

each of them some years ago at his home in the Netherlands. More hors d'oeuvres than meat, the book for all its nearly nine hundred pages is thin fare.

THEY WERE EXPENDABLE, by W. L. White. \$2.00. *Harcourt, Brace*. Narrative of Lieut. Bulkeley and three others who fought their way out of the Philippines by PT-boat under Japanese attack. White lets the boys do the talking, turns in a rapid-fire, gripping yarn.

THE PRE-RAPHAELITE TRAGEDY, by William Gaunt. \$3.00. *Harcourt, Brace*. A series of interrelated studies of the strange group of Englishmen and Englishwomen who set the pace of super-Bohemian life in their country in the years 1850-1910. The chief characters were William Holman Hunt, John Everett Millais, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, and William Morris. Mr. Gaunt writes about them and their activities with some cynicism, yet with full knowledge and considerable insight.

TO HIS REFUGEE SON, LETTERS OF HARRY ARTHUR DADE. \$2.50. *The University of New Mexico Press*. The author is a well-known English biologist, now serving in the Home Guard. His eight-year-old son, John, arrived in Santa Fé, New Mexico, near the end of 1940, where he was taken into custody by his foster parents. The letters in this volume cover the period between November 1, 1940, and Christmas of the following year. Full of an extraordinary combination of reticence, deep emotion and playfulness, they make strangely moving reading and stand a good chance of becoming an enduring document of these times.

FADING TRAILS. Prepared by a Committee of the United States Department of the Interior: National Park Service, Fish & Wildlife Service. \$3.00. *Macmillan*. An exceptionally comprehensive, informative and eloquent report on our dwindling wild animals and birds. The story of endangered American wildlife is particularly meaningful at this

time, when the country is engaged in a great struggle to ensure a fair and free land for future generations. This admirably prepared and readable document performs an unusually fine service to the cause of conservation.

NEW WAYS OF WAR, by Tom Wintringham. 25 cents. *Penguin Books*. Seven excellent brief chapters on such matters as the best uses of planes and tanks, the relative obsolescence of bayonets, the simplest possible design for a small, handmade hand grenade, the right and wrong ways to make protective cover, and the "snobbery" in the British Army. The author is a well-known British military expert, who does not write from a library but from a vast experience, including service in the International Brigade in Spain.

MODERN PATTERN DESIGN, by Harriet Pepin. \$5.00. *Funk and Wagnalls*. A thorough, easily understood and profusely illustrated book for the home sewer who wishes to cut her own patterns or adapt commercial patterns to her own individual use. Particularly appropriate in these days.

BIG SPRING, by Shine Philips. \$2.50. *Prentice-Hall*. A series of sketches of life in a West Texas prairie town before civilization set in. Mr. Philips writes graphically and presents more than a dozen excellent character portraits. One of the few really good regional books.

FICTION

THE BEST AMERICAN SHORT STORIES, 1942. \$2.75. *Houghton Mifflin*. Martha Foley's first editing job on the annual O'Brien collection is a good one, judged by the standards set during the late anthologist's three decades of literary gleaning. It is sad to report, however, that the American short story shows very little progress out of its doldrums. Some of this writing is mannered, some of it imitative, and much of it has a preoccupied air. The notable exceptions are even more notable by comparison, and are well worth the price of the book.

HULDAH, by Juliet Alves. \$2.50. *Scribner's*. The story of a wild, lusty, energetic woman in Kentucky in the early days of our history. Huldah's language could match that of any of the pioneers and her morals were of the vague and impartial sort, but she could build a house with her own hands and she could find food where hardly anybody else could. Her husband finally leaves her and she eventually takes in his place a judge, to whose marriage proposal she says, "Jedge, you'll be right handy to have around on a cold night." The book is interesting in spots, but it is about five times as long as it should be.

LOOK TO THE MOUNTAIN, by Le Grand Cannon, Jr. \$2.75. *Henry Holt*. How Whit and Melissa Livingstone moved west from a New Hampshire village in 1770 to pioneer. Somewhat repetitious in its plotting; extremely able in its use of the times, talk and customs.

THE SOUND OF AN AMERICAN, by David Ormsbee. \$2.50. *Dutton*. American music critic is caught in the war in France. He serves in the Maginot Line, has a love affair and finally returns to serve in the American Army. Written with sound and fury.

