## THE AMERICAN MERCURY

## CHECK LIST OF NEW BOOKS EXCHOLIST OF NEW BOOKS EXCHOLIST OF NEW BOOKS

Continued from front advertising section, page xiv

RACE, CLASS, & PARTY.

By Paul Lewinson.

The Oxford University Press \$3.75 5<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 9; 302 pp. New York

Dr. Lewinson has here written an excellent history of Negro suffrage and white politics in the South. It is, indeed, the most comprehensive and judicious account of the subject in print. The Negro, he says, has been "the common enemy, the red herring across all political trails" below the Potomac. Politically and sociologically the South is really no more "solid" than the North; it is only the Negro question which makes it appear so. As to the progress of the potential Negro electorate, Dr. Lewinson presents a mass of useful statistics, but he is very cautious in his generalizations. He says: "The South of 1930 was not 'solid,' although its political machinery operated under a single trade mark. As to Negro voters, there were many fewer than an Abolitionist might hope, but rather more than even Southerners suspected." There are many statistical and bibliographical notes, and also an index.

HISTORY & DESTINY OF THE JEWS.

By Josef Kastein. The Viking Press \$3.50 5% x 8¾; 464 pp. New York

This is not a history of the Jews in the strict sense of the term; rather it is a series of impassioned essays about them throughout their 3000 years of existence. The facts, in the main, are accurate, and they are ably organized. Herr Kastein, who is a German Jew, is particularly happy in his discussion of the Roman, Greek and Spanish periods, but when he comes to more modern times he is somewhat too lyrical. The Zionist movement has a great appeal to him. He says: "The Zionist ideology . . . paved the way for an intellectual attitude which freed the independent achievements of the Jewish people and their mission in the world from all attacks and criticisms of the Gentile world. Thanks to it, the foundation has been laid for fresh productivity on the part of Judaism." The translation is by Huntley Paterson.

AS OTHERS SEE CHICAGO. Impressions of Visitors, 1673-1933.

Compiled by Bessie Louise Pierce.

The University of Chicago Press \$3 6\% x 9\%; 540 pp. Chicago

About fifty American and foreign authors are represented in this collection. Among the latter are xviii

English, French, Scottish, Swedish, Norwegian, Italian, Hindoo, German, and Hungarian visitors. With few exceptions their remarks are very favorable to Chicago, and thus the book may reasonably be charged with having a booster tendency. There is also another criticism to be made: most of the authors quoted from are now forgotten, and those who are still living are of small authority. Altogether, a volume of slight value. There are two bibliographies, and also an index. Dr. Pierce is associate professor of American history at the University of Chicago.

THE LIFE OF CAESAR.

By Guglielmo Ferrero. G. P. Putnam's Sons \$5 53/4 x 81/8; 525 pp. New York

This book was first published as Volumes I and II of "The Greatness and Decline of Rome," which first appeared in five volumes in 1907. "The present edition," says Professor Ferrero, "only differs from the original in that certain abridgments have been made and the copious notes of the first edition have been omitted." His central thesis is that Caesar did not destroy the Republic or create the Empire, and that his greatness lay in his conquest of Gaul, which marked the beginning of European civilization. There is an index.

## FOOD & DRINK

QUIET DRINKING.

By Virginia Elliott. Harcourt, Brace & Company \$1 4\% x 7\%; 112 pp. New York

Cocktails do not appear until p. 43 of this instructive little volume; the first eleven pages are devoted to "Beer and How to Drink It", and after them come twenty-nine pages on the victuals suitable for serving with it. A pleasant sign of the times! Mrs. Elliott's advice about the handling of beer, whether in bottles or in the keg, is excellent, but she greatly understates the heroic fact when she says that "a party of ten or fifteen beer-drinkers can easily consume a quarter barrel in an evening". In her list of cheeses she forgets the admirable American Liederkranz and the somewhat unearthly but fascinating Norwegian Gyedser. There is a chapter at the end on wines. It may seem premature, but it will be of considerable help very soon.

Continued on page xx

