

the material available (the General defending his reticence with his chief lieutenants before San Jacinto): "How could the General permit his designs to be known when mutiny and sedition were rife in camp; when combinations were formed to thwart every measure that wisdom and prudence could devise, up to the very hour that

the troops were formed for battle . . . ?"

There is, as I have noted, a devotion to truth, tempered with a courtesy. Otherwise, the work will be valuable to the future historian of a great State and a fine people. Fittingly, it is a Texas printing job. There is an index, not adequate, and some helpful maps.

THE CHECK LIST

(Continued from front advertising section)

MISCELLANEOUS

★★★★ AMERICA GOES TO WAR, by Charles C. Tansell. \$5.00. *Little, Brown*. Seven hundred pages of scholarly and documented presentation of the facts of our entry into the last war, nevertheless highly-readable and peculiarly relevant to what is going on today behind the scenes. Shows that the ideas and prepossessions held by Wilson, Lansing, and our State Department, rather than selfish interests of Wall Street bankers or munitions makers, got us into the war.

★★★★ THE HISTORY OF MOTION PICTURES, by Maurice Bardeche and Robert Brasillach. Translated by Iris Barry. \$4.00. *Norton*. Well-nigh definitive in scope, this work by two Frenchmen does a first-rate job on the Hollywood cloak-and-suits. The authors sum it up neatly: "The development of the talking picture

revealed in all its frightfulness the mediocrity which silence had hitherto disguised". Miss Barry's translation is out of the ordinary, and she has added a chapter to bring the work up to date from 1935, where Bardeche and Brasillach left off. The book is illustrated with stills from the so-called "classics".

★★★ THE FUN OF PHOTOGRAPHY, by Mario and Mabel Scacheri. \$3.50. *Harcourt, Brace*. Lucid discussions in non-technical language, 375 fine photographs, and many hints on how *not* to take pictures make a first-rate book for the amateur.

★★★ LIVING ABROAD, by Norval Richardson. \$2.50. *Lippincott*. A contented expatriate tells his experiences of travelling and living abroad. His remarks on English bread-puddings, wintering in Dinard,

building in Switzerland, are equally amusing and sophisticated. A good-tempered book, pleasant to read.

★★★ THE NEW POLAND AND THE JEWS, by Simon Segal. \$2.00. *Lee Furman*. An informative and readable study of post-war Poland giving history and the current situation under three heads: (1) Politics and Parties; (2) Economics; and (3) The Minority Nationalities. Only thirty-four out of two-hundred-and-two pages are devoted to the Jews. The author, a Polish Jew, writes with objectivity, competence, and documentation. Democracy and freedom, he says, being menaced by anti-Semitism and authoritarianism, must make a united-front stand against them. A splendid diagnosis of the disease is presented, but neither an explanation of its causes nor a prescription of a practicable cure. The chief weakness of the book, and most others like it, is a failure to come to grips with fundamental questions. But it is worth reading as a study of Poland.

★★★ THE RIGHT TO WORK, by Nels Anderson. \$.50. *Modern Age Books*. The author is Director of the Section on Labor Relations of the WPA. His book is as well-written as a good human-interest feature-story in the nation's best popular weekly: it has the facts, the figures, the story, and enough of the social philosophy of WPA to make it clear that Relief is here to stay and has revolutionary social implications. Those who are able to get the social philosophy, which is only brought in incidentally and in mild doses, will be disturbed. Other readers will be interested and instructed about an important current subject, and possibly entertained.

★★★ EARTH MEMORIES, by Llewelyn Powys. With an introduction by Van Wyck Brooks. \$2.75. *Norton*. Forty-one essays, chiefly rustic, and concerned with such country matters as hares and chaffinches and sunny meadow-lands. These subtle and lovely celebrations are written with Mr.

Powys' customary delicate sensibility, and in the grave and quaintly archaic style which is uniquely his own.

★★★ VALID OR FORGED? by Lloyd L. Jones. \$2.00. *Funk & Wagnalls*. A manual in the detection of forgery for police technicians, bank officials, etc. Not as extensive as Osborn's classic *Questioned Documents*, but more concise and precise, with good explanations of technical terms and excellent case citations. A must for the professional.

★★★ TELEVISION: A STRUGGLE FOR POWER, by Frank C. Waldrop and Joseph Borkin. \$2.75. *Morrow*. The wizards of wireless, having enriched the nation with the oral exploits of our favorite clowns, both theatrical and political, now stand ready to let us *see* them. Here is the first book to dwell at length on a subject which has aroused considerable discussion: the authors have done, in the main, a satisfactory job. There is an introduction by George Henry Payne, of the Federal Communication, an appendix, and an index.

★★★ THE WORLD HISTORY OF ART, by Sheldon Cheney. \$5.00. *Viking Press*. A first-rate history of painting, sculpture, and architecture from prehistoric times to the present, with some 500 well-chosen black-and-white illustrations. The author writes informatively, without special prejudice, and in a simple, straightforward style which is of great value to the general reader. A valuable book.

★★★ FIGHTING FOOLS, by James E. Edmonds. \$2.50. *Appleton-Century*. A sound argument by an American General: Americans are essentially aggressive and quick on the trigger, i.e. Fighting Fools; therefore, since we are bound to fight again some time, we should be equipped and trained to fight as efficiently and economically, in men and money, as possible. A history of American wars that reads like a novel, written not by a Left-winger or a

sentimental pacifist, but by that *rara avis* in New Deal times, an American realist. The facts alone are an indictment of our present foreign policy of alternate timid isolationism and finger-shaking at naughty nations. One can only wish that the General had developed further the plea he makes on the last page, that in the future we should fight, not for that discredited abstraction, Universal Peace and Democracy, but for our country and our country's interests.

