



It would be hard for Maggie, the waitress, to get through the day without consulting her "Dream Book." Strange as it may seem, for the book has never failed Maggie before, there is no reference to an ostrich wearing a little straw hat and a pink cape—nothing to tell the seeker for truth whether it means a wedding, a funeral, a present, or what.

### Among Us Mortals

#### The Reading Public

By W. E. HILL

(Copyright, 1919, New York Tribune Inc.)

"But, Aunt Emma, don't you see, it was necessary to his spiritual development for him to leave his wife and children and go live with a black lady in Tahiti—you see, he was a genius!" But Aunt Emma, brought up on "St. Elmo" and "Beulah," by Augusta J. Evans, is still unconvinced that the modern English novelists are anything but rakes and, as for the younger generation of readers—words fail her!



The stock report Harry bought it at thirty-eight and now it's down to twenty-two.

"Here's the little story she wrote the day her kitty was sick!" Eloise's fond parents, on the lookout for a second Daisy Ashford, are getting together enough material for book publication.



Bessie La Pearl, of the "Revolving La Pearls," touring Pantage's circuit, trips by with this week's copy of "Variety."



Mrs. Worden can't seem to get over the recent flood of war literature and revels in "Terrible Things I Saw in Flanders," by Lucy A. Sparrow, and such. Her latest is a treatise on the "Secrets of the Indecent Hohenzollerns," by Carrie Woll. Mrs. Worden is simply dumfounded to learn that the Kaiser wore red underwear!

Mr. Goslin has no use for any author more recent than Dumas. He is reading "The Three Musketeers" over for the eighth or ninth time.

Rhoda is always going around the hotel with a volume of "Crime and Punishment" clasped to her. There are those who say that Rhoda uses the book to write letters on, judging from the weeks it seems to be taking her to read it. Rhoda's come-back is that "It is a long book!"



The Misses Tinkum do have such jolly evenings all by themselves—reading aloud. Just now they are taking up Guizot's "French Revolution" in six volumes.



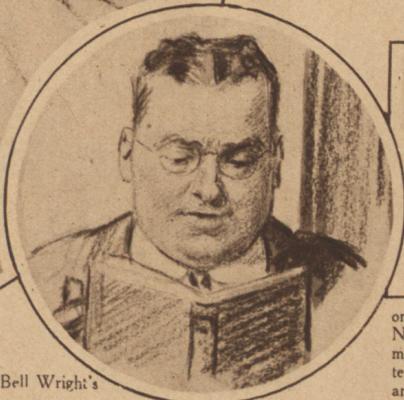
Mrs. Doyle has no time for books. The daily paper takes all her time. Mrs. Doyle doesn't even get much chance to read the news section—there is usually so much to be scanned in the comic page, the beauty column and the department store ads.



Clifford, whose aunts are against anything stronger in the reading line than the "Flaxie Frizzle" stories or the "Pansy Books," has stumbled on a volume entitled "What a Woman of Fifty Ought to Know" and is very much worried.



Gladys and Elinore could hardly wait for the new issue of the "Photo Play Monthly." Gladys had written to the correspondents' column to find out once and for all if William Hart's eyes were slate gray or greenish-black and it is such a disappointment to be referred to the July, 1918, issue: "See answer to J. S. H."



Drummer, in the Pullman smoker, reading Harold Bell Wright's latest.



Miss Leah B. Perlman, of the men's furnishing department, is a constant reader of "Beau Monde," one of those exclusive magazines which are meant for the Newport and Tuxedo sets, and no one else. Miss Perlman recently won the "social etiquette problem" contest, all about what a perplexed hostess should do in such and such a case, etc.



Joe, the office boy, confines his reading to a daily once-over of the sporting columns.



"You can't fool me! Barrie wrote the 'Young Visitors' and then his publishers made him do the preface to advertise it! He certainly has gone off since 'The Little Minister!'" is Mrs. Clark's verdict.