THE BROWSING READER

The Walls of Jericho." A Novel by Rudolph Fisher, Knopf. \$2.50.

THIS is another story of Harlem, following the footsteps of "Nigger Heaven" and "Home to Harlem." The casual reader wading through the first third of the book might think it nothing else but a following of these pathfinders into the half-world north of 125th Street. But a little persistence and a knowledge of what Rudolph Fisher has alfeady accomplished in his remarkable short stories, will bring reward. For the main story of a piano mover and a housemaid is a well done and sincere bit of psychology. It is finely worked out with a delicate knowledge of human reactions. If the background were as sincere as the main picture, the novel would be a masterpiece. But the background is a shade too sophisticated and unreal. Mr. Fisher likes his two characters, Jinx and Bubber, and lingers over them; but somehow, to the ordinary reader, they are only moderately funny, little smutty and certainly not humanly convincing. Their conversation has some undoubted marks of authenticity, for this kind of keen repartee is often heard among Negro laborers. But neither of these characters seems human like Shine.

Mr. Fisher does not yet venture to write of himself and his own people; of Negroes like his mother, his sister and his wife. His real Harlem friends and his own soul nowhere yet appear in his pages, and nothing that can be mistaken for them. The glimpses of better class Negroes which he gives us are poor, ineffective make-believes. One wonders why? Why does Mr. Fisher fear to use his genius to paint his own kind, as he has painted Shine and Linda? Perhaps he doubts the taste of his white audience although he tries it severely with Miss Cramp. Perhaps he feels too close to his own to trust his artistic detachment in limning them. Perhaps he really laughs at all life and believes nothing. At any rate, here is a step upward from Van Vechten and McKay-a strong, long, interesting step. We hope for others.

"The Bahamas Handbook." By Mary Moseley. The Nassau Guardian. Bahamas, B. W. I.

"The Early Settlers of the Bahamas

BOOKS

American Negro authors have published over 20 important books in the last two years. White authors have written 15 books about Negroes which Negroes ought to read. Periodicals are filled with articles on the Negro in the United States, the West Indies, and Africa. How many of these books do you own? How many of these periodicals are on your table? Why not write immediately to THE CRISIS and secure lists and prices? Christmas is coming.

These two books come to us to add write a history of Haiti to prove his needed knowledge among American thesis and forward his claims. He is line so elaborately that one seldom 140 pages runs from earliest times to knows when they are talking of col- 1908. The story here is sympatheticored people and when they are talking ally told, but unconsciously or purof white people. Nevertheless, if one posely, Mr. Davis is led far astray in remembers that the vast majority of his estimates of certain great leaders, those who live in the West Indies are particularly Dessalines. Evidently he of acknowledged or unacknowledged has taken his picture of Dessalines from Negro descent, there is much informa- the French. And of all the Haitian tion that one can gain.

will see by the 'Handbook', we are most terrible enemy. It is not true now pretty widely known as one of the that Dessalines massacred 10,000 mugreatest winter resorts in the world, lattoes, and it was his generous treatand thousands of people come in from ment of his adversaries that made posall over. But unfortunately very few sible the united front of the Haitians Negroes. And being so closely asso- during the war for independence. Outtime. And anything that you may be America: able to publish from the books sent up to meet here."

"Black Democracy." The Story of Haiti. By H. P. Davis. New York. MacVeagh, 1928.

Islands." Rounce and Wortley, ground of the author and the circum- to 'the author of our liberties."

For thirteen years H. P. Davis has been an open or secret agent of the American Government in Haiti. During the Great War he headed a contract to furnish castor oil beans, but at the end of the War the contract was canceled for a large sum, which went to certain firms which he represented in the United States. Mr. Davis was then without work and undoubtedly suffered often at the hands of the American officials. His attitude is, therefore, the attitude of one who believes in American domination in Haiti, but wishes to supplant the present military occupation. Perhaps Mr. Davis himself would like to be High Commissioner.

Negroes of the West Indies. They not an historian, but his book is readhave, of course, the difficulty of all able, and on the whole, favorable to books written and published in the the Haitian people. Nevertheless, it West Indies: they ignore the color has serious defects. The first part of

He has, therefore, undertaken to

leaders, Dessalines has been hated most A correspondent writes: "As you by the whites because he was their

ciated with the United States, I am side of some unfortunate lapses like sure that if we were better known this, there is no doubt but that Mr. among the travelling element of our Davis has tried to write an impartial race, we would get quite a few repre- history, and he tells again the story of sentative Negroes here from time to Haiti's unselfish help of South

"Haiti did, however, give a hearty by me in The Crisis, from time to welcome to Simon Bolivar and many time, showing the advantages to be had Venezuelan families driven into exile by spending a vacation in the Bahamas, by the Spaniards in 1816. Petion exwould be greatly appreciated. This tended to them all the assistance in his summer we have had for the first time, power and secretly equipped Bolivar the 'Colored Embalmers Association' with rifles, powder, cartridges, and all kinds of provisions. Petion was moved to this dangerous and generous action by his sincere desire to assist in freeing the slaves of South America, and Bolivar promised to abolish slavery in all provinces he might liberate. After THIS is a curious work. To un- freeing Venezuela, Bolivar sent Petion derstand it something of the back- his beautiful gold sword, in gratitude

stances of his writing must be known. (Will you please turn to page 390)

ALONG THE COLOR LINE

NEW ENGLAND

William E. Harrison of Roxbury, Mass., has been awarded a Price Greenleaf Scholarship by Harvard University on the basis of his record at the school in which he was prepared for college and on his entrance examinations. This scholarship carries with it a stipend of \$400.

THE MIDDLE STATES

Mrs. Regina Anderson Andrews, of New York City, recently has been appointed Assistant Branch Librarian of the 115th Street Branch of the Public Library of that city. Formerly Mrs. Andrews has held the positions of Assistant at the 135th Street Branch of the library and of Assistant Children's Librarian of the Woodstock Branch. Mrs. Andrews studied at the Chicago Library School and at the Columb a University Library School.

Cobbs was presented to the Girl Re- of St. Kitts, B. W. I., and was brought Harrison, arranged to obtain a classi-



Miss Mary P. Cobbs

serve Department of the Jersey City branch of the Y. W. C. A.

In the recent Y. W. C. A. contest I Dr. E. Elliot Rawlins, one of Harfor the "Ideal Girl Reserve", Miss lem's best known physicians, died re- Park Central Hotel.

as a child to New York City, where he studied in the public schools. In 1905 he received his medical degree from the Long Island College and Hospital.

Carl Diton has just completed an extraordinary tour. Leaving Philadelphia last October with his wife, he made a 9 months' tour of 33,000 miles in his automobile. He sang, played, lectured, and gave organ recitals in 140 different concerts. Mr. Diton's program consisted of classical groups by Scarlatti, Montevarde, Handel and others, German and Austrian lieder songs by Debussy, and other French masters, modern English songs and Negro songs and spirituals. Mr. Diton plans a European tour this fall.

Hal Roach's "Our Gang" is touring the United States. "Farina", the small colored star, is with them. Because the Roosevelt Hotel, New York City, refused to accommodate "Farina", the "gang" took residence at the

Mary Pelah Cobbs of Bayonne, N. J., cently in New York City. Dr. Raw- I A group of twelve Negro spiritwon first place. A picture of Miss lins was born 45 years ago in the island uals, "Spiritual Fantasia", by Aaron



At the Dedication of the Madam C. J. Walker Building, Indianapolis R. R. Moton, J. B. Ransom, Fred R. Moore, William Pickens, R. L. Brockenburr, and others, page 378