responsible for many piracies in addition to the plagiarisms of Dickens' works and one of the most important was "The Tower of London" by H. Hainsforth while "Black Eyed Susan" and "Poor Little Jack" were attributed to H. S. Marriott. The best known and most frequently quoted title is "Varney the Vampyre ; or, the Feast of Blood" but few have heard of the almost legendary "Varley the Vulture ; or, the Track of the Doomed."

While not so prolific as Lloyd, other publishers did not neglect the fierce title and their contributions included the "Wild Witch of the Heath ; or, the Demon of the Glen" a story inspired by "MacBeth," "Wagner the Wehr Wolf" and "The Black Phantom of the Abbey."

The golden age of the penny dreadful began in 1860 when Brett launched the Newsagents Publishing Co. and Harrison, G. Howe, Temple Publishing Co. (Emmett), London Romance Co., and Vickers were also active. Between 1860 and 1869 these firms and others published a wide variety of dubious stories for boys dealing with highwaymen, pirates and criminals all in attractive format on good paper and profusely illustrated. Many of these stories were well written and their influence upon the youth of the period was profound but, in the main, they were harmful and rightly denounced as pernicious literature. The titles were indicative of the general tendency and one of the worst was "Charley Wag the New Jack Sheppard" which lauded the deeds of a thief and murderer. Another on the same plane was "Fanny White the Young Lady Thief and her Friend Jack Rawlings the Boy Burglar." The well known "Wild Boys of London ; or, the Children of the Night" exercised a bad influence upon the drab lives of the London street boys and, upon reissue a few years later, was suppressed by the police. Another that invested vice and crime with a certain false glamour was "The Jolly Dogs of London ; or, the Two Roads of Life." This story was inspired by Arthur Lloyd's famous comic song of the day "Slap, Bang, Here we are Again, what Jolly, Jolly Dogs are We"



and had a great vogue. Foremost among the really fierce titles was "The Skeleton Horseman; or, the Shadow of Death" closely followed by "The Shadowless Rider; or, the League of the Cross of Blood," "The Dance of Death; or, the Hangman's Plot," "Lightning Dick the Devil of Whitefriars," "The Skeleton Crew; or, Wildfire Ned" and "Ivan the Terrible; or, the Dark Deeds of Night." Small wonder at the outcry that was raised against the publication of such stories for boys even in the free and easy sixties. A spate of "Boy" titles also appeared during this period amongst them being the "Boy Pirate," "Boy Detective," "Boy Rover," "Boy Brigand" and "Boy Actor" while in sub-title came "Dare Devil Dick the Boy King of the Smugglers" and "Admiral Tom the King of the Boy Buccaneers."

The outcry against these stories had its effect and by 1869 most of the firms involved either ceased publication or diverted their industry into more meritorious channels. Bretts and the Emmetts turned their attention to the publication of the many fine boys' journals for which they are best remembered and though the stories were as full blooded and robust as ever the titles were watered down and the moral tone far better. Blood continued to flow in bucketfuls, dark deeds were freely committed but no longer were they the be all and end all of the stories for virtue, in the form of hearty British lads, invariably triumphed in the end.

Around 1880, Charles Fox revived the fierce title with the publication of the famous "Sweeney Todd the Demon Barber of Fleet Street" which was followed by "Spring Heeled Jack the Terror of London" and "Three Fingered Jack the Terror of the Antilles" while Dacre Clarke perpetrated "Born to be Hanged" and "Murder; or, the knife with the Crimson Stain."

