

THE CHECK LIST

FICTION

THE PATRIOT, by Pearl S. Buck. \$2.50. *John Day*. Turning from the American scene to the Orient she knows so well, Pearl Buck has written her best novel since *The Good Earth*. The story of a young Chinese, sent by his conservative family to Japan, enables the author to reveal with great insight the likenesses and differences between Chinese and Japanese character, traditions, and life.

THE STORY OF A LAKE, by Negley Farson. \$2.50. *Harcourt, Brace*. The author of the *Way of a Transgressor* turns to a novel based on the life and the many loves and disillusionments of a foreign correspondent whose character and prowess are much like those of the *Transgressor*. Very readable.

FLYING COLORS, by C. S. Forester. \$2.50. *Little, Brown*. This department has been happy to invite attention to previous tales from Mr. Forester's pen. *Flying Colors* continues the adventures of Captain Horatio Hornblower RN, whom we met in *Beat To Quarters*. Here the valiant captain, destined for a firing squad at Vincennes, manages to escape, winter comfortably in the midst of his enemies, and regain his freedom and the naval service.

THE POWER HOUSE, by Benjamin Appel. \$2.75. *Dutton*. A look at big-city racketeering in prostitution, labor, and kindred fields, which practically parallels the Dewey exposures of New York's Lucky Luciano. Mr. Appel's story is not for the squeamish, but it has a power and brutality that will be admired by those who like their realism neat.

RESIDENTIAL QUARTER, by Louis Aragon. \$2.50. *Harcourt, Brace*. A social canvas of Paris in the years 1912-1913, with emphasis on the roles of state, church, lords of industry, peasantry, awakening proletariat. Through the experiences of a number of finely-etched characters, the author discloses his understanding of the sociological basis of French society. Propaganda notwithstanding, this is a novel of permanent literary value.

NO VICTORY FOR THE SOLDIER, by James Hill. \$2.50. *Doubleday, Doran*. Story of a musician whose smugness is shaken, but not seriously, by service in Loyalist Spain. Smoothly written, but almost totally lacking in dramatic punch.

SEASONED TIMBER, by Dorothy Canfield. \$2.50. *Harcourt, Brace*. An attempt, on the part of a millionaire, to introduce the fascist spirit into a Vermont town by offering an endowment to the local school if it will exclude Jews. New England integrity stands firm against this temptation, however; and the ramifications of the offer provide an excellent subject for the author's skill.

THIS TIME A BETTER LIFE, by Ted Allan. \$2.50. *Morrow*. First novel based on experiences in the army of Loyalist Spain. Vivid descriptions of fighting make up for the author's lack of skill in construction and the pallidness of the characters.

DOSSIE BELL IS DEAD, by Jack Boone. \$2.50. *Stokes*. A *Tobacco Road* of the Tennessee hillbilly country. A good, tight story for those who like their Americana in fiction doses.

BIOGRAPHY

MY MEMOIR, by Edith Bolling Wilson. \$3.50. *Bobbs-Merrill*. Written with charming ingenuousness and even some skill, this book is memorable because it is the first volume of recollections by a President's wife. It reveals no hidden secrets and adds virtually nothing of historic importance to our knowledge of Woodrow Wilson, but it makes him more human without detracting from his historic stature.

EDGAR WALLACE: A Phenomenon, by Margaret Lane. \$3.00. *Doubleday, Doran*. A conscientious life-story of the super-prolific writer, which depends more on accumulation of biographical detail than on the author's pen for its effect. Wallace's early years were a little dull, but when he found his true *forte* things speeded up — and so does this biography.

ALBERT EINSTEIN, Maker of Universes, by H. Gordon Garbedian. \$3.75. *Funk & Wagnalls*. Personal history combined with a readable and understandable explanation of the relativity theories, the whole embellished with explanatory sketches and camera portraits. Einstein today balances himself on an abandoned railroad track near Princeton, wears his oldest and most comfortable clothes, enjoys ice cream cones, puffs his briar, is proud to be an American, and ponders the imponderable. Mr. Garbedian's biography gives a fine picture of his complex character.

SCHACHT: Hitler's Magician, by Norbert Muhlen. \$3.00. *Longmans Green*. At last the mystery of Dr. Hjalmar Schacht's financial wizardry is revealed. In a well paced sketch of his "life and loans" we learn that Schacht is a manipulator of finance slightly reminiscent of Ponzi and a political opportunist without a peer. An inside story told by an expert economist.

ANTHONY EDEN, by Alan Campbell Johnson. \$3.00. *Ives Washburn*. At 41, Eden is today an outstanding liberal leader of his generation in the broad sense of the word.

Whether Mr. Johnson's faith in him as a leader is justified or whether, as Neville Chamberlain is reported to have remarked, Eden is no more than "a first-rate second-rater," time will show; the author has not succeeded in raising Eden out of the two-dimensional plane of the press dispatch.

LEE, GRANT, AND SHERMAN, by Lieut.-Col. Alfred H. Burne. \$3.00. *Scribner's*. The English, ever informed and sensible critics of the American Civil War, add another item, this study of leadership in the campaigns of 1864 and 1865. Col. Burne adduces no new evidence, but the established facts are considered with a fresh eye, and some interesting conclusions drawn, at variance with accepted opinions. It is gratifying to find, at long last, a more generous estimate placed upon the services of General Jubal Early: Col. Burne considers, and makes a strong case for it, Early's Valley Campaign of 1864 — the time he rang a spear against the gates of Washington — to have been perhaps "the most brilliant of the whole war, not excepting that of Stonewall Jackson." On Hood, most valiant and least fortunate of them all, he is equally refreshing.

LEONARDO DA VINCI, by Antonia Vallentin. \$3.75. *Viking*. Here is just about all the material concerning Leonardo which the author thinks is fit to print. The book is dull and dry — it is really a remarkable feat to have made a record of da Vinci's fabulous life uninteresting. The author evidently thinks that matters of flesh and blood — and especially the heart — should not be discussed in nice circles. Future biographers will find this volume valuable as a source of material — but the average reader will do well to avoid it.

WHITMAN, by Newton Arvin. \$2.75. *Macmillan*. This is more of an interpretation than a biography. The socialists have claimed Walt Whitman as their seer and prophet; and the rugged individualists have claimed him. Mr. Arvin attempts, by