

packed with characters and incident described in a turgid, mannered prose that will either impress or madden you. It is a serious effort to trace the spiritual growth of a young girl to the painful achievement of maturity, with a good deal about the American scene as a kind of mystic counterpoint.

HARVEST, by Jean Giono. \$3.50. *Viking*. A picturesque, hearty tale of simple folk in the French Basse alps. Though the nobility of the peasants becomes a bit overwhelming in the last chapters, Mr. Giono's descriptive powers make this book memorable.

DRUMS AT DUSK, by Arna Bontemps. \$2.50. *Macmillan*. The most moving, colorful, modern account yet published of the start of the slaves' uprising in Haiti. Slightly blood-thirsty but written with restraint.

VALEDICTORY, by Mackinlay Kantor. \$1.00. *Coward McCann*. Delicate vignette about the janitor of a small-town school, on the point of retiring. As he arranges the auditorium for the last graduation, memories of his years of service run through his mind; the boys and girls whom his humble understanding has helped come to life for a few tender moments are gone — but not without having left him some token of their appreciation.

TAKE THESE HANDS, by Anne Paterson. \$2.50. *Macrae Smith*. Another hospital story, larded with generous doses of back-to-the-soil New England description. Too many undefined characters, and the excessively rapid scene changes, make this book disappointing.

THE ALTAR PIECE, by Naomi Royde Smith. \$2.50. *Macmillan*. Raw materials sufficient for several good stories here fail to coalesce into one. The author veers from psychological study to realistic portrayal of a small English community, from melodrama to old-fashioned characterization. The result lacks direction and interest.

MISCELLANEOUS

WE SHALL LIVE AGAIN, by Maurice Hindus. \$3.00. *Doubleday, Doran*. This is much more than another newspaperman's account of Czechoslovakia's downfall. Hindus was on the scene several months before the September crisis and is thus able to devote the first half of his book to a description of Czechoslovakian democracy at the height of its glory. His report of the final fourteen days which spelled the doom of the little nation's independence is pure drama — quietly passionate reporting which leaves the reader bitter and angry. The book ends on the note of hope struck in the title.

LETTERS FROM ASKANCE, by Christopher Morley. \$2.50. *Lippincott*. Another collection of Morley essays, deployed through all history and all subject matter. Civilized and stimulating.

AMERICAN MEDICINE MOBILIZES, by James Rorty. \$3.00. *Norton*. The exciting battle being fought around the slogan "socialized medicine," reported and analyzed dramatically by a man who is both economist and poet. Years of intensive research and great literary skill are fused to make this the most significant study of present-day medical economics and politics.

WE DIDN'T ASK FOR UTOPIA, by Harry and Rebecca Timbres. \$2.50. *Prentice Hall*. They didn't ask for it, didn't find it, but read their own wishful-thinking enthusiasms into the Soviet scene. This record, in letters, of an American Quaker family's life in a Russian village is honest, warm-hearted, and incredibly naive. For all that it reveals of the deeper Soviet realities the Timbreses might have lived in an African village.

NINETY TIMES GUILTY, by Hickman Powell. \$2.50. *Harcourt, Brace*. How the big-time racketeer, Lucky Luciano, was tripped

and went to prison for 90 times 30 years when he made a sideline of the small-time racket of prostitution. The story of the racket itself and of how it was smashed is presented complete by a reporter who is a warm admirer of Prosecutor Dewey.

AMERICAN JAZZ MUSIC, by Wilder Hobson. \$2.50. *W. W. Norton*. A sound discussion of America's chief contribution to the art of music, written by a tempered critic of jazz. Mr. Hobson approaches jazz as a particular musical language, and he does so with tact, care, and on the basis of extensive knowledge.

THE FAMILY REUNION, by T. S. Eliot. \$1.50. *Harcourt Brace*. The latest Eliot is a play written in strong, purposeful English, dealing with the entanglement existing beneath the well-mannered lives of a contemporary English family. Mr. Eliot strings lyrical words upon a strong rope of speech and achieves such beautiful simplicity that one is not aware of his restrained mastery of technique.

THE LETTERS OF T. E. LAWRENCE, edited by David Garnett. \$5.00. *Doubleday Doran*. A really outstanding book, which will rank with the great collections of letters. The collection is, in fact, nearly a complete autobiography-biography of Lawrence, for the gaps left by the letters are sketched in by Mr. Garnett. A rich mine for both historians and psychologists.