Just when this vogue appeared to be on the wane, the greatest purveyors of strong meat in story and title appeared in the form of the Aldine Publishing Co. Mostly imported from U.S.A. the stories in the "O'er Land and Sea" and "Boys' First Rate Pocket Libraries" and "Tip Top" and "Detective Tales" presented a galaxy of fantastic titles in an orgy of alliteration with brilliant coloured covers to match. From such an array selection is difficult but the following taken at random are representative of the whole. "Double Daggers; or, Deadwood Dick's Defiance," "The Phantom Pirate; or, the Water Wolves of the Bahamas," "Panther Pete the Prairie Pirate," "Black Plumé the Demon of the Sea," "The Giant Buccaneer; or, the Wrecker Witch of

Death Island" and "Fire Eye the Sea Hyena ; or, the Bride of a Buccaneer." Truly a saturnalia of illicit reading for the lads of 50 years ago. Throughout the Aldine Libraries for over 20 years these titles prevailed and the many examples in the "Dick Turpin," "Claude Duval," "Spring Heeled Jack," "Jack Sheppard" and "Red Rover" libraries are too well known to need enumeration here but from 1910 onwards the stories lost their appeal and the vogue of the fierce title waned. Since then far better and healthier stories have circulated for boys and their suspension in 1940 was a misfortune. When I note the many trashy publications that have taken their place, I pause and reflect. Has the wheel made a full turn?

FINIS

## THE BOY'S HERALD

BY HERBERT LECKENBY

**I**N the year of grace, 1903, the "Boys' Friend" and "Boys' Realm" were riding on the crest of the wave, so editor Hamilton Edwards doubtless encouraged into believing there was room for another one, made the two into a trio by launching the "Boys' Herald." For a time it would appear that his optimism was justified for the paper got off to a fine start, and settled down to all appearances as healthy as its two older brothers.

No. 1 carried the date, August 1st, 1903. That would be on Saturday but the publishing day was the Friday soon to be changed to Thursday. It is just possible it was dated a week in advance, a habit prevailing at the time. The page was white in contrast to the green of the 'Friend' and the pink of the 'Realm.' The page size was the same about 11" x 14½", and there were, of course, 16 of them. The title was in plain lettering, without any pictorial adornment and below it was the slogan "A Healthy Paper for Manly Boys."

Three serials started in No. 1. "The Seventh House of St. Basils" by Henry St. John had the honour of the front page. It was attractively illustrated by "Val" (later for some reason he dropped out and Fred Bennett took over, the characters all looking like tramps in consequence). That was a peculiarity of Bennett's work at the time.

The second serial was "Wings of Gold" by Sidney Drew, pictures by H. M. Lewis. It was on the lines of Drew's popular

Ferrers Lord stories, and was described as "The story of the most Terrible and Amazing journey ever made by Man." Third was "Trapper Dan" by George Manville Fenn. Fenn was a popular writer for boys, but his work seldom appeared in the weeklies being mainly confined to stiff covers. Fred Bennett illustrated this serial.

In addition there was a long complete story; the first of a series of articles "The Battle of Life" success stories of business men, and of course, the features of Hamilton Edwards adorning a page of chat, here called "Your Editor's Advice."

Quite a promising start. I remember I expressed myself satisfied as value for my hardearned penny on the morning I bought it on my way to school.

With No. 2 came another serial, one which was to become historic. It was "Nelson Lee's Pupil" by Maxwell Scott, needless to say, and it introduces Nipper for the first time, the character who was to be featured in hundreds of stories in the years to come. This yarn was one of Maxwell Scott's best, with his favourite theme—a chase across the seas.

No sooner had the "Boys' Herald" appeared on the book-stalls than something else happened—the coming of a rival was announced:— "The Boys' Leader"—the bold venturers—Pearsons publishers of "The Big Budget." When this paper did appear in September it was found to be the same page size as the 'Herald' and on white paper too. Moreover there were 24 pages (though not for long).

There were amusing circumstances about the coming of the "Boys' Leader" for the proprietors set about it in enterprising fashion. A large amount of advertising was done, quite a lot of it in the three Harmsworth rivals, one week as much as half a page.

Then Hamilton Edwards got to work; he splashed all over his papers the wording that he controlled only three papers; the "Boys' Friend" on green paper, the "Boys' Realm" on pink, and the "Boys' Herald" on white. Some of these announcements appeared in close proximity to the 'Leader' adverts, and on his chat page he complained bitterly about unscrupulous attempts to deceive "his boys" by misleading advertisements. To add to the fun some of the authors popular with readers of the Harmsworth papers wrote for the "Boys' Leader" including Sidney Drew, Maxwell Scott, Henry T. Johnson and Claude Heathcote. Also

artists 'Val,' T. W. Holmes and G. M. Dodshon.

