

ROBERT ALEXANDER, MARYLAND LOYALIST, by Janet Bassett Johnson. \$2.50. *Putnam's*. Robert Alexander was a vigorous exponent of colonial rights in early America and did heroic service for the cause of freedom, but with equal vigor he opposed a final and complete break with the mother country and he spent his last years in exile in England. Dr. Johnson reviews his career in great detail, making use of fresh material, and also has much to say about the loyalists of the time in general. There is a brief foreword by Professor Robert Livingston Schuyler.

THE PROBLEMS OF LASTING PEACE, by Herbert Hoover and Hugh Gibson. \$2.00. *Doubleday, Doran*. The fable that ex-President Hoover is an "isolationist" and "appeaser" is a product of recent hysteria. In sober fact, few men in American public life have been as consistently aware of the impossibility of "isolation" in our complex modern world. It is to be hoped that this book, written by Mr. Hoover in collaboration with a diplomat of wide and intimate experience with world problems, Hugh Gibson, will finally obliterate that mischievous fable. The failure of the Administration to use Mr. Hoover's unique knowledge of world affairs and his exceptional organizational talents in the war crisis is a sad example of partisanship gone haywire.

This book is a cool and scholarly exploration of the tasks of reconstruction that face a victorious America. It analyzes past attempts to maintain peace and lays bare the mistakes made after World War I. On the whole, the views of Mr. Hoover and Mr. Gibson fit logically into the recent pronouncements by Sumner Welles, of our State Department, and other Government spokesmen. They see the need for a prolonged period of adjustment, not on the basis of a rigid peace treaty — which, alas, is more likely to be a war treaty — but by gradual and flexible handling of all major problems.

Perhaps the chief virtue of the book is its honest appraisal of the magnitude of the tasks ahead — a realistic recognition that good

will and social-work enthusiasm are not enough. The Hoover-Gibson book is a first-rate antidote to the kind of runaway utopianism evident in some current discussion of post-war problems. The job of feeding the world, stemming the tides of social collapse, nurturing representative governments, calls for planning that should not be left for the last moment.

Inevitably, discussion of the world-to-be after the victory will grow in volume and intensity from this time forward. *The Problems of a Lasting Peace* is a first-rate preparation and compass for that discussion. — E. L.

FICTION

TAP ROOTS, by James Street. \$2.75. *Dial*. Mr. Street delves again into the little-known pages of American history to produce a new novel in the grand romantic tradition. This one concerns the Dabney family, slavery-hating Southerners who seceded from Mississippi, set up their own Free State of Lebanon and fought the Confederacy at its heart. From a straight fictional standpoint, *Tap Roots* is a fine, free-flowing example of its kind and provides absorbing entertainment. The historical point which Mr. Street makes is that our great internal conflict was not a civil war nor a war between the states, "but, rather, a war without precedent, an inevitable act in the drama of America." This is Dial's first "Victory Book," designed to compress 593 pages into a small, convenient format; the patriotic idea appears very successful.

THE CORNER-STONES, by Eric Linklater. \$1.00. *Macmillan*. A conversation in the Elysian fields among Lincoln, Lenin, Confucius, a British aviator and a common soldier. The talk is rather stilted and it cannot be said that Mr. Linklater is altogether clear in his intention. Apparently the cornerstones of the title are China, Russia, Great Britain and America, who will lead the world out of the present chaos into a new life.

FLAMINGO ROAD, by Robert Wilder. \$2.50. *Putnam's*. A novel of Florida politics,

complete with pretty carnival girl, good-hearted madame, weak-kneed hero, corrupt sheriff and fine upstanding older man. Engaging escape fiction.

OPEN FIRE! by Alec Hudson. \$2.50. *Macmillan*. A collection of four of Mr. Hudson's stories: "Battle Stations!", "Enemy Sighted," "Rendezvous" and "Night Action." They all deal with warfare overseas and overseas. Mr. Hudson is no Conrad, but he knows how to keep a story moving and he has greater respect for the English language than many more "serious" writers.

