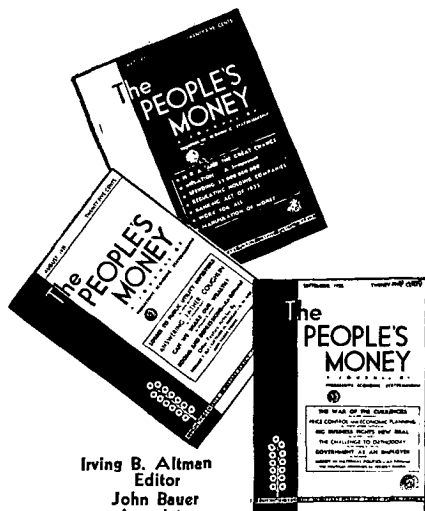


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Check List of NEW BOOKS

(Continued from page vii)

GOVERNMENTS AND MONEY.

By Edward Jerome. Little, Brown
\$2.50 5½ x 8¼; 372 pp. Boston

Here is a straightforward discussion of the realities of the world's fiscal structure, showing what Mr. Jerome believes to be the basic economic errors responsible for present upheavals in the kingdom of finance. Granted that the true function of money is to serve as a tool for the collection of taxes and the fulfilment of contracts, it should be obvious to clear-thinking people that this fundamental purpose has been perverted. In this country, for example, we have had four different systems, according to which the nation's monetary institutions have been administered. Each succeeding system, Mr. Jerome believes, has been worse than its predecessor. Yet the United States still has the wealth, power, and stability necessary to establish a standard for commerce among nations. And had the Democratic platform of 1932 been carried through, we would now be well on the road to the establishment of such a standard. But the prospects for immediate action seem poor, inasmuch as the Federal Reserve System, which according to the author is by far the weakest of the four, has been revised for the worse, and permanent checks on inflation are, apparently, not to be applied. Mr. Jerome argues for the junking of the entire system, and the setting up of a central bank with forty-eight national banks as stockholders. Then, he believes, this country will be in a better position to assume the lead in a monetary world. There is an index.



THE TWENTIES.

By Mark Sullivan. Scribner's
\$3.75 6¼ x 9¼; 674 pp. New York

This is the sixth volume of *Our Times*; it brings to a close Mr. Sullivan's engaging study of America from the turn of the century to the end of its first quarter. Opening with the nomination of Warren G. Harding, the work carries the reader through the days of Teapot Dome, Prohibition, and the rise of gangsterism. Harding, we are told, was a man of tolerance, goodwill, and broad sympathies; and an example of what politics can do to a decent man in modern America. The entire first half of the

THE AMERICAN MERCURY



Check List of NEW BOOKS

book is devoted largely to his career. In the second half, the author devotes less space to politics and politicians, and examines in greater detail the social temper of the times, and also the literary renaissance which was launched largely as the result of the pioneer efforts of H. L. Mencken. In all that he writes about the highly-inflated Sex Age of the 'Twenties, Mr. Sullivan reveals the journalist's unerring sense of news, together with the popular historian's faculty for making what is no longer vital seem real and interesting. The work is profusely illustrated, and there is an index.

MISCELLANEOUS

HISTORIC OPINIONS OF THE U. S. SUPREME COURT.

Edited by Ambrose Doskow. Vanguard Press
\$4.50 6¼ x 9¼; 537 pp. New York

In bringing together these vital decisions of the Supreme Court, Mr. Doskow has, at the same time, presented an epitomized history of the country. From "Marbury versus Madison" to the recent Gold Clause and N. R. A. opinions, he has selected such cases as may be considered essential to an adequate understanding of our constitutional system and its background. The book covers problems of judicial review, contracts, interstate commerce, slavery, federal power over money, price-fixing and due process, child labor, minimum wages, mortgage moratoria, and price-fixing under the New Deal. The introductory notes by the editor serve to give a general idea of the background of each controversy, the effect of the decision at the time, and its present significance. Mr. Doskow has kept his own comments objective throughout, and as a result has produced a valuable reference book for the student of American government.



THE MEDICAL VOODOO.

