

CHECK LIST OF NEW BOOKS

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ization and mechanization of American life. He depicts a civilization in which all of the finer values have been subordinated to mob notions of the Good Life. If Europe ever becomes Americanized, he argues, it will be ruined. This thesis he maintains with a heavy documentation, and to impressive effect. The book is obviously earnest and honest, and it would probably get a good deal of attention in an English translation.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY: *A History.*

By William Starr Myers. The Century Company
\$5 8¾ x 5¾; 487 pp. New York

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY: *A History.*

By Frank R. Kent. The Century Company
\$5 8¾ x 5¾; 568 pp. New York

Dr. Myers is professor of politics at Princeton and Mr. Kent is the political correspondent of the Baltimore *Sun*. Neither book reveals much new study of the sources, but both are useful compilations. Mr. Kent's volume is considerably more sensible and judicious than Dr. Myers'. He sets forth his facts with an attempt at impartiality, though when he comes to the recent achievements of the Democratic party in opposition, and especially its exposures of Republican corruption, he permits himself a certain discreet enthusiasm. Dr. Myers is far more partisan, and hence less convincing. He speaks with admiration of the Republican campaign of 1920, and even goes to the length of praising Elder Will H. Hays. His account of the events of 1916 and 1917 is couched in the terms of the Rooseveltian blather of the period. He eulogizes Coolidge in a lavish manner, and hints that Harding died virtually of a broken heart. Both books have adequate indices. Mr. Kent's, in addition, presents some useful records of names and dates in an appendix.

THE STORY OF THE FILMS.

Edited by Joseph P. Kennedy. The A. W. Shaw Company
\$5 9¼ x 6; 377 pp. Chicago

In the Spring of 1927, at the invitation of the celebrated Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, fourteen master-minds of the movie industry made a pilgrimage to Cambridge, and disclosed to the future Morgans and Garys there assembled the mysteries of their art. Among them were the Hon. Adolph Zukor, the Hon. Jesse L. Lasky, the Hon. Cecil B. deMille, the Hon. Sam Katz, the Hon. Marcus Loew, the Hon. William Fox, the Hon. Harry M. Warner, and last, but by no means least, Elder William H. Hays. The lectures of these gentlemen are included in this book. That by Elder Hays, xxii

who is head of the moral forces of the industry, merits special consideration. The movie people, he says, have "a very genuine desire . . . to aid in developing their [the people's] taste and appreciation for the finest drama, music and literature," but like all "well-wishers for better things," they are not unmindful of "certain standards of common decency that apply to all ages, and they shall be established and maintained." As for the accomplishments of the motion picture, "it has carried the silent call for honesty, ambition, patriotism, hope, love of country and of home [to all]; . . . it has clothed the empty existence of far-off hamlets with joy; it has lifted listless laboring folk till they have walked the peaks of romance and adventure as if they were the pavements of their own main streets, with laughing lips and healthy hearts; it has been the benefactor of uncounted millions."

THE GREAT AMERICAN BAND-WAGON. *A Study of Exaggerations.*

By Charles Merz. The John Day Company
\$3 8 x 5¼; 263 pp. New York

It is Mr. Merz's thesis that this country has seen the most complete standardization of tastes and effects ever known in the history of the world. We even standardize our heroes: "Through the whole mythology of our hero worship," he says, "runs this note of emphasis on their humanity. They are great people. They perform great deeds. But, like ourselves, they are flesh and blood." With a keen, reportorial eye he surveys, chapter by chapter, filling-stations and motor traffic; lodges; radio; the soda-fountain craze; bigger and better murders; golf; the colleges; suburban developments; beauty contests; the Summer emigration to Europe; the movies; the attack on New York, and young America. And though he is often eloquent, it is only when he discusses the drug-store as "The New American Bar" that he grows indignant: "This is no place to serve food. No one conjuring up even a part-way ideal state of human affairs would serve food in a background of hot-water bottles. It is served here, not because it belongs here, but because it is the pale survival, . . . in a post-Prohibition era, of the old free lunch." An amusing book. The chapter on "Bigger and Better Murders" is satirical writing of the first order.

THE SCIENCES

UNDERSTANDING HUMAN NATURE.

By Alfred Adler. Greenburg
\$3.50 8½ x 5¼; 286 pp. New York

"We have attempted to show in this book," con-

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HARPER'S Books of the Month



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By PHILIP MACDONALD

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By LUDWIG LEWISOHN

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