

THE AMERICAN MERCURY

CHECK LIST OF NEW BOOKS

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THE BANKERS IN BOLIVIA.

By Margaret Alexander Marsh. *The Vanguard Press*
\$1 7½ x 5¼; 233 pp. New York

"The Bankers in Bolivia" is a good case study in imperialism. The author investigates the conditions and terms of the Bolivian Government 8% loan due in 1947. The country's dependence on tin, its lack of proper railroad facilities, and the extreme poverty of the Indians who constitute about one-half of the inhabitants, are emphasized. The writer believes that the loan "would seem to have been a highly speculative enterprise." Criticism is directed against the unproductive use of a large part of the proceeds, the pledge of the government's stock in the Banco de la Nacion, the heavy burden of charges compared with the government's revenues, and the grant to the Permanent Fiscal Commission of authority to collect taxes during the life of the bonds. The book is thoroughly documented, and a commendable spirit of fairness is in it. It is one of a series of studies in American imperialism edited by the indefatigable Dr. Harry Elmer Barnes, who contributes an introduction.

HISTORY

HOOD'S TENNESSEE CAMPAIGN.

By Thomas Robson Hay. *Walter Neale*
\$3 9¼ x 5¾; 272 pp. New York

After Sherman had taken Atlanta on September 2, 1864, it fell to Hood to attempt to nullify the military and moral effects of that great Confederate disaster. Two courses were open to him. One was to follow the Federal army toward the sea, seeking to harass and disorganize it; the other was to draw it back by marching into Tennessee. Hood chose the latter, and at the start had some small successes. But Sherman refused to be drawn back, for he believed that Thomas could deal with Hood and the event showed that he was right. By the end of the year the Confederate force was routed and almost annihilated, and early in 1865 Hood was relieved of its command. He was a gallant soldier, but no match for such tacticians as Sherman and Thomas. At Gettysburg he was severely wounded in one arm, and at Chickamauga he lost a leg. A major-general at thirty-one and a man of charming manners and character, he was one of the chief favorites of Jefferson Davis, but he seems to have been disliked by some of his military superiors, notably Beauregard and Johnston. Dr. Hay's account of his unlucky Tennessee campaign is the first adequate history of that operation to be printed. It is heavily documented and carefully written, but its style is undistinguished and the accompanying maps

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are far from satisfactory. The book was awarded the Robert M. Johnston Military History Prize in 1920.

LIFE & LABOR IN THE OLD SOUTH.

By Ulrich B. Phillips. *Little, Brown & Company*
\$4 8¾ x 5¾; 375 pp. Boston

Dr. Phillips, who is professor of American history at the University of Michigan, is a specialist in the history of the old South, and in this volume he presents some of his rich garnerings in that field. Beginning with a geographical description of the region east of the Mississippi and south of the Potomac, he discusses its agricultural organization before the Civil War, and then proceeds to detailed accounts of life on various plantations, first in Virginia, and then in the Carolinas and the newer lands to the westward. Here he makes use of many unpublished documents, including the diaries of plantation owners and their account-books. The result is a large accumulation of unfamiliar matter. It does not change materially what was previously thought about plantation economy, but it is full of novel details, and there is human interest in every line of it. The book thus makes charming reading. There are many illustrations and at the end there is an economic map of the South in 1860. The volume was awarded a prize of \$2500 offered by the publishers for the best unpublished work on American history.

FAMOUS AMERICAN DUELS.

By Don C. Seitz. *The Thomas Y. Crowell Company*
\$3.50 8¾ x 5¾; 345 pp. New York

Mr. Seitz here describes fourteen of the more celebrated duels in American history. He is plainly familiar with all the relevant material, but apparently did not spend as much time in putting it together as he should have. As a result the book makes somewhat heavy reading. There are sixteen illustrations.

TEXT-BOOKS

ESSAYS IN LIBERAL THOUGHT.

Edited by W. H. Thomas & Stewart S. Morgan.
Harcourt, Brace & Company
\$2 8 x 5¼; 574 pp. New York

The reason for the title of this collection of essays is a mystery, since at least half of them are purely literary or deal with strictly scientific subjects. Among the authors represented are Everett Dean Martin, John Galsworthy, Van Wyck Brooks, Grover C. Hall, Walter Lippmann, André Siegfried, Aldous Huxley, Franz Boas, William McFee and James Harvey Robinson. Two of the papers, "The Collapse of Kentucky," by W. G. Clugston, and "A German Grandfather," by Ruth Suckow, have appeared in *THE AMERICAN*

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What is "BABBITT" Really Seeking?

