

CHECK LIST OF NEW BOOKS

Continued from page iv

to please the former, and too favorable to a modification of Prohibition to console the latter.

SMALL-TOWN STUFF.

By *Albert Blumenthal*.

The University of Chicago Press
\$4 7½ x 5½; 416 pp. *Chicago*

Mr. Blumenthal here attempts to do for a small mining-town in Montana what the Lynds did for Muncie, Ind., in "Middletown." He calls his town Mineville, and gives it a population of 1410. It lies in the mountains, and its people, in the main, get their living from the nearby mines and smelters. Life among them is pretty dull, and they are thrown upon tin-pot fraternal orders and petty gossip for amusement. Their two news-stands sell 60 copies of *True Story* every month, but only two copies of *Harpers*. But there is, nevertheless, a small aristocracy, and it includes at least one family that would be regarded as civilized anywhere. Mr. Blumenthal's account of the town is not very lively; he wastes much of his space laboring the obvious. On the other hand, he says less than he might about the influence of the great mining companies upon the life and thought of the people. His book has an index. It belongs to the University of Chicago Sociological Series.

PSYCHOLOGY

PSYCHOLOGY: SCIENCE OR SUPERSTITION?

By *Grace Adams*. *Covici, Friede*
\$2.50 8½ x 5¼; 299 pp. *New York*

Dr. Adams traces the history of modern psychology from its beginning with Wundt down to the present day. She takes up in detail the conflicting theories of James, Münsterberg, Titchener, Freud, Jung, Adler, Hall, Watson, Koffka, and Köhler, and she also considers such things as mental hygiene, vocational guidance, and intelligence testing. One of the most brilliant pupils ever to come out of the late Edward Bradford Titchener's class at Cornell, she writes with extensive knowledge and authority. In addition, she commands a clear and forceful style. In general, she is very critical of the claims made by the psychologists. She even refuses to call their craft a science, "for science is a discipline of general and impersonal facts, and psychology remains a collection of personal and antagonistic theories," which are heavily loaded with strange metaphysics. Dr. Adams has written a sound and solid book. Some of the chapters in it originally appeared in abbreviated form in *THE AMERICAN MERCURY*. There is a good bibliography, followed by a glossary and an index.

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MY PARENTS: FRIENDS OR ENEMIES?

By *Arthur Frank Payne*. *Brewer, Warren & Putnam*
\$2 7½ x 5½; 278 pp. *New York*

This book is addressed to intelligent parents who are confronted with the immemorial psychological problems of growing sons and daughters. Some of the subjects dealt with are the following: how to deal with the unsocial assertiveness of very young children, how and where to direct their pre-adolescent day-dreaming, and how to tell them the whole truth when they ask where babies come from. Dr. Payne, who is associate professor of psychology and director of personnel in the College of the City of New York, has many sensible, if somewhat superficial, things to say about all these matters, and his book should have its uses. Helpful bibliographical notes appear throughout the text.

BIOGRAPHY

THE LIFE OF EMERSON.

By *Van Wyck Brooks*. *E. P. Dutton & Company*
\$3 8¼ x 5½; 315 pp. *New York*

Mr. Brooks is here concerned almost exclusively with Emerson the man, and not with his ideas. Interspersing his narrative with frequent and sometimes very long quotations from the journals, essays, and lectures, he has managed to present a well-rounded and highly sympathetic portrait of the Sage of Concord. There are also numerous minor portraits of his more eminent contemporaries, but the three that stand out are those of Thoreau, Margaret Fuller, and Emerson's aunt, Mary Moody Emerson. Altogether, the book is skilfully done. Occasionally there are lapses into fictional writing, but in the main the account is strictly factual. The volume will probably help keep alive the legend of the great Yankee philosopher for a few years more, but there is room for doubt that it will add much to Mr. Brooks's reputation.

MARTHA BERRY.

By *Tracy Byers*. *G. P. Putnam's Sons*
\$3.50 8¼ x 6; 268 pp. *New York*

This is the story of Martha Berry, the "Sunday Lady of Possum Trot," who founded the Berry Schools at Mount Berry, Ga., for the education of the children of the Southern Appalachians. Miss Berry, unquestionably, is an interesting person, but there is rather too much sweetness and light in this account of her. The book has several illustrations.

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