

deriving from ethnic and cultural differences, rather than the more commonly emphasized economic stresses, represent the greatest danger to our social cohesion. He feels that a happy synthesis must be found in the great American crazy-quilt of nationalities; that "men must somehow be taught that difference is not separateness and that community is not identity." He argues that we must advance beyond the prevailing detached, academic approach which consists so largely in the sterile accumulation of facts and statistics on the problem of racial discrimination; and translate our findings into a scientific, methodical offensive against the condition itself. In contrast to many others, Dr. MacIver feels that discrimination is more vulnerable to attack on the economic level than on that of popular mores, where it is more deeply entrenched in tradition and irrationality; and he recommends a frontal assault on the effects of discrimination — segregation, economic and educational inequality, etc. — rather than deferment of concrete action until popular prejudices have been uprooted.

POWER AND PERSONALITY, by Harold Dwight Lasswell, Ph.D. \$3.00. *Norton*. Like Professor Lasswell's *Psychopathology and Politics*, which appeared in 1930, this volume is largely an attempt to relate our knowledge of psychology to the practical business of making democracy work. Although the author is not very optimistic about the future — "World democratization is drastically improbable" — he has, at least, some strong convictions about what has sent us off the right track in the past. Mainly, he thinks, it has been a sort of mass anxiety neurosis and self-hatred that has led people to want dictatorships. The emphasis throughout the book is on removing the neurotic elements in our relations to our leaders, and in providing some sort of "self-observatories" to stimulate scientific thinking in politics. Professor Lasswell has obviously not tried to write for a lay audience, but the book should be of durable interest to scholars.

HISTORY

STALIN AND GERMAN COMMUNISM, *A Study in the Origins of the State Party*, by Ruth Fischer. \$8.00. *Harvard*. The central thesis of

this monumental work is that Lenin's vision of international socialism could have been achieved only if Germany, the most advanced nation in Europe technologically, had been able to come over into the Bolshevik camp after the first World War. The failure of the German CP to take power in 1923, Miss Fischer believes, marked the final downfall of Lenin's internationalism, and paved the way for Stalin's totalitarian State Party, whose ideological base was "socialism in one country." The author was herself a member of the Left Bloc of the German Party, who was intimate with many of the titans of early Communism; and she was in a position to watch at first hand the transformation of the Comintern into an agency of Stalin's personal rule. Her descriptions of the schisms, heresies, plots and counter-plots within the international movement, as well as her portraits of the individuals involved, should make fascinating reading even for non-specialists. For serious students the book is, of course, indispensable.

MUNICH: PROLOGUE TO TRAGEDY, by John W. Wheeler-Bennett. \$5.00. *Duell, Sloan & Pearce*. This is a superb history of the events of September 1938, done in the grand British manner by a scholar who has devoured the source material thoroughly, has a keen sense of drama, and writes with a sure ear for the felicitous phrase. The author knew Mr. Chamberlain and some of the other Englishmen involved, but, though he writes without venom, he is not very kind to his fellow-countrymen; he believes Munich to have been an even greater stupidity than most of us had realized. General Keitel is quoted as saying, at Nuremberg, that the German High Command "did not believe themselves to be strong enough at that moment to break through the fortifications of the Czechoslovak frontier. . . ."

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

THE WEST AT BAY, by Barbara Ward. \$3.50. *Norton*. Miss Ward has brought to this work all the clarity of thought and ease of expression which make the London *Economist*, of which she is foreign affairs editor, such consistently lively reading. Briefly, she is plumping

here for a union of Western Europe which, ultimately at least, would do away with trade barriers, competition in currencies, and restrictions on the free flow of men and capital. The emphasis is largely on economic measures: "for the next ten years," she believes, "the political forms of Western union should be both more modest and more practical." What makes this book different from other works on the subject is the absence of mere cliché-mongering about customs unions and European parliaments, and a pragmatic insistence on coming to close quarters with the facts of political life.

AS WE SEE RUSSIA, by members of the Overseas Press Club of America, with a preface by Robert B. Considine. \$3.75. *Dutton*. The precise purpose of this volume is not easy to establish. Most of the 25 journalists who contributed to it have already published their thoughts on Russia elsewhere, so that the reader is made to feel he is being served a warmed-over collection of old magazine articles and book chapters. The contributions range in character from the solid scholarship of men like R. H. Markham and Harold R. Isaacs to the gossipy, human-interest reporting of Oriana Atkinson.

LATIN AMERICA, *Continent in Crisis*, by Ray Josephs. \$4.50. *Random House*. A veteran of six years of journalistic experience in the lands south of the border, Mr. Josephs has written a detailed survey of conditions in Latin America based chiefly on a recent twelve-month jaunt through that part of the world. Our standing among the Latin peoples, he concludes, "is as low as it has ever been in this generation and it is not getting any better." The reason is that we have shown little interest in Latin America in the face of pressing problems in Europe and Asia and have lent our approval to the authoritarian and Nazi-minded régime of General Perón in Argentina. All of this has served to ease the task of Latin America's energetic Communist Parties. Though jammed with useful material, Mr. Josephs' book is unfortunately organized and written very badly, often giving the impression that he did little more than furbish up his notes somewhat, insert proper punctuation and ship the manuscript to his publisher.

LITERATURE

THE PORTABLE HAWTHORNE, edited, with an introduction and notes, by Malcolm Cowley. \$2.00. *Viking*. This is easily one of the best of the Viking Portables. It contains *The Scarlet Letter* in its entirety, a good sampling of short stories, and also passages from his notebooks, journals and letters. Mr. Cowley's general introduction and his critical notes reveal a fine, sympathetic understanding of the work of one of the two or three greatest writers America has produced so far.

THE WHITE GODDESS, by Robert Graves. \$4.50. *Creative Age*. Mr. Graves, who is a highly competent man of letters, has constructed a theory of poetry which combines the dazzling erudition of Frazer's *Golden Bough* and the enormously misguided zeal of the Baconians. It is his contention that all authentic poetry is a celebration of the White Goddess, a deity whom he resurrects from certain near-archaic myths. Either fear or love of the goddess motivated such disparate characters as Jesus, Petronius and a Welsh bard named Taleisin. To support this theory he invokes every defense from Druidic lore to hallucinatory vision, and he backs it up with such esoteric learning that it would take a panel of anthropologists, poets, soothsayers and students of the *Talmud* to gainsay him. The average reader can say merely that the theory seems highly unlikely and that if its truth were ever granted, Mr. Graves would be delivering the poets of Western society into the hands of those philistines who have bedevilled them with the charge of being more than a little fey. This was not his intention, of course, but many of us still possess a child-like faith in reason, which Mr. Graves asks us to eschew, and as a consequence we look askance at his methods. To establish the validity of a thesis by intuition and vision and then to pursue it with hazel wands and divining rods is not a technique that merits serious consideration.

PORNOGRAPHY AND OBSCENITY, by D. H. Lawrence. \$1.00. *Alicat Book Shop*. Here is a very handy and timely reprint of one of the best discussions of literary and artistic censor-