BABBITT, of Main Street, so 'tis claimed, keeps the mental scientists, the hypnotists and the fortune tellers of the "Land of the Free," in spending money.

Babbitt seems to delight in dabbling with the most impossible sort of extravagant claims made by those who offer "absent treatments" for regulating everything from lack of money to lack of sense, it would appear. Too bad we can't all be Babbitts to whom the old adage applies: "Where ignorance is bliss 'tis folly to be wise." But perhaps Babbitt is all-unknowingly seeking something that will answer for him the so-called "Riddle of Life."

Some day all the Babbitts and Mrs. Babbitts may grow up and realize that this old world of ours has more to it than idle dreamings and wishings. But until that time comes, if it ever does, only Intelligent Individuals will realize that there is a principle in Nature which, in all its operations and manifestations, is creative, formative, integrating, developing, organizing and evolutionary in its tendencies.

Science, with unassailable logic has demonstrated that back of every fact of Nature there is a principle to which that fact is related, and to which it must be referred for its proper interpretation and meaning.

Natural Science goes farther and shows that the progressive Intelligence of the age has intuitively sensed some great fundamental law of Nature which underlies and accounts for integration and growth in the various kingdoms—mineral, vegetable and animal.

The application of this law to the ethics of human life constitute the basis of all philosophic systems of the past as well as of the present. Unfortunately the limitations of the average person's intelligence has thwarted any effort to grasp and comprehend this law in its entirety in order to apply it in a practical manner to the daily lives of men. Perhaps it is THIS for which the Babbitts of the world are seeking.

The philosophy of Individual life is necessarily only for Individuals who base a logical mode of progressive life and understanding upon known scientific facts harmonized with natural law. It provides a key to the door behind which lies the proper understanding of the two active and opposing psychological forces that are engaged in a seemingly irrepressible conflict over the status and legiti-

mate functions of Individual Intelligence in its relation to humanity as an aggregate organism.

These two great forces stand opposed to each other upon the vital and fundamental problem of man's rights and privileges, duties and responsibilities as an Individual.

One of these forces has constantly moved forward in the direct line of man's highest individual development and personal liberty in his search for Individual Happiness. Its action has at all times been in the direct line of Individual Unfoldment. The other has just as consistently moved in the direction of man's suppression and subjection in his Individual capacity.

It is for the purpose of providing the Individual with a recognition of his inherent power which will enable him to adjust known scientific facts with natural law, for the purpose of a greater understanding of life and the business of living that the philosophy of Individual life has been reduced to a simple, exact and scientific basis, free from every form of mysticism, ambiguity and uncertainty.

Only advanced Intelligence desires and demands literal and exact knowledge solidly based on known facts of Nature. The average person is so full of the things he ASSUMES to know that he has no room whatever for anything others may actually KNOW and he doesn't want to take the time and trouble to find out. Real knowledge is acquired only through *personal experience*—all else must be belief or assumption.

There is nothing perhaps, which erects a more impregnable wall against real knowledge than the smug assumption of superiority which seems to be the cloak of the man of limited intelligence. Many apparently care nothing for any possible knowledge which may show them a way to greater Self-development, Self-unfoldment and Understanding. To all those inquiring Intelligences, however, who DO desire a possible solution to man's relationship to the Universe and the reason for being here, the unabridged volumes prepared for The Great School of Natural Science are of intense interest.

The Harmonics of Evolution contains a statement of the Philosophy of Individual Life on the basis of Natural Science. The Great Psychological Crime is an exposition of the destructive principle in Nature, while The Great Work gives one the action of the Constructive principle in Nature. The Great Known shows aspects of Natural Science relative to life under various conditions. The Great Message is an historic basis on which the Philosophy of Individual Life is founded. Self-Unfoldment gives scientific principles of Nature and how they may be logically proven. Who Answers is a brochure explaining methods by which results are obtained.

The set of unabridged volumes are distributed by the Pioneer Press, Dept. 514, Hollywood, California, on receipt of five dollars first payment and a further payment of seven dollars and fifty cents after the books have been examined and read for five days. Of course the full price of twelve dollars and fifty cents may be sent for the books. In any event, after they have been read five days they may be returned for any reason at all and the money deposited will be refunded in full, immediately.