

play an important part in developing character. Religion as a manifestation of group behavior is scarcely mentioned at all; and the same is true of such highly socialized enterprises as warfare, mob activities, and panics.

Certain inconsistencies in viewpoint appear from time to time, the author occasionally citing in support of his own theories experimental studies of the type he has already criticized. This occurs especially in connection with the discussion of nature versus nurture, and the effects of incentives. One striking error of fact appears in the description of marriage by caste, to wit: "A Catholic cannot marry a Protestant and remain in his church unless the Protestant becomes a Catholic." Finally, the neglect of the Adlerian inferiority complex and the Freudian doctrine on the *Id* detract seriously from the discussion of social motivation and reality, in the eyes of one reviewer, at least.

On the favorable side we may include Dr. Myerson's eclecticism and his rejection of all monistic points of view in interpreting observed facts. To make any one principle, such as the conditioned reflex, for example, the sole foundation of a psychological system is weakness indeed; yet this is a common error among men of all schools. On this point, as in his criticism of the artificiality of experimental social psychology and his emphasis upon visceral processes, the author is at his best.

Much of the difficulty confronting the conscientious writer of psychological books today is due to a modern paraphrase of an old dictum: "Man cannot serve both science and philosophy." It is this belief that has given rise to such curious antics among the more inferior scientists of our time. Nevertheless, the greatest thinkers of the past and the pres-

ent have managed to accomplish this dual service. Dr. Myerson has struggled valiantly to do the same, though not always with brilliant success.

FRANCIS L. HARMON

Charming and Worthless Biography

LOUIS XV AND HIS TIMES, by Pierre Gaxotte. \$5. 5¼ x 8½; 358 pp. Philadelphia: *The J. B. Lippincott Company*.

OF THE contemporary apologists for monarchism, M. Gaxotte is one of the most brilliant and distinguished. He has previously appeared as the monarchist historian of the French Revolution. His approach in that volume was theatrical. The leaders of the revolution were all barbarous fanatics, psychopaths, or crooks. The system that was overthrown was a going concern, prematurely turned over to the looting receivership of parliament; the king was too much a gentleman for the good of his country; and the nobility had been seduced by their intellect into listening too intently to the radical philosophers, with the result that they became too dreamy to defend themselves. The consequence was that a vigorous, orderly social system was replaced by a frantic bourgeois democracy.

The same set of ideas, though now more temperately and skilfully, are presented by M. Gaxotte in his biography of Louis XV. It is, in effect, a defense of monarchy through a defense of a notoriously bad monarch, and resolves itself, since not even M. Gaxotte quite has the courage to say black is white, to a statement that black is gray and not amiss in a gray world.

M. Gaxotte begins his defense with an attack on the sources from which the usual portrait of Louis XV is drawn. He declares them to have been prejudiced and then praises and uses another authority,

a sycophantic courtier who, having been very close to the king, was therefore in a position to know him—a strange standard, indeed, for impartiality!

He then excuses the king's sensuality by asking the reader how many men are saints; and the number of royal mistresses is condoned by intimating that the queen not only had arrived at an unstimulating age and appearance but had shut her bedroom door when the king was in a mood to exercise his marital rights.

Finally, the king's mistakes in policy are excused by laying the blame partially upon incompetent ministers but chiefly upon the people. According to M. Gaxotte it was the people who jingoeed their way into the wars, which cost France great portions of her Seventeenth Century empire, a good deal of her trade, and great loss of life. The people forced a reluctant king to send them to the slaughter. So M. Gaxotte disposes of a monarch whose selfishness is only emphasized by his apologist's excuses. He further presumes to justify a reign which involved France in a succession of ruinous wars, and saddled her with a public debt, the payment of which out of ordinary revenues was impossible, and the at-

tempt to squeeze which, out of the people, helped to drive the country into revolution.

On two accounts the book deserves praise. It is smoothly, gracefully, wittily written. Often nonsense is expressed with such *éclat*, that the reader is taken un-awares, and only on re-reading does he perceive how he has been taken in by sheer literary blandishment. Furthermore, M. Gaxotte understands well enough the importance of trade and its relations to empire. In his more depressed moments he characterizes Louis XV as a simple-minded bourgeois. The class struggle is a reality to him, but it takes a peculiar form in his version. There is, and always has been, a class war, but in it the masses are, and always have been, in the wrong. What the world needs is a capable monarch surrounded by a talented aristocracy furnishing him with competent bureaucrats.

But this, by M. Gaxotte's own reckoning, happens so rarely in monarchic history as to make dependence upon it dangerous. The logic of M. Gaxotte's own facts would point forward to Russia rather than backward to monarchy.

ISIDOR SCHNEIDER

WHAT THE HISTORY BOOKS DON'T PRINT

BY HORATIO

The United States Senate

MR. BORAH of Idaho sheds a flood of light on the subject of the taxation of liquor:

Mr. President, we never can cure bootlegging by reducing taxes. In Canada, where they have governmental control, the bootlegging problem is almost as serious, if not quite as serious, as it now is in the United States, or that it has been at any time.

For myself, so long as the law is administered as it is at this time, I should be in favor of increasing the amount of taxes rather than decreasing them. I think when we give people an opportunity to prey upon a community, to destroy its womanhood and its manhood, its youth, its young girls and young boys, that the price ought to be pretty high. I think they ought to pay the government of the United States a very large stipend for that permission. If we are going to permit this to be offered to the youth of the land, at least let us not sell the privilege too cheaply.

MR. HUEY LONG of Louisiana in an immortal moment:

I believe the Senator from Ohio [Mr. Fess] is a Biblical scholar—I know he is a religious and a God-fearing man—and I want the Senator to let me speak to him from the Bible on that point. Let me read what the Bible said about it. I will give you what the Lord said, and He knew what He was talking about. I have it all here. Here is what the Lord said about it, and here is what the *Saturday Evening Post* said about it, too. [Laughter in the galleries] Here is what the Lord said would be the result of it:

“Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten.

“Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. [James V.]”

Why did He say that? Because the Lord laid down the rule that had to be observed by humanity.

The United States House of Representatives

MR. FINLY H. GRAY of Indiana clarifies a moot point in veterinary science:

You may call a horse a cow, but the application of the name “cow” will not make the animal a female bovine, or at least will not change a horse to a cow so that you can milk it, nor give the animal a status from which to make butter, sell buttermilk, start a dairy or a cheese factory. We must look to the characteristics of the animal and special requirements for use and service from which to determine its classification in domestic-animal life. Certainly it could not be seriously insisted that the animal is a cow while looking at its teeth to determine its age or examine its hocks to discover a blemish. [Laughter and applause.]

MR. HAMILTON FISH of New York gives the real explanation of the depression:

We have heard a great deal of talk from the Democratic side about the years 1928 and 1929. Mr. Chairman, we on this side of the House have nothing to apologize for for