

any idea of." Some thirty illustrations add greatly to the effectiveness of the text.

**POPCORN ON THE GINZA**, *An Informal Portrait of Postwar Japan*, by Lucy Herndon Crockett. \$3.50. *Sloane*. A lively and anecdotal survey of our postwar rule in Japan, seen through the prism of "the countless personal relationships between conqueror and conquered." Operating at the grass-roots level, the author found a vanquished people aping the victors' every mannerism, from fashion styles to walking gait, in a naïve effort to assimilate American democracy at double-quick tempo; and breaking down barriers of war-caused hostility by a frenzied and "often . . . freakish" zeal to be friendly and coöperative. At the same time, while terming our record in Japan "glittering" and without probing very deeply into political or economic factors, she does find cause for some misgivings. Her chief fear is that Japan's new spirit of democracy may prove no more than a dimly-comprehended alien philosophy, learned by rote since V-J Day and impotent to prevent a resurgence of feudalism and militarism once we depart. The book is brightened by charming brush drawings by the author.

**PROSPECTS FOR DEMOCRACY IN JAPAN**, by T. A. Bisson. \$2.75. *Macmillan*. Mr. Bisson, a veteran Far East hand, who is here writing under the auspices of the Institute of Pacific Relations, does not think highly of the prospects. But his principal thesis — that MacArthur's purges have not reached far enough into the reactionary Japanese bureaucracy to allow effective reform — can hardly be called original, and in this slender volume he does not provide much more than a rough sketch of a familiar liberal argument.

## HISTORY

**THE MYSTERY OF "A PUBLIC MAN,"** by Frank Maloy Anderson. \$3.75. *Minnesota*. The purpose of Professor Anderson's researches was to learn the identity of the au-

thor, and establish the authenticity, of an anonymous diary which was first published in the *North American Review* in 1879. The diary, which was printed only under the byline of "A Public Man," has been of interest to Lincoln scholars ever since its appearance, mainly because of a few interesting anecdotes about the President, and partly because of some local-color material about Washington in the early months of the Civil War. Professor Anderson appears to have proved that the diary (which he prints in full in an appendix) was not entirely genuine, and that it was actually written by several men — whom he names. But this volume will be chiefly of interest to laymen for its description of the elaborate detective methods which its author has pursued over a period of many years, rather than for what he has actually learned.

**AN AMERICAN ENGINEER IN AFGHANISTAN**, edited by Marjorie Jewett Bell. \$5.00. *Minnesota*. Here are the letters and notes of one of the first Americans permitted within the borders of the retarded and once-forbidden country of Afghanistan. A. C. Jewett was employed, in 1911, by the forward-looking ruler of this little kingdom to install a hydroelectric plant, an anachronism in this region of superstition. Though his original job was one of engineering, Jewett took on a number of other tasks, from acting as confidant of the Amir to doctoring the Afghans. He had a journalist's sense of newsworthy events, and luckily put them down on paper for posterity, thus compiling an original and diverting history of Afghanistan as it took its first painful steps toward contact with the Western world.

## MUSIC

**THE SYMPHONIES OF MOZART**, by Georges De Saint-Foix. \$3.00. *Knopf*. There have been shifts in the critical evaluation of Mozart: for a while critics claimed that he was a greater operatic composer than a symphonist, and there have been times when critics thought exactly the opposite. M.

Saint-Foix feels more at home in the "symphonic school" of thought, and here he presents a thorough, learned, and extremely enlightening analysis of all the Mozartian symphonies—about fifty authenticated ones. The book apparently is addressed to professionals, but amateurs will find many inspiring and illuminating pages in it. There are many helpful musical illustrations, a detailed listing of the symphonies, a bibliography and a good index.

**THE POCKET LIBRETTO LIBRARY.** (4 volumes, boxed.) \$2.50. *Allen, Towne & Heath.* The four libretti here are of Verdi's *La Traviata*, *Rigoletto* and *Il Trovatore*, and Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*. The volumes are a bit smaller than pocket size and very durably and handsomely printed and bound. Each contains a brief sketch of the composer's life, a historical-critical note on the opera, the story of the opera, famous musical themes from it, recommended musical recordings—in addition to a translation of the libretto. Mr. Edward J. Dent did the translations, which is a guarantee of their quality. An excellent idea in musical publishing, and very well executed.

**MUSIC REPORTER, 1947-48.** \$24.00. *Music Reporter, Inc.* This handsomely bound volume contains all the music reviews, in their entirety, which appeared last season in the following New York papers: the *Times*, the *Herald Tribune*, the *Sun*, the *World-Telegram* and the *Journal-American*. A monthly service is included for the price of the entire volume. A valuable book for professional musicians, and also of much interest to amateurs.

### REFERENCE BOOKS

**THE HOME BOOK OF PROVERBS, MAXIMS AND FAMILIAR PHRASES,** selected and arranged by Burton Stevenson. \$20.00 *Macmillan.* Mr. Stevenson, whose *Home Book of Verse*, *Home Book of Quotations*, and *Home Book of Shakespeare Quotations* are among the best standard reference

books in the language, adds measurably to his stature as a compiler with his present massive and wholly admirable volume. It traces "back to their sources the proverbs, maxims and familiar phrases in ordinary English and American use," shows "their development from the first crude expression of the idea to its streamlined modern form," and notes "the variations and perversions which, year after year, have been built around the central theme." Mr. Stevenson's researches, in some cases, lead him back some 6000 years to early Egyptian times. In each instance he gives the source and the date. Very often he also gives the language of the original source. There is an index of some 300, three-column pages, which must be a record of detail. Altogether there are 2957 pages—an elephant of a book, but rich with magnificent reading.

**WORDS INTO TYPE.** \$5.00. *Appleton-Century-Crofts.* Based on studies by Marjorie E. Skillin, Robert M. Gay and other authorities, this book offers writers, editors and proofreaders a rich and valuable assortment of excellent pointers with regard to such matters as typography, grammar, hackneyed phrases, the law of libel, the misuse of words, the misuse of prepositions, and the best ways of placing footnotes on a page. The advice is generally intelligent and sound, and the authors themselves reveal a commendable style. The index is sufficiently detailed.

**CHAMBERS'S TECHNICAL DICTIONARY,** edited by C. F. Tweney and L. E. C. Hughes. \$6.50. *Macmillan.* This is a new edition of a dictionary that has made a definite place for itself as a reference volume, virtually indispensable to magazine, newspaper and book publishers' editorial offices. Nearly every science is covered—astronomy, horology, engineering, medicine, mining, chemistry, geology, crystallography, architecture, zoology, psychology, and some fifty other subjects. The definitions are very clear, and, judging by the list of principal contributors, authoritative.