COME SLOWLY, EDEN, by Laura Benét. \$2.50. *Dodd, Mead*. Curiously staid and juvenile attempt to tell Emily Dickinson's story in a novel.

SUMMER AFTER SUMMER, by Richard Sullivan. \$2.50. *Doubleday, Doran*. Nine months in the life of Eddie Nails, his wife and his daughter, Julie, while they await the coming of their second child. The problems and the joys of the little man in our economic life are well told, but the story is a bit thin.

PASSING STRANGE, by Richard Sale. \$2.00. *Simon & Schuster*. Obstetrician called in to assist at a Caesarian in Hollywood has his colleague shot out from under him in the delivery room. A few more murders are thrown in before the miscreant is discovered. Not a book for the expectant mother.

THE SHIVERING BOUGH, by Noel Burke. \$2.00. *Dutton*. Hitchhiker seeking warmth and food at farmhouse runs into corpse hanging from bough. To clear himself, he is forced to solve the mystery. An evening's entertainment.

TOPER'S END, by G. D. H. and Margaret Cole. \$2.50. *Macmillan*. A chemist with crackpot theories on economics fills his house in England with numerous unpleasant refugees. Murder ensues and the clues fall thick and fast. Scotland Yard solves the case by tickling a witness.

TINSLEY'S BONES, by Percival Wilde. \$2.00. *Random House*. A pulp writer is found burned to death and Lee Slocum, the eccentric county coroner, goes to work. Funny and has some good characters.

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THE CONTRIBUTORS

CHARLES A. BEARD is the noted author of *The Rise of American Civilization*, *America in Midpassage*, *The Open Door At Home*. As an authority in the field of political science, he is a frequent contributor to many periodicals.

GEORGE BARTON CUTTEN, for twenty years the president of Colgate University, has recently retired. Among his books are *Instincts and Religion*, *The Threat of Leisure*, *Mind—Its Origin and Goal*.

GWEN DEW has been most recently a roving correspondent and photographer for *News-week*. The Japanese detained her in a concentration camp for six months and she returned to this country a short time ago, aboard the *Gripsholm*. A Michigan girl, she broke into big-time journalism on the *Detroit News*.

CHARLES ELLSWORTH has been, at various times, a commercial artist, an industrial designer, a glider pilot, and now works for the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company in Akron. *The Emergency and My Aunt Emma* is his first published story.

JOHN ERSKINE's literary reputation for witty, latter-day examinations of history — *The Private Life of Helen of Troy*, *Galahad*, *Adam and Eve*, etc. — has sometimes obscured his fine talent for the essay, a prime sample of which is in this issue.

GYPSY ROSE LEE, who made so deft a transition from the stage to the literary arena with *The G-String Murders*, is now exercising both careers simultaneously. Broadway audiences are hailing her as the hit of *Star and Garter*, while her book fans find their appetites appeased by a new mystery, *Mother Finds a Body*.

J. SAUNDERS REDDING has taught in Southern Negro colleges for ten years. His first book,

To Make a Poet Black, appeared in 1939. *No Day of Triumph* is on the new Harper's list this fall. Mr. Redding has also contributed to the *North American Review*, *Transition*, *The Literary Quarterly*, and *Harper's Magazine*.

IRWIN ROSS was last represented in *THE MERCURY* by *Sex In The Army*. He was graduated from Harvard University in 1940, is editor of *Threshold Magazine*, and recently enlisted for training in the Army Signal Corps.

MAJOR ALEXANDER P. DE SEVERSKY is presently at work on a Walt Disney screen version of his best-selling *Victory Through Air Power*. The picture, a remarkable experiment in screen techniques, will be a combination of "live action" and pictorial animation.

KINGSBURY SMITH won two important awards for journalism last year, the George R. Holmes Memorial Award for the best reportorial work of 1941, and the National Headliners Club Award for outstanding Washington correspondence. He has been with INS for fifteen years, seven of which he spent abroad as a foreign correspondent. From 1936 to 1938, he was manager of the London bureau.

HENRY J. TAYLOR, author of the current *Time Runs Out*, combines the attributes of successful businessman and first-rank economist. He spent the months between October 4 and December 15, 1941, in a plane tour of Europe.

REGIS C. TOOMEY has lived in Los Angeles for seven of his twenty-seven years, and for the past five or six has contributed to trade journals, house organs, fiction magazines and newspapers. His research into the early history of American newspapers has netted him a fund of material on the personalities and publications of that era.