THE MENACING SUN, by Mona Gardner. \$2.50. *Harcourt Brace*. A record of travels through Indo-China, Siam, Malaya, Java, and India. The title carries a double meaning, referring to the burning sun that enervates the natives and to the rising sun of the flag of Japan that brings apprehension and fear. Everywhere Miss Gardner found Japanese photographers busily snapping coastlines and other strategic points; every village had its photographers' shop, always run by a Jap. A most timely, readable book.

COMMON SENSE IN HOME DECORATION, by Carl Maas. \$2.75. *Greenberg*. Comprehensive, lucid guide to improving the decoration of your home. The author is an editor of *House Beautiful*.

I FOUND OUT, by Nat Ferber. \$3.00. *Dial*. In a blend of hard-boiledness and sentimentality, this veteran police reporter, muckraker, novelist, tells his life story without inhibitions. He found out plenty in over thirty years of reporting, mostly for Hearst—and a few of the things he found out are skeletons in Hearst's closet. At least one scandal and one thrill *per chapter* guaranteed.

THE KINGDOM OF SWING, by Benny Goodman and Irving Kolodin. \$2.00. *Stackpole*. Part reminiscence by Mr. Goodman, part musical history by Mr. Kolodin. Mr. Goodman's recollections are reasonable, adult and informative, and if you're interested in Mr. Goodman, so will you be in the book.

HEAD WIND. The Story of Robert Loraine, by Winifred Loraine. \$3.50. *Morrow*. A biography to rank beside *Gerald* as an elucidation of the acting temperament. Robert Loraine was all actor; even as a pioneer airman and in the War his best performances came when there was a responsive audience. Mrs. Loraine has succeeded supremely well in capturing the character of her complex husband; her book is a warm and exceptional biography.

FEUDAL ISLAND by Desmond Holdridge. \$2.50. *Harcourt Brace*. Somewhat incoherent travel impressions of the large island of Marajo in the mouth of the Amazon River, where the author and his wife spent leisurely months. The book is packed with information about big game fish, crocodiles, and tropical rain.

SECRET AND URGENT, by Fletcher Pratt. \$3.75. *Bobbs-Merrill*. An engrossing survey of the development of codes and ciphers, treating both their rôle in history and such amusing vagaries as the Bacon-

Shakespeare controversy. Especially good for those who like to unravel mysteries.

AMERICAN EARTH, by Carleton Beals. \$3.00. *Lippincott*. A biography of the American people abounding in reckless generalizations sometimes based on cock-eyed information, yet permeated with impassioned love of the American earth and its people. The author's sincerity is unquestionable, and notwithstanding its informational imperfections and hasty conclusions the book is well worth reading for its stimulating suggestions on numerous phases of American life.

CONTEMPORARY WORLD POLITICS. An Introduction to the Problems of International Relations, edited by Francis James Brown, Charles Hodges, and Joseph Slabey Roucek. \$5.00. *John Wiley*. Scholarly symposium by 34 authors, each an outstanding authority, on political, national, and international problems and current ideological conflicts. The many text maps, the bibliography, and the index contribute greatly to this extremely valuable reference book.

INVISIBLE EMPIRE, by Stanley F. Horn. \$3.50. *Houghton Mifflin*. A detailed, documented history of the origin and activities of the first period of the Ku Klux Klan, which attempts whitewashing by attributing the worst brutalities and most inexcusable crimes to "irresponsible elements" who are said to have used the Klan disguise without authority. Altogether as unbiased as would be a history of the Moscow trials written by Stalin.

THE INDIAN COSTUME BOOK, by Julia M. Seton. *Seton Village Press, Santa Fe, N. M.* Instructions for those who wish to make "authentic" Indian costumes. The drawings by Ernest Thompson Seton are pleasant enough, and much of the Indian lore is genuinely interesting, but the book suffers from a pervasive "artiness". The edition is limited to 500 copies, printed on a hand press and hand-bound.

QUO VADIMUS, or The Case for the Bicycle, by E. B. White. \$2.00. *Harpers*. More of the collected works of the Sage of the *New Yorker*, wherein E. B. W.'s prose is as hilarious as ever. You've probably read many of these sketches, but they are well worth re-reading.