Nevertheless the "Boys' Leader" after a brave fight died just short of two years of age, and Hamilton Edwards was able to get in a parting gibe when he assured the readers who had written to him about its passing that the unfortunate paper was no concern of his.

However to return to the "Boys' Herald." For three or four years it was really a case of the same paper appearing three times a week, the only difference was the colour of the paper. A serial which appeared in one might, just as easily been in the other two, and the 'Herald' got its share of the best of them in its early days. Some which come to mind were "Rajah Dick" by David Goodwin, later "On Turpin's Highway" and "The Black Mask" by the same author, three grand thrilling yarns these which left the reader waiting impatiently for the next instalment.

Henry St. John followed "The Seventh House of St. Basils" with "The New Master" (a sequel) and later "True as a Die" another school story. Allan Blair came along with "A Boy in a Thousand" and "Black England" and Hamilton Edwards made a big fuss about a story "Always Honest" which he was supposed to write with the help of Allan Blair. A sequel followed "Honesty Wins."

Then one recalls "Nipper's Schooldays," "The Iron Hand" and "The Winged Terror," three of Maxwell Scott's Nelson Lee yarns, and a Sexton Blake story "The Coster King" written anonymously. After about four years the "Boy's Realm" branched off into a paper dealing mainly with sport, and the 'Herald' specialised in hobbies. It also devoted a good deal of space to sales and wants, and hereabouts Charles Hamilton contributed a series of complete stories each at Cliveden. Outstanding, too, were the three serials concerning Sexton Blake's early days; "Sexton Blake at School," "Sexton Blake in the Sixth" and "Sexton Blake at Oxford." In the second of these it was told how he first met Tinker, despite the fact than in "Union Jack" stories Blake had been a detective for quite a long time before that young man came on the scene. These three serials in the 'Herald' were written by Cecil Hayter.

In the last three or four years of its existence the "Boys' Herald" was but a pale shadow of its former self, or so it seemed to those who had known it from No. 1. Stalwarts like Maxwell Scott, Sidney Drew, Henry St. John and Allan Blair seldom

wrote for it, and it is difficult to remember a serial of any merit.

Then came a fatal sign — reprints. Among them were "The Boys of St. Basils" and "Val the Boy Acrobat" which had appeared in the "Boys' Friend" in its halfpenny days. They appeared to be good stories in their original state, but somehow did not seem the same in the "Boys' Herald."

It faltered on until just before its tenth birthday, then a drastic change was announced. The "Boys' Herald" (actually I seem to remember the 'Boys' part of it had been almost dropped for some time) was to be no more and in its place was to appear "Cheer Boys Cheer" with an entirely new make-up. "Cheer, Boys Cheer"! Well that was something different but could you imagine a paper with a title like that catching on. Anyway though the "Boys' Herald" was to all intents and purposes dead we will just see what happened to its successor.

When No. 1 of "Cheer Boys Cheer" appeared on May 25th 1912, it was found to be the size of a "Union Jack" with a rather sober looking brown cover. The contents seemed to be a compromise between "Chums" and the "B.O.P." Although Maxwell Scott contributed a serial it all seemed so different to the days of "Wings of Gold" and "On Turpin's Highway." Anyway the boys of the period did not cheer the paper with any real enthusiasm, for it only ran for 68 weeks. Then its title was changed to "The Boys' Journal" with the contents remaining very much the same. This brought little more success for with 72 issues the paper was amalgamated with the "Dreadnought" and so the once popular and successful "Boys' Herald" passed into complete oblivion.

---

## THE COLLECTOR'S MISCELLANY

Published every three months.

Subscription Rates :

6 issues 7/6    3 issues 3/9    Single copies 1/3

Advertisement Rates : 1d. per word.

Printer and Publisher : JOSEPH PARKS,

BACK DIAMOND STREET, SALTBURN-BY-THE-SEA,  
YORKS., ENG.

