

mankind on the other. I have endeavored to show how legal and political institutions have been influenced by magic, superstition, religion and science; and how these great forces have in turn been influenced by the law." Mr. Robson has achieved his purpose in a fascinating and readable fashion. Since the pioneer studies of Sir Henry Maine, anthropology and sociology have done much to dispel some of the confusion and mysticism surrounding legal institutions. Many of the earlier conceptions have been revised in the light of later knowledge. The present volume adds nothing in the way of original research, but it presents vividly a contemporary survey. The author is a barrister-at-law of Lincoln's Inn and reader in administrative law at the University of London. The book, he tells us, is a labor of love. The enjoyment that he derived from writing it will be shared by the reader.

#### LAW AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCES.

By *Huntington Cairns.* *Harcourt, Brace & Co.*  
\$4 8¼ x 5½; 279 pp. *New York*

Mr. Cairns presents in concise form the contributions that can be made by the social sciences to legal thinking. In separate chapters the author discusses the relation of anthropology, economics, sociology, psychology, and political theory to jurisprudence. Mr. Cairns, who is a literary advisor to the United States Treasury, has evidently read a lot, and his text is fortified by copious footnotes. Students of the science of law have for years felt the need for a closer and more conscious coordination of law with social science. This book should serve as a useful guide.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

##### THE NAZI DICTATORSHIP.

By *Frederick L. Schuman, Ph.D.* *Alfred A. Knopf*  
\$3 5¼ x 8¼; 525 pp. *New York*

Dr. Schuman has written a history and interpretation of Hitlerism with vividness, and with a scholarly detachment that is particularly commendable in view of the provocative nature of the subject. And because of this very restraint in presentation it is all the more damning. The book traces the beginnings and growth of Nazism from Hitler's discharge from the army up to the end of last year. There are concise biographies and word pictures of the principal

characters that are necessary to an intelligent understanding of this most amazing phenomenon of modern times. Dr. Schuman's history will long remain an authoritative work on the subject. He has fortified his narrative with copious references and authorities that leave no doubt as to the authenticity of his statements.



##### THE ROMANCE OF MOUNTAINEERING.

By *R. L. G. Irving.* *E. P. Dutton*  
\$5 6¼ x 9¼; 320 pp. *New York*

According to the publishers, this is the first book of its kind ever written in English. It is a thorough history of mountaineering from early times down to the present, written by an experienced climber with a long list of conquests to his credit. Mr. Irving describes in colorful detail the great peaks, methods of ascent, scientific aids, and the necessary precautions which must be taken by the uninitiated. Forty-one collotype reproductions from photographs of celebrated mountains add considerably to the fascination of the text, and the author's numerous philosophical asides give it additional value as substantial literature. "If there is reality," he concludes, "in the beauty of form, of colour, and of action that attracts us, in the truth which we climb to find and do slowly seem to find, and in the generosity which that dawning truth reveals, then we must be glad to find confirmation of our belief that mountains are indeed a true guide to these things." Whether read for information or mere entertainment, one will not fail to be impressed with the excellence of this book.



##### THE STORY OF RADIO.

By *Orrin E. Dunlap.* *The Dial Press*  
\$2.75 5½ x 8½; 326 pp. *New York*

Mr. Dunlap, who is radio editor of the *New York Times*, published this book originally in 1927. He now brings it up to date by revising several of the earlier chapters and adding new material on the subject of television. The book explains the Hertzian waves, the short-wave spectrum, ultra-short waves, and various other technical matters about which the layman knows little. It discusses the early developments of radio transmission, describes the nature of the more recent improvements in apparatus, and closes with a few remarks on the problem of proposed government taxation. By presenting

the story in the form of an autobiography, with radio telling the history of its own career in the first person, Mr. Dunlap sacrifices much of the scholarly dignity which so thorough a book might otherwise have possessed. There are thirty-two illustrations and an index.



#### LIBERTY TO-DAY.

By C. E. M. Joad. E. P. Dutton and Company  
\$1.50 5¼ x 7½; 216 pp. New York

The perils that threaten liberty are analyzed by the British philosopher, Mr. C. E. M. Joad, in a short book which does not contain anything new, but which does re-apply some ancient truths and sum up a good many scattered facts of which the world's few remaining free-men need to be advised. Liberty, he believes, is gradually disappearing throughout the civilized world. It is inseparable from democracy, "the only form of government that has been able to tolerate liberty in the past." And democracy, as everybody knows, has of late been taking a beating. Mr. Joad does not, however, abandon hope. Such liberty as still remains can be saved by promoting economic security, speeding up parliamentary procedure, and working out a sounder educational program, so that democracy can really function. The book has no index, a surprising omission for one whom his publishers bill as "one of England's best-known philosophical writers."



#### PRINCIPLES OF GESTALT PSYCHOLOGY.

By Kurt Koffka. Harcourt, Brace and Company  
\$6 5¾ x 8¼; 720 pp. New York

The Gestalt theory, according to Professor Koffka, arose originally out of the dilemma of German psychology, which had no place for concepts of meaning and value, and which was therefore inadequate. In this book the principles of the theory are defined by the author, who is one of the leading authorities on the new psychology. Its fundamental purpose, he explains, is to help integrate the complexity of facts discovered by experimental work, and also to connect psychology with other sciences and with human life. A Gestalt is a product of organization. "To say that a process, or the product of a process, is a Gestalt means that it cannot be explained by mere chaos, the mere blind combination of essentially

unconnected causes; but that its essence is the reason of its existence." Positivism, therefore, is the Gestalt psychologist's most formidable enemy. Professor Koffka's book is comprehensive and solid; but somehow his arguments are not altogether convincing.



