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WHAT BENNETT READS

Arnold Bennett has added a new book to the select company on his bedside table. Andre Gide's latest novel, "The School for Wives," is the newcomer. "At this present," Bennett writes, "there lies on my night table, besides the Bible (whose love-stories and lamentations and diatribes are incomparable), 'The Decline and Fall,' Sydney Smith's 'Peter Plymley's Letters,' the 'Journal' of the Brothers de Goncourt, Froude's 'Elizabeth,' Harriette Wilson's 'Memoirs' (only semi-fine) and Rousseau's 'Confessions.'"

"I am in the middle of all of them," he continues, "and I have been in the middle of them before. And I must incidentally remark that the 'Confessions,' is a masterpiece among masterpieces of sober varacity. And the other night I rejected the whole batch for Andre Gide's new novelette, 'L'Ecole des Femmes.' And I did not regret having done so. For in its simplicity it has the 'feel' of the classic." The American edition published by Alfred A. Knopf.