

CHECK LIST of NEW BOOKS

BIOGRAPHY

ULYSSES S. GRANT: POLITICIAN.

By William B. Hesseltine. Dodd, Mead
\$4 6½ x 9½; 480 pp. New York

This is a highly critical examination of Grant's career following his return to Washington from Appomattox in 1865. Mr. Hesseltine, who believes that naïve hero-worship is a suitable occupation for the feeble-minded, attacks his subject from every side, and emphasizes that Grant, at best, was a partisan political boss, never a statesman or even a competent executive. The pig-headedness that had made him a great general made him unfitted for the White House. He was ignorant of the Constitution, and inept in handling men. He filled his state papers with platitudes rather than thoughts, and fostered internal warfare in his own party, his jealous temper causing him to regard every rival Republican as an enemy. And yet Grant, the man, was honest and sincere to the end. The courageous struggle with disease and poverty, which the dying soldier waged over the pages of his *Memoirs*, is not overlooked by this acrid biographer. At Grant's death, "the mistakes of the politician were forgotten in the glories of the soldier and the heroism of the man". There are illustrations and an index.

JOHN JAY: DEFENDER OF LIBERTY.

By Frank Monaghan. Bobbs-Merrill
\$4 6½ x 9½; 436 pp. Indianapolis

Jay, one of the major but more or less neglected figures of eighteenth-century America, has been chosen by Professor Monaghan for the subject of a competent, definitive biography, which will be welcomed by students and historians as well as lawyers. The author had access to the private papers of the Jay and Iselin families, affording him a splendid insight into the lives of the Republic's founders, and collected further material from European sources, the result being a favorably critical study of one of the great champions of personal liberty, the man who, among other things, was author of the

Constitution, president of the Continental Congress, governor of New York, co-author of *The Federalist*, negotiator of the peace of 1783 and the Jay treaty of 1794, envoy to Spain and England, and first Chief Justice of the United States. Mr. Monaghan's biography is a broad work, covering not only Jay's life but the customs, traditions, and morals of his time. There are bibliographical notes, and an index.

AND GLADLY TEACH.

By Bliss Perry. Houghton Mifflin
\$3 5½ x 8½; 315 pp. Boston

At the age of seventy-five, Professor Perry looks back wistfully over a long and distinguished career as teacher, author, and editor. "In these chapters," he writes apologetically, "I am aware that I have not portrayed a whole life, but only such aspects of a teacher's career as may conceivably prove interesting." And so he describes, with characteristic urbanity and grace of style, his academic days, first at Williams, later at Princeton, and finally at Harvard. William James, Woodrow Wilson, President Eliot, Mark Hopkins, and others who were his devoted friends, are sympathetically but faithfully portrayed. Unfortunately the "fascination for the past"—which Professor Perry considers so essential in autobiography—has blinded the author, at times, to the achievements of the present. As a result, his comments on the inferiority of modern literature, for example, reveal a narrowness of vision which is unfortunate. The same may be said for the author's indifference to present-day science. *And Gladly Teach*, in short, belongs safely to the period preceding the World War—before such men as Lawrence and Hemingway (whose popularity Professor Perry so sadly regrets) had established their greatness, and before it was considered old-fashioned to traffic, spiritually, with the ghost of nineteenth-century culture. There are illustrations and an index.

(Continued on page vii)

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