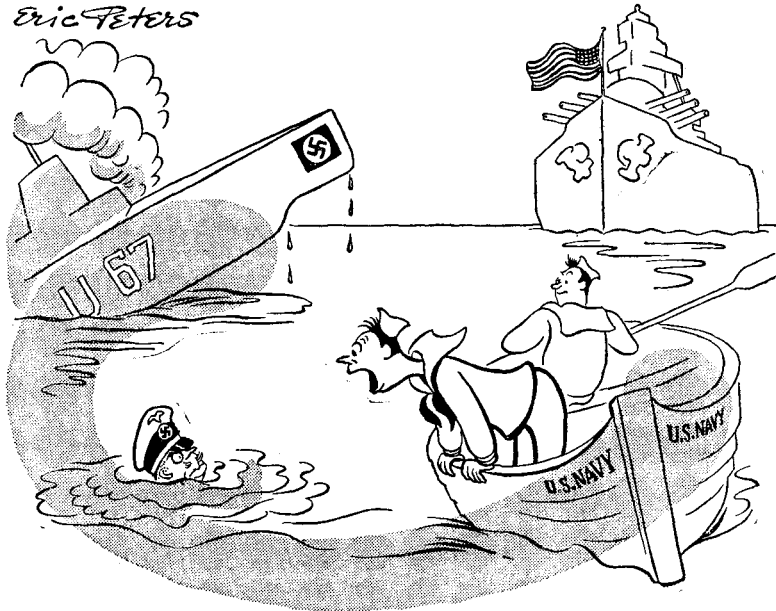
VILLAGE IN AUGUST, by T'ien Chün. \$2.50. *Smith & Durrell*. A series of sketches, rather than a novel, of Chinese Revolutionary fighters against the invaders in the northern

sections of their country. All of them are very ably done, especially two women, Anna and Seventh Sister Li. The name of the translator is not given since he is a Japanese prisoner. Edgar Snow contributes an introduction, in which he discusses the great popularity of this book among Chinese soldiers and civilians.

AND NOW TOMORROW, by Rachel Field. \$2.75. *Macmillan*. Miss Field's last novel before her death deals with a small New England mill town during the depression years. Emily Blair, daughter of the mill-owning family, recalls the first twenty-five years of her life and we see how her character, both moral and emotional, grows through adversity. Excellently written, yet it seems far removed from the problems of today.



Eric Peters



"All right, so I'm decadent. . . . Are you coming in or ain't you?"

THE OPEN FORUM

THE NEW ARMY: DOES IT HATE PARADES?

SIR: I've been in the Army for quite a while now and I'm still extremely curious about where people who write articles about "our new army" get their information. For instance, your Mr. Huie in the *MERCURY* for May 1940 (*The New Army Hates Parades*) says that "the President's family has given the New Army two of its most scalding epithets," that incompetent officers above the rank of captain are referred to as "James" and unpopular second lieutenants as "Elliott."

I suspect that Mr. Huie is either generalizing from the conversation of two or three bright boys, or he's not in love with the President. I've certainly never heard either of those expressions; neither has anyone else I know in the Army — or out of it. They sound to me like the kind of "witticism" the gifted Mr. W. Pegler is addicted to.

Mr. Huie says that many of us in the Army are "Roosevelt-haters." That may be, of course. It's a pretty big army. But I'm quite sure that the Army, if it had to choose a new Commander-in-Chief tomorrow, would put "That Man" right back in the White House, where he belongs. I don't think anyone who's really sampled opinion in the Army will quarrel with that. Anyway, it's a lot more accurate than Mr. Huie's story about "handing a group of soldiers a magazine story about Tom Girdler taking over an aircraft plant in California," a group of soldiers who would have told you in "the next breath what they think of Mr. Girdler and his labor relations." Really, now. Not one soldier out of one hundred has ever heard of Mr. Girdler and his labor relations. Which is no reflection on Mr. G.'s eminence, nor any credit to his labor policy. It's simply a fact.

The American Army may be the best educated in the world, but the sociologists, poets

and omnivorous newspaper readers therein are few and far between. Mr. Huie serves his "cold potatoes" with entirely too much salad dressing.

ANOTHER SOLDIER

*Portland,
Oregon.*

SIR: As an officer in the United States Navy, I wish to take strong exception to the following statement in William Bradford Huie's article. . . .: "No American slogan ever fell so flat with its fighting men as 'Remember Pearl Harbor!'"

This statement may be true for the United States Army — although we do not believe it — but it is most certainly not true for the United States Navy. The Navy lost a battle at Pearl Harbor — the first battle the United States Navy has ever lost in its history; and the date and the deed that will "live in infamy" will not be forgotten by the men of the Navy.

To the fathers, to the mothers, to the wives, to the sons, to the daughters, to the sweethearts, to the brothers, to the sisters, to the friends, and to other loved ones of the Navy men who died at their posts that Sunday morning, we say, "Rest assured. We shall not forget."

"Remember Pearl Harbor" is the fightingest slogan the United States Navy could ask for.

LIEUT. C. ALPHONSO SMITH
(*U. S. Naval Air Station*)

*St. Lucia,
British West Indies.*

SIR: After reading the Open Forum article by Mr. Anton Kopeck, in which he expresses his fear of the mentality depicted by Mr.