

been born into a Marxist society. There is also a detailed examination of the deficiencies of legal processes in the West, and a good deal of more-or-less irrelevant rhetoric in dispraise of Stalin's various enemies.

**PROFILE OF EUROPE**, by Sam Welles. \$3.50. *Harper*. A sort of postwar edition of *Inside Europe*, which does not suffer by comparison with the original though it is less comprehensive. Mr. Welles, a foreign correspondent for *Time* magazine, writes from the perspective of a private-enterprise liberal; but he writes with sympathetic understanding of the semi-socialist governments of Western Europe, which, he believes, will be able to preserve their free institutions and (if there is no war) attain a fair degree of prosperity with the help of ERP. For the Soviet régime, to which half of this volume is devoted, he has, to put it mildly, rather less respect. Because of the devastation of the war, and also because of the natural inefficiency of totalitarianism, he does not think that the USSR can become industrially powerful until some time in the 1960s.

## PUBLIC QUESTIONS

**LISTEN, LITTLE MAN!** by Wilhelm Reich, with illustrations by William Steig. \$3.00. *Orgone Institute Press*. This slender volume appears to be Wilhelm Reich's answer to the moral uplifters who have, for twenty-odd years, been persecuting him for his extreme views on love and sex. The author's mood wavers between satire and outraged indignation, so that it is never quite certain just how seriously he means to be taken. It is clear enough, however, that he has a low opinion of the "little man," whom he regards as an emotionally frigid boor, consumed by self-hatred and tending to self-destruction. William Steig's drawings, which come perilously close to parodying the text at times, add a lot to the book. An interesting document.

**GREEN MOUNTAIN FARM**, by Elliott Merrick. \$3.50. *Macmillan*. Elliott Merrick

has done what so many of his contemporaries vehemently promise themselves they will do at some far distant date; he has retired to a farm in New England and found the problem of existence far less complicated and infinitely more peaceful than he had ever imagined. This book has resulted from his love affair with Vermont, and he has written a lyric tribute to the simple life in which he literally revels. What his farm lacks in modern conveniences, it more than makes up in the opportunity it affords for using one's own hands and common sense, for welcome solitude and the resulting thought, for the observation of the wonders of the seasons. Here is a piece of work that charms; it is eulogistic, yet tastefully restrained; it is humorous, but finds its humor at no one's expense; it might be said to contain a moral, but it is far from didactic.

## THE SCIENCES

**A WAY OF LIFE**, by Sir William Osler. \$1.50. *The Remington-Putnam Book Company*. This is a reprint of a celebrated lecture delivered by the famous Canadian-American physician to Yale students some fifty years ago. It is a plea for non-worrying, for cultivating "the habit of a life of Day-Tight Compartments," of concentrating on the good of each day, for "The future is today — there is no tomorrow." Coming from a quack such counsel can be quackery, but coming from a man of Sir William's scientific spirit and broad culture, it achieves real loftiness, and is inspiring in the truest sense. There is a brief introduction by Dr. John R. Oliver, another scientist who graced the Johns Hopkins University.

**YOUR DIET FOR LONGER LIFE**, by James A. Tobey, Dr. P.H. \$3.50. *Funk*. Dr. Tobey is an old and valued contributor to the *MERCURY*, and his clear and simple style of writing about medical and public health matters is well known. Here, in a small volume, he tells virtually all that is definitely known (in succinct form, of course) about the right way to reduce, the protecting foods,

what to do and not to do about constipation, the control of fatigue, the relationship of diet to reproduction, the value of foods of animal origin, the inadequacy of the vegetarian diet, and so on. There are questions and answers at the end of each chapter.

## LITERATURE

THE MAXIMS OF MARCEL PROUST, edited with a translation by Justin O'Brien. \$3.00. *Columbia*. Professor O'Brien, the eminent Proust authority, has gone through the more than 4000 pages of *Remembrance of Things Past*, and culled 428 bits of philosophy, which he has arranged under the headings of Man, Society, Love, Art, and Time and Memory. The original French appears on the left-hand pages, and Dr. O'Brien's translation on the pages opposite. The volume should appeal to all lovers of maxims, for Proust was a master in this form of writing as well as in the realm of the novel. Some samples: "Those who practice the same profession recognize each other instinctively: likewise those who practice the same vice"; "The constancy of a habit is generally in direct ratio to its absurdity"; "The charms of the passing woman are usually in direct ratio to the speed of her passing"; "People who are not in love fail to understand how an intelligent man can suffer because of a very ordinary woman. This is tantamount to expressing surprise that anyone should be stricken with cholera because of a creature so insignificant as the comma bacillus"; "Each generation of critics does nothing but take the opposite of the truths accepted by their predecessors." At the end is an index of the sources of the maxims.

SELECTED POEMS OF EMILY DICKINSON, with an introduction by Conrad Aiken. \$1.25. *Random House*. This reprint deserves special mention, for it is probably the best single-volume introduction to the work of Dickinson available anywhere. Mr. Aiken's foreword, in which he puts Dickinson "among the finest poets of the language," is comprehensive and superb.

## FICTION

FOR US THE LIVING, by Haakon Chevalier. \$3.50. *Knopf*. Haakon Chevalier, long noted for his adroit translations of the works of such as Malraux, Aragon and Maurois, now ventures into print on his own with this, his first novel, and a thought-provoking one it is. He recreates the California of 1929-1941 and the discordant elements of people who helped make the political history of that area and time. An incongruous group of individuals is brought together because a man is murdered, a group which includes a liberal-minded university professor, his student disciple, a celebrated labor leader of the fruit regions of the Pacific, the emperor of these same fruit regions, a repressed German lustling for power, and the necessary beautiful girl. Three trials are held and three innocent people are acquitted, but with each attempt to find the culprit, communal interest in the crime grows stronger, and the basic forces which make and break governmental régimes are brought into play, so that what was heretofore a legal problem becomes part of the California political scene. Mr. Chevalier does well by his theme, though he writes in a somewhat anachronistic manner, reminiscent of the socio-economic tradition of Norris, Steinbeck, and a younger Sinclair.

BORN 1925, by Vera Brittain. \$3.50. *Macmillan*. The generation that was caught between two wars is always good novel material, and *Born 1925* is hardly the fruit of any startling new idea. Vera Brittain, known for her *Testament of Youth*, is again testifying here that the latest English crop must make its own peace with a world beset by the turmoil which results from the practice of men killing men in great numbers. The youth in point is Adrian Carbury, son of one of the most popular clergymen of the time, whose life was constantly shadowed by the brutality of war. The fundamental discord here involves Adrian and his father, a discord between the youth who looks too far ahead for the surcease of the world's ills, and the father who is held somewhat in the