

CHECK LIST of NEW BOOKS

SOCIOLOGY

WHEN SOUTHERN LABOR STIRS.

By Tom Tippet. Jonathan Cape & Harrison Smith
\$2.50 8 x 5½; 348 pp. New York

Mr. Tippet, who is a traveling lecturer for the Brookwood Labor College, investigated the recent strikes at Elizabethton, Gastonia, Greenville, Marion and Danville on a grant from the Benita Guggenheim Memorial Fund. He describes at length the deplorable state of the mill-hands before the strikes, the desperate attempts of the local police to put down their rising by force, and the part played in the whole movement by Northern organizers. His general position is favorable to the strikers and he believes that they will win their case on some later day, but he is fair enough to present a statement of the mill-owners' side of it by one of the most intelligent of them, Bernard Cone of Greensboro. Mr. Tippet has a low opinion of the American Federation of Labor, and apparently does not believe that it will ever give any effective aid to the Southern mill-workers. Its leaders are far too stupid to fathom the sociological and political implications of the problem presented in the Southern mill-towns, and far too subservient to the capitalistic system to be capable of free action. But even without its aid the mill-workers will be organized soon or late. The book has thirteen interesting illustrations from photographs, and there is a good index.

THE NEGROES OF AFRICA.

By Maurice Delafosse. The Associated Publishers
\$3.15 7¾ x 5¼; 313 pp. Washington

M. Delafosse, who died in 1926, spent seventeen years in the French colonies of West Africa, partly as administrator and partly as *savant*. He wrote handbooks of five of the native languages, and gathered materials for sixty more. He also wrote what has become the standard history of the great Negro monarchies of the Middle Ages. The present volume, somewhat stiffly translated by F. Fligelman, is an excellent summary of all that is known about the origins and history of the various races of African blacks, and their cultures today. There are chapters on their political institutions, their land systems, their family organization, their religious beliefs and practises, and their art. Necessarily, M. Delafosse has to generalize somewhat boldly, for there is almost as much difference between, say, the Bantu of South Africa and the Negroes of the Soudan as there is between Swedes and Chinamen. But this generalizing does

not go too far, and there is little in the volume that is open to serious question. M. Delafosse views the future of the African blacks with no little optimism. In spite of their isolation they have a creditable history, and "they have certainly not said their last word". The book is well documented, and includes a brief biography of the author, a bibliography of his writings, and a good index.

LOVE-CHILDREN.

By Miriam Allen de Ford. Lincoln MacVeagh
\$3.50 8½ x 5½; 302 pp. New York

Miss de Ford here makes some interesting statements about illegitimates: to wit, that writers, for some obscure (and probably exhibitionistic) reason, seem to be more given to the generation of love-children than other people; that bastards who have reached distinction are usually conservative, ultra-respectable, often reactionary, in temperament—it is not in their ranks that you discover revolutionary leaders or followers; and that they rarely become philosophers, since they are primarily conformists. Aside from these differences, they are very much like the children of wedlock. Miss de Ford presents chapters on William the Conqueror, Alexander Hamilton, Erasmus, Leonardo Da Vinci, Borodin, Strindberg and Dumas *filis*. There are a number of illustrations and an index of names, but a bibliography is wanting.

GRAY SHADOWS.

Compiled by Joseph Lewis French.
The Century Company
\$3.50 8 x 5½; 276 pp. New York

A collection of thirteen criminal and prison narratives, including such pieces as Jim Tully's "Jungle Justice" and "Thieves and Vagabonds", first published in THE AMERICAN MERCURY, Ernest Booth's "I Face a Jury of My Peers" and "The Language of the Underworld", Robert Blake's "The Law Takes Its Toll", "Life in a Man-Killing Jail" by Ed Morrell, and "A Modern Purgatory" by Carlo de Fornaro. There are a brief introduction by Joseph Lewis French and excellent woodcuts by Roger Buck.

THE SECOND OLDEST PROFESSION.

By Ben L. Reitman. The Vanguard Press
\$3.75 8½ x 5½; 266 pp. New York

Dr. Reitman, who is well known as the organizer of a so-called hobo college in Chicago, is intimately

Continued on page vi

THE AMERICAN MERCURY

BY THE AUTHOR OF "THE MALTESE FALCON"

THE GLASS + KEY

BY DASHIELL
HAMMETT



DOROTHY PARKER—"There is entirely too little screaming about the work of Dashiell Hammett . . . anybody who doesn't read him misses much of modern America."

HARRY HANSEN—"For a man who can write a mystery as a mystery should be written give me Dashiell Hammett and his new book . . . Once you open *The Glass Key* you're lost."

TIME—"Out of a glassy sea of crime fiction this book bursts up like a breaching serpent."

WILL CUPPY—"Get your copy of *The Glass Key*, the best of the spring mysteries by quite some margin . . . a whiz of an opus."

HERBERT ASBURY—"I had thought it was impossible for Mr. Hammett or anyone else to write a better detective novel than *The Maltese Falcon* but I think he has done it in *The Glass Key*. It is by far the best and most exciting detective story I have ever read."

PRICE \$2.50

*Exciting, fast-moving, full of amazing characters, and thoroughly entertaining, *The Glass Key* is characteristically "Hammett," and that's enough for anyone who knows his earlier work. This latest yarn concerns the doings in the underworld before an election, and what it doesn't reveal about dirty city politics is nobody's business but very timely.*

**OTHER NOVELS BY
DASHIELL HAMMETT**

RED HARVEST
\$2.50

THE DAIN CURSE
\$2.50

**THE
MALTESE FALCON**
\$2.50

AT ALL  BOOKSHOPS
ALFRED • A • KNOPF **730 FIFTH AVE N.Y.**

v