

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

bonds of tradition and simple Christianity. With maturity comes compassion and tolerance, and a unification of the two men separated by age. The tale is told with proper English reticence and subdual of emotion; it is readable though not very consequential.

**THE HOLLOW OF THE WAVE**, by Edward Newhouse. \$3.50. *Sloane*. If the last trumpet were to blow presently, a great lot of perturbed and uncertain people would be gathered before the judgment seat, and among them would surely be the characters of Edward Newhouse's new novel. He presents the supposedly sophisticated inhabitants of the metropolitan world, all thoroughly stymied by the problem of finding security, for despite their respective gifts of fortune, talent and beauty, they lack what is most important to them: anchorage. Larry Holland, the fabulously wealthy young man, his lovely wife, Neil Miller, the illegitimate son of a Communist, and their sundry associates who turn towards radicalism in a vague effort to keep up with the times, all drift along aimlessly without faith in anything, least of all themselves. A war comes and goes, making only a surface impression on them, and leaves them even more distraught in 1947 than they had been in 1941. They are a slick bunch, these people; they make *New Yorkerish* quips, devote themselves almost religiously to immorality, and finally fade away into complete insubstantiality.

**THE ADVENTURE OF BLUE CARBUNCLE**, by A. Conan Doyle. \$2.50. *The Baker Street Irregulars*. This is a very handsome reprint of a Sherlock Holmes adventure, edited with a bibliography by Edgar W. Smith, and containing an introduction by Christopher Morley. Mr. Morley's remarks are in his most felicitous manner. He says of this tale that it "is a far better work of art than the immortal *Christmas Carol*," and he refers to it as "this most kindly and unintentional of Christmas stories."

**THE THREE BROTHERS**, by Michael McLaverty. \$3.00. *Macmillan*. Mr. McLav-

erty may know his middle-class Irish compatriots quite thoroughly, but he gives his readers only a surface acquaintance with them. This is the tale of three brothers, each of whom is endowed with the ability to crush every crumb of beauty from life. Bob is the veritable miser, almost Dickensian in his penny-pinching; D. J. is a degenerate wastrel, lacking the charm of the traditional family black sheep; John is a sober, industrious businessman absorbed in bettering the fortunes of his children. Mr. McLaverty does such a thorough job of dividing family loyalties for nearly two hundred pages that the reunion brought about by Bob's death at the end seems manufactured and false. The characters, for the most part, are drawn with a heavy hand, and they rarely emerge from their shells with any native vitality.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**ROMAIN ROLLAND'S ESSAYS ON MUSIC**. \$5.00. *Allen, Towne & Heath*. This is a selection of sixteen essays on music, culled from five books by the French master. They deal with the works of Beethoven, Handel, Gluck, Wagner, Berlioz, Hugo Wolf, Mozart, Telemann and Lully, among others. They are uniformly magnificent. They are, indeed, among the finest pieces of musical criticism ever written. They are sympathetic, profound, learned, well-mannered and filled with a boundless love for the art of music-making. A grand volume for all musicians, both professional and amateur.

**THE SINGLE FLAME**, by Mae Winkler Goodman. \$2.00. *The American Weave Press*. This is a first collection of verses by a young poet whose work has appeared frequently in the magazines and newspapers. She is obviously in possession of the genuine poetical passion, as many of her lyrics reveal. It is also clear, however, that often she is satisfied with the first, fine flame of inspiration. She still has to learn that inspiration can be more "inspired" if worked on carefully and meticulously. But she is well worth reading.