## THE AMERICAN MERCURY



Check List of NEW BOOKS Continued from front advertising section, page vi

## PUBLIC QUESTIONS

BROWN AMERICA: The Story of a New Race.By Edwin R. Embree.The Viking Press\$2.508¼ x 5½; 311 pp.New York

Mr. Embree is executive head of the Julius Rosenwald Fund, a major interest of which is the Negro. He has thus had wide and intimate contact with the chief problems of the Negroes in the United States, and he writes about them with knowledge and authority. He begins with a chapter on their racial background, and then discusses their history in America, paying particular attention to their economic, educational, and social struggles in the South, and to their general cultural development. He devotes special sections to Negro schools, music, and literature. "The American Negroes today," he says, "are as uniform as any typical race of mixed ancestry, such for instance as the Japanese or the Anglo-Saxons." Into the century between 1800 and 1900 they have "crowded experiences more varied than many races have seen in millenniums." They have made progress, "and there are a considerable number at a fair level, but the race as a whole is still below a decent average of living conditions and accomplishments." But there is no reason to despair. "Looked at in the long view, a satisfactory and a satisfying future for the new race in America is already assured." Altogether, Mr. Embree has written a sensible and useful book. One of the chapters in it, "A Kentucky Crusader," dealing with his Abolitionist grandfather, John G. Fee, was first printed in slightly different form in THE AMERICAN MERCURY. A bibliography and an index are appended.

ILL-STARRED PROHIBITION CASES. A Study in Judicial Psychology.

By Forrest Revere Black. Richard G. Badger \$2 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> x 5<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>; 162 pp. Boston

Dr. Black, who is professor of law in the University of Kentucky, here makes a detailed and devastating examination of the decisions of the Federal courts, including the Supreme Court of the United States, in a number of salient cases under the Volstead Act, and shows how they have gradually whittled away the guarantees of the Bill of Rights. In the Carroll, Lambert and Olmstead cases, in particular, the Supreme Court has made great inroads upon the ancient rights of the free citizen. Dr. Black believes that the best way to get rid of Prohibition will be by a process of nullification, and presents a plan to that end first suggested by Clarence Darrow. Mr. Darrow also furnishes an introduction. The book is well documented, but lacks an index.



Herewith is a portrait of Mr. Joel Rinaldo, Wirt and Kulturhistoriker, whose services to civilization are dealt with in the present

issue by Mr. Benjamin De Casseres. Until the Methodist murrain descended upon New York Mr. Rinaldo was one of the salient personages of the town. He is now in retirement, and it is to be hoped



Joel Rinaldo

that he will give over his leisure to the writing of his reminiscences.

For a quarter of a century, Mr. H. E. Buchholz, author of "The Pedagogues Leap To Save Us," has been active in education as publisher, writer, and critic. He is head of the educational publishing house of Warwick & York, publisher and managing editor of *Educational Administration and Supervision*, established by him in 1915, and publisher of the *Journal of Educational Psychology*, founded by him in 1910. In connection with his recently published "Fads and Fallacies in Present-Day Education," Professor William C. Bagley, of Teachers College, Columbia, said of him:

He has published a large number of important monographs. . . . Young men and young women, starting on their professional careers with high hopes but slender *Continued on page xii* 

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