

CHECK LIST OF NEW BOOKS

Continued from page x

LEE OF VIRGINIA.

By *Walter E. Brooks.* *The Bobbs-Merrill Company*
\$3.50 5¾ x 8½; 361 pp. Indianapolis

Dr. Brooks, who is pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Morgantown, W. Va., has nothing new to say about General Lee, either as man or as soldier. He talks a great deal about the "more human" side of Lee but throws little light upon it. What, for instance, of the relations between Lee and George E. Pickett? Here was a decidedly human matter, but Dr. Brooks passes it over with the usual palaver about Pickett's charge, quoting the poet Stephen Vincent Benét, but omitting the salient fact that Pickett did not lead the charge at all, but waited behind the shelter of a barn. Lee certainly could not have approved such conduct. What did he do about it? Were his relations with Pickett unchanged?

WILLIAM PENN: *Quaker and Pioneer.*

By *Bonamy Dobrée.*
The Houghton Mifflin Company
\$4 5¾ x 8¾; 346 pp. Boston

For his facts Mr. Dobrée relies on the biographies of the celebrated Quaker by S. M. Jauney and M. R. Brailsford, the two chief authorities. His own contribution is one of interpretation, and much of that is really not new. He says that Penn was an able administrator, and that his ideas influenced the Federal Constitution of the United States. But "beside being over much the statesman, he was also too readily the courtier, and too zestfully the theologian . . . and perhaps he was not altogether free from vanity. He was not . . . the perfect Quaker, the ineluctable model; he is not to be put on the same plane as Fox."

CARLYLE.

By *Louis Cazamian.* *The Macmillan Company*
\$2.75 5¾ x 8¾; 289 pp. New York

Dr. Cazamian is professor of English literature at the University of Paris. His present study of the Sage of Chelsea was first published in French in 1913 and is now reissued in English for the first time. It is "an attempt toward an interpretation of Carlyle as a whole, leaving out all minor issues." It is a useful introductory book, though far from a brilliant one. Carlyle, says Dr. Cazamian, "fashioned and tempered the soul of an age. If England has avoided the abysses of moral corruption and economic individualism, a large share of the credit must go to him." And on the whole "history will never cease to be busy with his name."

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SOCIOLOGY

PROPERTY. *A Study in Social Psychology.*

By *Ernest Beaglehole.* *The Macmillan Company*
\$3.75 5¾ x 8¾; 327 pp. New York

Mr. Beaglehole devotes a large part of his book to an elaborate attempt to prove that there is no such thing as an acquisitive instinct. To that end he examines the behavior of insects, birds and mammals, closing with a discussion of the primates. Dr. Koehler's apes, he says, "did not collect because they took a delight in collecting for its own sake. They accumulated objects in a greater or less degree because these objects could either be used for adornment or else as playthings." It is difficult to discover any practical importance in this distinction. Whether the desire for property is a primary instinct or simply a manifestation of some other instinct is all one. Certainly Mr. Beaglehole's own evidence shows that many of the lower animals cherish objects that are of no apparent use to them, save as possessions somehow cherished. The last third of the book is better than the earlier parts. The author approaches the problem of property from the psychological standpoint, and has much that is interesting to say about it. He omits a bibliography, but his references will be full enough for most readers. There is a good index.

SEA ISLAND TO CITY.

By *Clyde Vernon Kiser.*
The Columbia University Press
\$3.50 5¾ x 8¾; 272 pp. New York

Dr. Kiser is here concerned with the Negro inhabitants of St. Helena Island, off the coast of South Carolina, who have been migrating to the mainland, and especially to New York, since a great storm devastated their island home in 1893. In 1919 the boll-weevil followed, and since then the cultivation of long-staple cotton, once the chief industry of the island, has been almost impossible. The black folks of St. Helena are mainly independent landowners. They got their land in small parcels during and immediately after the Civil War, when the holdings of the old white planters were confiscated. But of late they have been unable to pay their taxes, and so they are being driven out. Dr. Kiser's study of them is a careful one, but it scarcely constitutes a substantial contribution to knowledge. He includes the life stories of some of the people dealt with. There is a bibliography, followed by an index.

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THE AMERICAN MERCURY

BORZOI BOOKS FOR JANUARY

GOING SOMEWHERE

by Max Ewing

Carl Van Vechten calls this novel, "An amusing, amazing, fantastic, scandalous, good-natured encyclopedia of the gossip of our times, a *crazy* quilt pieced out of anecdotes of New York life . . . mad, charming, and decidedly readable."

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by Storm Jameson

Three short novels in which the author of *That Was Yesterday* dramatically shows what sacrifices women will make for the men they love.

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MURDER OF THE LAWYER'S CLERK

by J. S. Fletcher

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by Maurice Sachs

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by Alfred Neumann

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