BALD KNOBBERS, by Lucile Morris. \$3.00. *Caxton Printers*. A careful, well documented account of the night-riding exploits of the Bald Knobbers, Ozark vigilantes fifty years ago. Excellent Americana.

THE DELEGATE FROM NEW YORK, by John Lansing, Jr. \$2.00. *Princeton University Press*. A transcription of the private journal kept by Lansing while he was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1787. As edited by Joseph R. Strayer, it gives much information not elsewhere recorded.

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE AND WHY? by Charles Edward Brugler. \$1.50. *Putnam*. A liberal Protestant Episcopal clergyman applies to religious belief the methods of scientific research, deciding that religion and science are not enemies but allies in the search for truth. A provocative, helpful book.

WORLD COMMUNISM, by F. Borkenau. \$3.75. *W. W. Norton*. An extremely revealing history of the Communist International and its activities in various countries, as directed by the rulers of Moscow. Packed with 200,000 words of information, very well documented, and based mostly on official communist sources.

SURVIVAL: Through War and Revolution In Russia, by D. Fedotoff White. \$3.00. *U. of Pennsylvania Press*. Beautifully written autobiography of a Russian naval officer who functioned as a sailors' deputy to the Soviets, and, after his repudiation of the Bolshevik Revolution, viewed it with dispassionate intelligence. His picture of Russia's plight, and of American reactions to the Russian situation, is a historical record with potent implications for the present.

THE OPEN FORUM

IN DEFENSE OF FREE MINDS

SIR: The attached statement represents a significant move towards sanity in American intellectual life and should therefore be of direct interest to *MERCURY* readers. The names listed are only a few of the 130 writers, educators, scientists, etc., who signed it.

SIDNEY HOOK

*New York University,
New York City.*

STATEMENT OF COMMITTEE FOR CULTURAL FREEDOM

The tide of totalitarianism is rising throughout the world. It is washing away cultural and creative freedom along with all other expressions of independent human reason. Never before in modern times has the integrity of the writer, the artist, the scientist, and the scholar been threatened so seriously. The existence of this danger and the urgent need for common defensive action inspire the undersigned in issuing this statement.

Under varying labels and colors, but with an unvarying hatred for the free mind, the totalitarian idea is already enthroned in Germany, Italy, Russia, Japan, and Spain. There intellectual and creative independence is suppressed and punished as a form of treason. Art, science, and education — all have been forcibly turned into lackeys for a supreme state, a deified leader and an official pseudophilosophy.

The Nazis have proclaimed: "There can no longer be a single artist who creates otherwise than nationally and with a national purpose. Every artist who withdraws from this preoccupation must be hunted as an enemy of the nation until he gives up his intolerable resistance."

The words and acts of all other totalitarian regimes conform to this view. They apply it

to the educator, the scientist, and the historian no less than to the artist. The results have been artistic sterility, an enslaved intellectual life, a tragic caricature of culture. Literally thousands of German, Italian, Russian, and other victims of cultural dictatorship have been silenced, imprisoned, tortured, or hounded into exile.

Triumphant in a large sector of the civilized world, the totalitarian idea is winning too dangerous an influence in many other countries. It threatens to overwhelm nations where the democratic way of life, with its cultural liberty, is still dominant. Even in the United States, its beginnings are all too evident — in the emergence of local political dictators, the violation of civil rights, the alarming spread of phobias of hatred directed against racial, religious, and political minorities. Ominous shadows of war are gathering in our own land. Behind them lurk dangers not only to a free labor movement but to a free culture.

Through subsidized propaganda, through energetic agents, through political pressure, the totalitarian states succeed in infecting other countries with their false doctrines, in intimidating independent artists and scholars, and in spreading panic among the intellectuals. Already many of those who would be crippled or destroyed by totalitarianism are themselves yielding to panic. In fear or despair they hasten to exalt one brand of intellectual servitude over another; to make fine distinctions between various methods of humiliating the human spirit and outlawing intellectual integrity. Many of them have already declared a moratorium on reason and creative freedom. Instead of resisting and denouncing all attempts to straitjacket the human mind, they glorify, under deceptive slogans and