By Annie Riley Hale. Gotham House
\$2.50 5½ x 8½; 338 pp. New York

This is another book that aims to expose the medical profession as an ignorant collection of swindlers. The author's methods are typical—sensational statements, garbled quotations from
(Continued on page xii)



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CHECK LIST of NEW BOOKS

(Continued from page xi)

medical texts, most of which are decades old, and a total disregard of the statistical evidence of public health studies. As usual, too, there is the claim of "years of intensive research", though the results of this research are not evident in the book. The author's attack is most severe in the section on smallpox vaccination, which resurrects the time-worn bogey of post-vaccinal syphilis. She quotes repeated cases of syphilis which have developed after vaccination: but most of the reports were made in the nineteenth century, and what the author entirely fails to bring out is that such cases had nothing to do with vaccination, but were the result of poor septic technique. Such complications are unknown today. It is fortunate that books such as this one are soon recognized, even by laymen, for the trash they are.



THE CHINESE FESTIVE BOARD.

By *Corinne Lamb.* *Henri Vetch*
\$6 5½ x 7¾; 153 pp. *Peiping*

For the past twenty years, Corinne Lamb has been collecting Chinese recipes from all over the country. She has partaken of Chinese hospitality with princes, governors, generals, peasants, inn-keepers, and camel drivers. Now, in this book, she presents fifty choice recipes for epicures, stating the length of time required for the preparation of each dish, and also its sufficiency. She describes Chinese table etiquette, various forms of table entertainment, and gives the reader a vivid picture of a typical Chinese dinner party. There are also helpful instructions as to how to order a Chinese meal in a restaurant. The book is delightfully written, and there are illustrations by John Kirk Sewall.



THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN SAILING SHIPS.

By *Howard I. Chapelle.* *Norton & Company*
\$7.50 7¾ x 10¼; 400 pp. *New York*

This splendid volume offers to the marine enthusiast the first complete history of sailing vessels and rigs in America, from the craft of colonial times down to the modern yacht. Closely interwoven with treatises on the development of ship types is a saga of America's growth and pre-eminence as a seafaring nation. Chapelle, a pro-

fessional naval architect, has spared no pains in his study; he has collated the experiences of ship designers and builders over a period of three hundred years; he presents them entertainingly, accompanied by more than two hundred plans, perspectives, and sketches, prepared by himself, George C. Wales, and Henry Rusk. No semi-technical work of modern times contains better illustrations. As an addition to any library of nautical lore, Chapelle's book is indispensable.



NASKAPI.

By *Frank G. Speck.* *University of Oklahoma*
\$3.50 6 x 9; 248 pp. *Norman, Oklahoma*

For all who are interested, scientifically or otherwise, in the American Indian, Professor Speck's excellent study of the Naskapi tribes of the Labrador peninsula is a mine of information. Much of it is new, the result of the author's painstaking inquiries in the field. Alive to the cultural drawbacks inherent in a people who for centuries have struggled to wrest a living from the most desolate of wildernesses, the author understands why the isolated Indian, whose life is a continual struggle for food, places deep faith in a spirit world of his own imagination. Like many others who have had personal contact with primitive Indians and Eskimos, Professor Speck is scornful of attempts to civilize a race that is better left to its own simple devices.



THE SUBMARINE WAR.

By *David Masters.* *Holt and Company*
\$2.50 5¾ x 8¾; 287 pp. *New York*

With not a little sense of patriotic preachment and propaganda, Mr. Masters presents a group of true stories relating to the struggle of the British Merchant Service against the German U-boats during World War days when England faced the threat of starvation. The author has gone to great pains to collect records concerning the feats of individual seamen, and offers some hitherto obscure details of various duels fought between merchant ship and undersea raider. His purpose is to convey to the public, and to America in particular, the perils attendant upon the next World War, insofar as they apply to marine trade and the existence of nations. There are photographic illustrations, and an index.