#### FACTORY FAMILY AND WOMAN IN THE SOVIET UNION.

By Susan Kingsbury and Mildred Fairchild. Putnam  
\$3.50 5¾ x 8¼; 334 pp. New York

Two Bryn Mawr professors of social economy went to Russia to see how the Soviet treated its women. The report is a bulky volume, which sticks to the facts and avoids argument so far as possible. On the whole, the authors seem, in a judicial sort of way, friendly to the Russian experiment. They think that "equality between men and women and the sharing of responsibility for children, under state or government supervision, have given new life to age-old personal relationships," and are inclined to believe that this new social order has both stability and strength. The end papers have an interesting map of an ideal socialist city.



#### THE RUSSIAN JOURNAL.

By Lewis Carroll. Dutton and Company  
\$3 5½ x 8¼; 208 pp. New York

Mr. John Francis McDermott, who compiled the present volume of Carrolliana, is also the editor of *The Collected Verse of Lewis Carroll*. The *raison d'être* for this book is that most of the material included is either out of print or not accessible to the public. The selections are arranged in chronological order and are mostly prose: *Early Pieces*—from a family magazine that Carroll wrote for the amusement of his brothers and sisters; *The Journal of a Tour of Russia*—a long, dull record which is almost unknown, and is important only because it is a diary of the author's only foreign travel; an essay on the stage version of *Alice*; and selections from *Sylvie and Bruno*—Carroll's only extended attempt to emulate his masterpiece. Also there are several other minor papers. Only in the selections from *Sylvie and Bruno* does one find the marked characteristics—the satirical overtones, the nonsense, the curious logic—which make *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass* immortal masterpieces.

# THE CONTRIBUTORS

RANDOLPH BARTLETT, newspaperman, writer, and foreign correspondent, is at present a member of the editorial staff of the *New York Sun*. He has previously contributed to *THE AMERICAN MERCURY*, and is at present engaged in documenting the true story of Calvin Coolidge and the Boston police strike, which will appear in these pages shortly.

SALLY BENSON was born in St. Louis, and is now living in rural Connecticut, from which retreat she contributes more or less regularly to literary magazines. *The Overcoat*, a story by Mrs. Benson which appeared in the November, 1934, issue of *THE AMERICAN MERCURY*, was included in Edward J. O'Brien's *The Best Short Stories 1935*. Her first novel, *Emily*, will be published by Covici-Friede in November.

SILAS BENT has been a newspaperman, dramatic critic, lecturer, and professor of journalism. Now a resident of Old Greenwich, Connecticut, he is well known as the author of *Ballyhoo — The Voice of the Press*, and *Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, a Biography*.

JAMES BOYD is the author of *Drums, Marching On, Long Hunt*, and, more recently, *Roll River*. His home is in Southern Pines, North Carolina.

JAMES M. CAIN, formerly a newspaperman and editorial writer, is at present in Hollywood, where he divides his time between literary and film pursuits. He is the author of the much-discussed *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, and has long been a regular contributor to *THE AMERICAN MERCURY*.

CONSTANCE CASSADY was born in Pittsburgh in 1903, was educated in New York City, and has lived in and near Chicago ever since. She has written two children's books, and a novel, *Even in Laughter*, published last spring.

ROBERT P. TRISTRAM COFFIN is the well-known American poet and writer, whose home

is in Aurora, New York. His recent volumes of verse include *The Yoke of Thunder*, and *Ballads of Square-Told Americans*.

HASSOLDT DAVIS, a native of Boston, has spent most of his time abroad since leaving Harvard. In 1929 he went to the South Seas, where he met André Roosevelt, producer of the film *Goonah Goona*, and for several years was associated with him in the capacity of scenario writer. Mr. Davis' latest book, *Magic Under Monoi*, will be published shortly.

J. J. DE BARY, a resident of New York City, is an engineer by profession and a writer by choice. During the World War, he served with the Royal Air Force on the Western front. An extensive traveler abroad, he has written many articles on current scientific affairs for newspaper syndicates and magazines.

JEROME W. EPHRAIM, a resident of New York, is an authority on consumers and their purchasing habits, maintaining a manufacturing and technical service for subscribers. He is a constant contributor to *THE AMERICAN MERCURY*. Other articles by Mr. Ephraim will appear in forthcoming issues.

WILLIAM FAULKNER, the Southern novelist who occupies a high place in contemporary American letters, has been a recent contributor to *THE AMERICAN MERCURY*, his last story, *That Will Be Fine*, having appeared in the July issue. Among his distinguished books are *Pylon*, published last spring, *The Sound and the Fury*, *Light in August*, and *Sanctuary*. Mr. Faulkner's home and workshop is in Oxford, Mississippi.

M. W. FODOR has been for the last sixteen years the correspondent for *The Manchester Guardian* in Vienna and the Balkans. During the past year he has contributed several articles to *THE AMERICAN MERCURY*.