

Il Duce "has perfected the organization and discipline of the people until the country has been given a unity and a cohesion never before attained. . . . Sacrifice of other values has been made, but one must hope that this is only a temporary phenomenon." This "temporary phenomenon" has caused the exile of Italy's greatest living writers and the virtual strangling of her literary life. Mr. Kennard does not bother to go into that.

FICTION

HOLD AUTUMN IN YOUR HAND, by George Sessions Perry. \$2.00. *Viking*. Mr. Perry sold the first story he ever wrote to the *Saturday Evening Post*. That has in no wise prejudiced his style or his rich, earthy talent. His present novel is as solid as Texas bottom-land and as salty as herring. Wage-farmer Sam Tucker needs no psychological shindigs to keep him interesting.

MOUNTAIN MEADOW, by John Buchan. \$2.50. *Houghton, Mifflin*. In his avocational career of a writer of adventure stories, John Buchan created a whole aviary of prosperous, successful, well-turned-out Englishmen of rank who were the heroes of his thrillers. In this book he takes one of them, Sir Edward Leithen, through his last adventure to his death in the Northwest Territory. The adventure, as adventure, is slight and hardly carries the weight of moral mysticism that the author loads it with. But Sir Edward's quest for a missing financier and his saving of an Indian tribe are not the important part of *Mountain Meadow*. John Buchan could write the English language and his descriptions of Canada from the woods of Quebec to the desolation of the Arctic muskeg are beautiful and exciting.

DAGGER OF THE MIND, by Kenneth Fearing. \$2.00. *Random House*. Even crochety old connoisseurs who like their detective stories strictly along classic lines will enjoy this psychological "whodunit." Mr. Fearing mixes very funny satire about an "artists' colony" with a couple of properly gory and appropri-

ately intellectual killings and writes the whole works beautifully.

STEVIE, by Benedict Thielen. \$2.00. *Dial*. Mr. Thielen's Stevie, a denizen of the *New Yorker* magazine, is another four-letter heel in the style of Ring Lardner and John O'Hara's "Pal Joey." These eleven stories about him are good enough to turn your stomach but lack Lardner's humanity and O'Hara's clinical sharpness.

SALT OF THE EARTH, by Victor Holmes. \$2.50. *Macmillan*. Disguised autobiography of a country editor who gives a Rover Boys version of Spoon River. Plenty of corner store dialogue and homespun philosophy for those who like their corn on the cob.

LEST DARKNESS FALL, by L. Sprague de Camp. \$2.50. *Henry Holt*. Light, fantastic story of a Twentieth Century little man transported to Rome of the Sixth Century. Sprightly reading with some archaeological lore thrown in.

RECENT BOOKS OF POETRY

THE BROKEN SPAN, by William Carlos Williams. \$1.00. *New Directions*.

SPRING WILL NOT FAIL, by Madeline Benedict. \$1.00. *Banner Press*.

THE MAN ON THE QUEUE, by Sidney Alexander. \$1.50. *James A. Decker*.

PAINTER'S PALETTE, by Charles Joseph Rider. \$1.50. *Banner Press*.

PREMA-GITA, translated by Howard V. Sutherland. \$1.00. *Falcon Press*.

SHARP SCORPIONS, by Wrey Gardiner. 3/6d net. *Grey Walls Press*.

CORONADO, by Pearle R. Casey. \$2.00. *Banner Press*.

CITY SUITE, by Kenneth L. Beaudoin. \$.50. *Black Faun Press*.

GREEN BRANCHES, by Samuel J. Looker. 2/6d net. *Grey Walls Press*.

THE END OF A DECADE, by Harry Brown. \$1.00. *New Directions*.

THE OPEN FORUM

IN DEFENSE OF PSYCHIANA

SIR: As the country's number one religious lunatic, crackpot, and racketeer, may I reply briefly to the Frank S. Mead article in your March issue. I am glad Dr. Mead recognizes the fact that millions are leaving the orthodox churches because they do not find there what they want. But does this signify they are all lunatics? Have they not the right, as Americans, to search for truth wherever they choose to? I have in my files hundreds of thousands of real Americans who have left the churches because they found nothing of God in them. I have yet to see a case where one of these "lunatics" has returned. A recent analysis of 1000 of my Students disclosed the fact that 89 per cent of them were men and women in the higher intelligence bracket. They are making over \$3000 a year.

Dr. Mead goes on the assumption that the church has all the truths of God; outside of "orthodoxy" there is no truth. Yet, he says, seventeen millions have deserted the cause. More than that have deserted it, Dr. Mead. And still more will desert it. What this world is crying for is not the church — it is God. And if the Christian church cannot, or will not come to the people with a conception of God which the people can and will accept, it cannot squawk if men and women, good thinking Americans, by the million, desert it.

The "Psychiana" Movement is a religious corporation operating under Idaho law. It is a movement of international significance. My salary is \$750 a month. Until quite recently it was \$500 a month. I have twice refused offers of \$25,000 a year in the business world, and seven months ago I hovered between life and death as a result of a dangerous attack of coronary thrombosis. I must be a lunatic if I will do that for \$750 a month.

Dr. Mead said that he did not know of

many Students of "Psychiana" who were "capturing Doc's luck." Of course he doesn't know that. But if the good doctor will come to Moscow, Idaho, I'll show him so much evidence of the operations of the Spirit of God in human lives that he will begin to wonder who really is the "crackpot." More than 200,000 thinking Americans have left the orthodox church and come to me for the truths of God. They have found them as their sea of letters testifies. There are about 500,000 more who never have had any use for the church.

Dr. Mead pokes fun at the "Psychiana" Spiritual Blitzkrieg. Yet I'll warrant that if every member of "orthodoxy" did what a few hundred thousand "Psychiana" Students are doing, Hitler would not last very long. I'm not so sure that he will anyway. I might ask Dr. Mead what the churches are doing to stop this holocaust. He admits that Americans are leaving the institution by the million. Can it be that the American people are at last awakening to the fact that God must be a living Vital Entity — not some mythical being who was killed on a cross some 2000 years ago?

Religion must stand still. The age-old theories of "God in the sky," taught by our forefathers, must still be believed, according to Dr. Mead. Those who teach anything else are "on the lunatic fringe of religion." So says Dr. Mead. I am sorry, but I must disagree with him.

What is happening in this world is this: — for the first time in the history of the human race, men and women are beginning to think for themselves in the realm of religion. No longer are they accepting the pious pap of priests and preachers, which, in its entirety, is based on old unprovable traditions. They