INFLATION AHEAD— PREPARE NOW

ANY investor who questions THE FINANCIAL WORLD's repeated predictions of coming inflation should read the article by Lewis W. Douglas, former director of the United States Budget, in the Atlantic Monthly. We have space for only the following: "Record gold stocks, swollen bank reserves, artificially low interest rates and devaluation of the dollar—all deliberately engineered by the Government—have laid the basis for the greatest inflation the country has ever known."

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RECORDS

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An enterprise that American record-collectors have long been admiring at a distance has come nearer to their grasp with the recent release here of the first four volumes in *The Columbia History of Music through Ear and Eye*, a venture originating in England. Though this has suspiciously the sound of one of those travel books entitled *Through Borneo with Gun and Camera*, it is actually a wholly dignified presentation of musical history, in outline, through annotated phonograph records. Each volume of eight ten-inch discs is accompanied by a fifty-page booklet containing historic and descriptive material about the music and its significance, the whole edited by the distinguished English musician and critic, Percy Scholes. I have said this is a history "in outline" simply because it is an obvious impossibility to illustrate the contributions to music of Bach, or Mozart, or Schumann, or Hugo Wolf on a handful of record-sides, nor does Dr. Scholes pretend it is possible. People, however, who have been baffled by the meaning of "plainsong", or "canon", or "lied", or other of the staples of the music critic's jargon will find both prime examples of these things and a clue to their position in musical history in this set. The artists are all competent, if not uniformly of international celebrity. Musical connoisseurs will find material to interest them, also, in certain *esoterica* selected by Dr. Scholes from various of the periods. The present volumes cover: I to the opening of the seventeenth century; II to the death of Bach and Händel; III from Bach's sons to Beethoven; and IV music as romance and as national expression. Additions covering opera and twentieth-century music are planned for future release. Each album sells for \$10.

Among the year-end releases of Victor — an annual procedure whereby the shelves are relieved of a large quantity of records not issued during the year — are several items of uncommon interest. The largest group, and the most meritorious, consists of chamber music, particularly string quartets. Among them is an outstandingly fine performance of Mozart's *C major quartet* by the Budapest ensemble (RCA-Victor, three 12-inch records, \$6.50), distinguished both by the excellence of the playing and the realism of the reproduction. The Pro-Arte Quartet offers the first of the Bartok quartets — *opus 7* — a task nearer to their best abilities than the classic works in which they have been recently heard. Though this is not music to which one should be exposed without a



RECORDED MUSIC

thoroughgoing knowledge of the composer's philosophical outlook, his preference in liquors, and probably the color of his eyes, it is, among specialists, held to be an outstanding work in this generation. The quartet plays it as though thoroughly convinced of its exceptional worth (Victor, four 12-inch records, \$8.). Also from the same organization is an interesting *Concerto à quatre* by Vivaldi (Victor, one 12-inch record, \$2.), which is a remarkable example of ensemble performance, if not possessed of the musical values that one ordinarily finds in this composer's work. From Artur Schnabel and Gregor Piatigorsky comes a splendid performance of the early G minor 'cello sonata of Beethoven (Victor, three 12-inch records, \$6.50), which suggests that the two artists would be well employed in making a complete series of these works.

A revealing glimpse into the heart of a modernist, if the contradiction may be tolerated, is provided by a series of three nocturnes for piano by Francis Poulenc, contemporary Frenchman. Though Poulenc has perpetrated his share of musical eccentricity, these brief pieces display a bias toward the lush and sentimental which is probably much nearer to his essential character than all his bright irreverent mediocrities. They hardly comprise momentous music, but each contains an attractive idea poorly handled. The composer performs them well (Columbia, one 10-inch record, \$1.). Also French in its origin is a complete recording of the Chopin *Preludes*, with Alfred Cortot as the pianist. Though Cortot has not played in America for some years, he has lost neither his technical skill nor his interpretative understanding, and the performance of the preludes constitutes a fitting companion set to his earlier version of the *Ballades* (Victor, four 12-inch records, \$8.).