## THE "BOYS' FRIEND LIBRARY"

1st. SERIES, SEPT. 1905—MAY 1925

COMPILED BY HERBERT LECKENBY

(continued from page 238)

301—On His Majesty's Service (Nelson Lee)	Maxwell Scott
302—Mystery of the Diamond Belt	— — —
303—Pete's Hun Colony	S. Clarke Hook
304—Secrets of the Racecourse	A. S. Hardy
305—The Scourge of the School	Andrew Gray
306—The Factory Batsman	Geoffrey Gordon
307—The Headmaster's Daughter	Sidney Drew
308—The Speed King	Henry St. John
309—The Honour of a Scout	Horace Phillips
310—With Bugle and Bayonet	Beverley Kent
311—Pride of the Footplate	Sidney Drew
312—The School Republic	David Goodwin
313—Last in the League	Steve Bloomer & Ambrose Earle
314—Pete's Wide-World Quest	S. Clarke Hook
315—War to the Death	Jack Bobin
316—The City of Flame	Alec. G. Pearson
317—The Sports Promoter	Andrew Gray
318—True Blue	David Goodwin
319—School and Sport	Frank Richards
320—The Schoolboy Manager	Robert Murray
321—The Boys of Ravenswood College	S. Clarke Hook
322—The Rival Athletes	Capt. Macolm Arnold
323—The Schoolboy Imposter	Andrew Gray
324—The Mystery Ship (J. S. & P.)	S. Clarke Hook
325—From Ocean to Ocean	David Goodwin
326—The Air Raiders	Sidney Drew
327—Officer and Trooper	Beverley Kent
328—Rivals and Chums	Frank Richards
329—The Fighting Strain	T. C. Wignall
330—King of the Fags	Geoffrey Murray
331—The Sporting Journalist	Geoffrey Gordon
332—Driven to Sea	T. C. Bridges
333—Cavalier and Roundhead	Alfred Armitage
334—Charlie Chaplin's Schooldays	Sidney Drew
335—The Pride of Kitcheners	Capt. Malcolm Arnold
336—Trail of the Redskin	M. Storm

(continued)

## THE TITLE STARTS THE THRILL

By the late R. A. H. GOODYEAR

**T**HOUGH they were mainly written for adults, the detective stories of Arthur Morrison—author of “Tales of Mean Streets,” with which he made a sensation in 1894—must have had many boy-readers, of which I was one. The titles were: Martin Hewitt, Investigator; Chronicles of Martin Hewitt; Adventures of Martin Hewitt.

I remember them as vivid stuff of the Sexton Blake and Nelson Lee type, written with a literary skill far above the average by an author who was always welcome to the popular magazines of the period which competed keenly to secure Morrison's stories.

Possibly there are collectors of “Martin Hewitt” books among readers of this paper. I had a yearning to revel in them again, as in the days of my boyhood, but could not find them in the public library. Probably there had been several copies of them which had been worn out and withdrawn from circulation.

Arthur Morrison was born in 1863 and was 31 when he made his great hit with “Tales of Mean Streets,” first published serially in “Pearson's Magazine” I believe. Ten years later he had a big success with his play, “That Brute Simmons.” He lived in a village with a romantic name, Chalfont St. Peter, Bucks.

Some of the titles of the Sexton Blake and Nelson Lee stories are soberly conceived compared with those I have found on the shelves of public libraries. Gladys Mitchell has written a stirring novel called “The Mystery of a Butcher's Shop”—somewhat suggestive of the Demon Barber of Fleet Street and Mrs. Lovat's pishop next door—and among her other titles is “Death at the Opera.” Piquant titles among Charles Rushton's books are these: Terror Tower; Madman's Manor; The Trail of Blood and The Murder Market.

To provoke curiosity with a good title should be one of an author's principal considerations. I append a list of library book titles I have come across at intervals and memorised:

(continued)



Special School Tale by Chas. Hamilton



THE SWELL OF ST. JIM'S WAS A PITIFUL OBJECT TO LOOK AT. "MY HAT!" EXCLAIMED BLAKE. "HEDDO' WOULD TAKE YOU FOR A HOWLING SWELL HOW." (See page 16.)  
NO. 111. VOL. 6. NEW SERIES.

