

# BOOKS ABROAD

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*From the October 1932 issue*

- Mauricio Bacarisse. *Los terribles amores de Agliberto y Celedonia*. Madrid. Espasa-Calpe. 1931. 6 pesetas.—Although the original version of this novel had not been found suitable for publication by the editor of the *Revista de Occidente*, the re-worked version, greatly amplified, has just won the Gran Premio Nacional de Literatura.

The protagonist Agliberto has a terrific mental struggle in choosing between the two women he loves—Mab, his ideal transformed into reality, or Celedonia, reality transformed into his ideal. By means of this irrepressible human conflict the author intends to prove, paradoxically, that material love is after all the more immaterial of the two. The manner in which the theme is treated is of the burlesque-mythological type with a modern setting. Historically, in writings of this nature the story is all, while character development is very incidental and local color a pure convention. Here, though we do not expect the substantiation of real characters, we miss the attraction of individualized background—a thing to be regretted, because the author displays an acute power of observation and an extremely rich, precise and varied descriptive vocabulary. The chief merits of the novel lie in its bizarre originality and in its being thoroughly and agreeably readable.—*Joseph G. Fucilla*. Northwestern University.