Among recent orchestral recordings the honors still belong to the Weingartner version of Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*, which was briefly noted in this place last month. A closer examination reveals that the quality of recording achieved in the final section is not matched in the first two movements. These possess neither the spaciousness nor the sonority of the excellent reproduction of the chorus and soloists. But the use of a German text for the Schiller ode is a prizeable advantage for a recording possessing Weingartner's exemplary interpretative authenticity (Columbia, eight 12-inch discs, \$12.). Richard Mayr is the excellent bass of the solo quartet, whose other members are Louise Helletsgruber, soprano, Rosetta Anday, contralto, and G. Maikl, tenor. The chorus is that of the Vienna State Opera, and the orchestra the Vienna Philharmonic. For those who have a tolerance for orchestrated piano music, Piero Coppola and the Paris Conservatory Orchestra may be heard in Debussy's *Children's Corner* (Victor, three 10-inch records, \$3.50).

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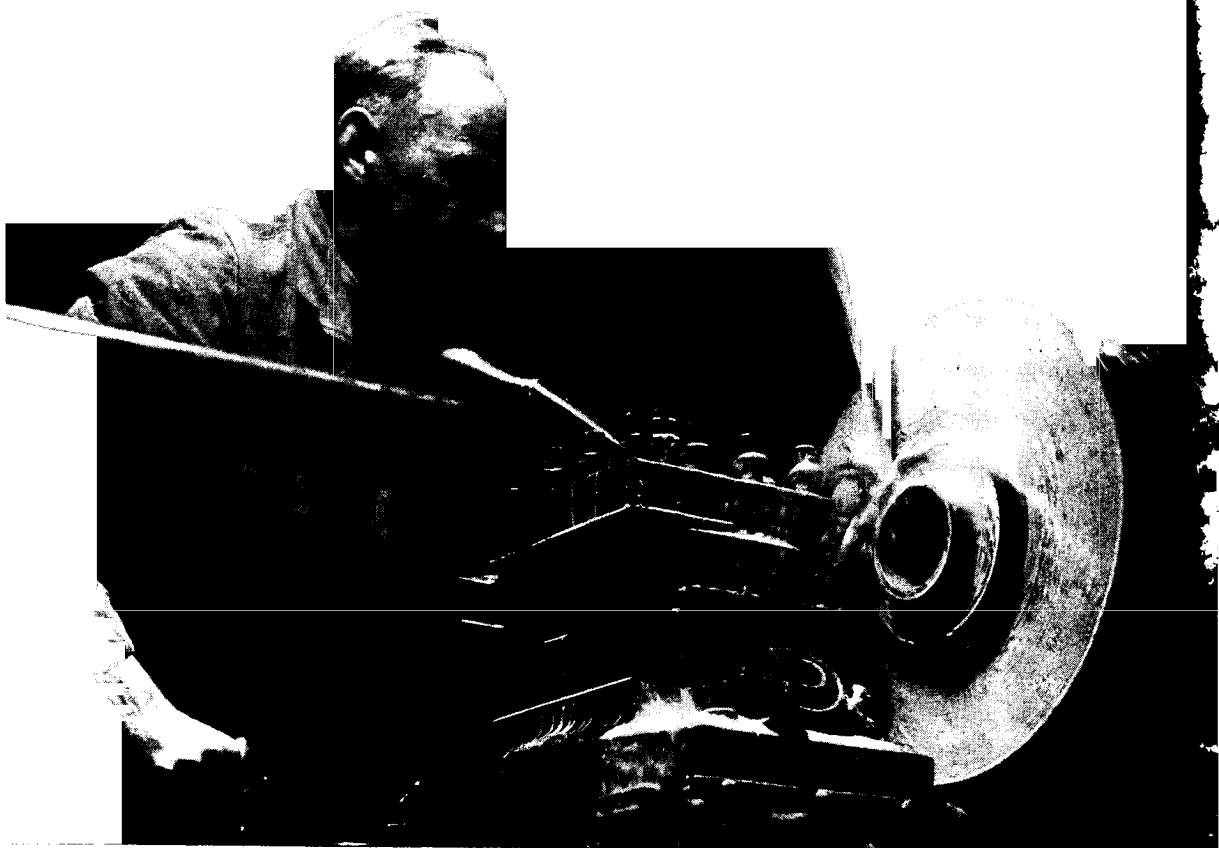
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