★★★ I LIKE AMERICA, by Granville Hicks. 50 cents. *Modern Age*. Communism in its most dangerous guise, written by the young New England intellectual English instructor and Communist worker on the literary front, whose present tour of duty at Harvard was hailed by the undergraduate daily *Crimson* as "the most positive academic step that the University has taken forward this year". Good writing and good propaganda addressed to Pink wobblies who need to imbibe their Communism with sweetness and light.

★★★ TRESSLER QUIZ, by Irving D. Tressler. \$1.95. *Stackpole*. The latest question book on the market contains twenty-five quizzes, each of fifty questions. The material is fresh, up-to-date, and touches on every subject of general information. But let the reader beware—the questions are not as simple as they look.

★★★ THE PLAYS OF JOHN MARSTON. Second of Three Volumes. 12s. 6d. *Oliver & Boyd*, Edinburgh. This volume contains "Sophonisba", "The Dutch Courtesan", "The Fawne", and "What You Will". The editing and annotation by H. Harvey Wood continue to be of the very first order.

★★★ AND SO TO WAR, by Hubert Herring. \$2.00. *Yale University Press*. A dip into current history, written in magazine style, showing that we are today nearer to involvement in a European or world war than in the autumn of 1916. All that keeps us out is that England's

Government has not yet decided to say the word. This time it is a case of England holding us back, rather than dragging us in. But whenever she is ready for another Sir Galahad act, she can count on our Roosevelts, Stimson, Hulls, and others, having already done all the necessary propagandizing and emotional conditioning. Uncle Sam stands ready for John Bull to say the word.

★★★ WORLD BRAIN, by H. G. Wells. \$2.00. *Doubleday, Doran*. Assorted speeches and extracts from recent articles by Wells, the educator and believer that "it's better to make sure of what you want and then set about getting it, rather than to consider what you can easily, safely and meanly get and then set about reconciling yourself to it". Criticism of this philosophy of education is easy but the philosophy is popular and cheerful. H. G. Wells is its most facile exponent. He is realistic enough to say that, "In the race between education and catastrophe, catastrophe is winning" and that, "I am all for burning old school books. Some day, perhaps, we shall have school books so made that at the end of ten or twelve years, let us say, they will burst into flames."

★★ THE 11th COMMANDMENT, by George H. Cless, Jr. \$2.50. *Scribner's*. The commandment is to mind your own business, and Mr. Cless, small-town Chamber of Commerce Secretary and business man with an acute consciousness of world affairs and our drift to war, lays down this commandment in a series of lively chapters. The case for isolationism is well stated for the tired business man, undisposed to grapple with ideologies.

★ THE ASCENT OF NANDA DEVI, by H. W. Tilman. \$3.50. *Macmillan*. Nanda Devi in the Himalayas is the highest mountain ever scaled by man. Mr. Tilman, one of the two adventurers to reach the top, recites his saga—a straightforward tale, illustrated with thirty-six excellent plates.

THE OPEN FORUM

THE JEWISH PROBLEM

SIR: Mr. Rives Matthews' letter on the Jews and Fascism in the June issue of *THE MERCURY* is an extremely fine example of the confusion of cause and effect. Mr. Matthews takes the Jews to task because "they've insisted on retaining their racial identity, and have thus remained strangers in any land where they may be found. They have not been liked simply because they have stubbornly insisted on being different." Unfortunately, the gentleman from Hastings-on-Hudson has either ignored or never taken the trouble to learn one fact, the truth of which is universally acknowledged among students of the problem of anti-Semitism. The separatist tendencies of the Jews increase in direct proportion to the amount of persecution to which they are subjected. In other words, Jews are not persecuted because they keep to themselves; they keep to themselves because they are persecuted.

Certain European countries, notably Poland, Rumania, and pre-war Russia (discussion of the problem in the U.S.S.R. is purposely omitted herein because of the general unreliability of reports on life in Utopia-on-the-Volga) constantly exposed their Jewish communities to the scourge of race-hatred, and in those countries the Jews never became Poles, Rumanians, or Russians, but retained Judaism as their "nationality". On the other hand, in other countries such as England, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and the Scandinavian lands, the Jews have been exposed to a minimum of persecution and discrimination for at least a century, and the result is that with the exception of the immigrant colonies, there are no Jews in those coun-

tries — the descendants of people who were Jews a hundred years ago are today Englishmen, Frenchmen, Belgians, Dutchmen, Swedes, etc., of the Jewish faith, or Christians of part-Jewish origin. The writer is certain that Mr. Matthews has already made the acquaintance of "typical Frenchmen" and "genuine Englishmen with Oxford accents" who were Jews, although he failed to recognize them as such.

Returning to the problem as it affects our own country, it is not difficult to see how separatism can arise. Let us take the case of a mythical American of the Jewish faith, y-clept Charles Goodman. Charles' parents and grandparents were born in the Land of the Free, were always good Democrats or Republicans, and imbued Charles with a fine feeling of Americanism. Our hero graduates from college determined to be first of all an American (and quite willing to forget the minor discriminations he may have encountered while at college). Equipped with his diploma, he seeks a suitable connection, and in a majority of the Christian firms to which he addresses himself he is told "we prefer Christians". Finally, after much searching, he succeeds in finding a position, in a Jewish, partly-Jewish, or possibly a broadminded Christian firm, and a year later his first summer vacation comes around. Charles, still a good American, is desirous of meeting countrymen and countrywomen of faiths other than his own, and sends away for printed matter from non-Jewish summer resorts; among pictures of swimming pools, billiard tables and collegiate swing-bands, he reads texts such as these: "restricted — we cater to Gentiles only — clientele strictly Chris-