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By LILLIAN EVERTS

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rectly from Lillian Everts at
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THE CHECK LIST

BIOGRAPHY

TRIAL AND ERROR, *The Autobiography of Chaim Weizmann*. \$5.00. Harper. Dr. Weizmann was born in 1874 in a little village in White Russia, one of a family of fifteen children, twelve of whom survived into maturity. He was an excellent student and at an early age was attracted to the study of chemistry, which he pursued in various European universities, particularly in Germany. He quickly attained eminence in his profession, but running parallel to his interest in science was his interest in Zionism, of which he was one of the founders; indeed, next to Dr. Herzl and Dr. Ahad-Ha'am he did more to spread Zionism than anybody else. He is now the great spiritual symbol of the new state of Israel, of which he is the first President. He relates his life story with vast simplicity and great tenderness. Nearly all the great of the modern diplomatic and scientific world pass through his fascinating pages, and he draws sharp portraits of them all. He is generous with praise, but, when necessary, as in the case even of the revered Dr. Herzl, he criticizes, though always with kindness, never with juvenile malice. His book will doubtless be read by untold generations of Jews, for his story is the story of the rebirth of Israel, one of the most romantic and dramatic events of contemporary history. But others will also find very much in the volume to attract them. Dr. Weizmann's great contributions to chemistry, and in particular his chemical contributions to the democratic cause in both World War I and World War II, are presented in detail, and there are many insights into world diplomatic history. Surely, the first fourth of the book, dealing with Dr. Weizmann's early days in Russia and Germany, are among the most beautifully written memoirs of youth in the English language. With this book Dr. Weizmann reveals that he is not only a great scientist and a statesman of the first magnitude, but also a writer of very considerable talents.

LENIN, A Biography, by David Shub. \$5.00. *Doubleday*. This volume was obviously based on a careful study of Russian documents, many of which seem never to have been published in this country previously, and on intimate talks with some of Lenin's older confrères. It is a masterly job. Mr. Shub makes it plain that, for all his personal warmth and honesty, Lenin was the real builder of the Soviet State as it exists today, and that however much he disapproved of Stalin's "rudeness" and lack of principle Stalin has to be accounted his creature. There is, however, very little editorializing in the book; the facts are allowed to speak for themselves, and they have a way of doing so with remarkable effectiveness. At one point Mr. Shub quotes Lenin as remarking, shortly after the Bolsheviks took power, "It isn't a question of Russia at all, gentlemen. I spit on Russia. . . . This is merely one phase through which we must pass on the way to a world revolution."

MENDELEYEV, by Daniel Q. Posin. \$4.50. *Whittlesey House*. In this biography, the first one of Mendeleev which has appeared in English, Daniel Q. Posin, himself a scientist of some note, has achieved a remarkable degree of success. Combining facts which he has unearthed from various sources with the fictional products of a very fertile imagination, Dr. Posin has presented an extremely human picture of the discoverer of the periodic table of the elements. Mendeleev emerges from this book as a great human being, sensitive to the struggles and the needs of the Russian people among whom he lived and worked.

RUDOLPH, THE TRAGEDY OF MAYERLING, by Count Carl Lonyay. \$5.00. *Scribners*. A number of great stories, most of them relating to some supreme sacrifice for love, have grown up concerning the suicide of the Austrian crown prince; and none of these stories, it now appears, has much basis in reality. Count Lonyay portrays Rudolph, not as the handsome, amorous figure the world has believed in, but as a weak, degenerate, and thoroughly unattractive man
(Continued on page 375)



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THE ONLY WAY TO REARM EUROPE

BY

MAJOR ALEXANDER P. DE SEVERSKY

WITH this article Major de Seversky returns to his old battleground, and begins another fight for the most intelligent and effective use of air power in global warfare. Surely no one is more competent to make such an analysis. He alone, for a long time against the most vehement protests and objections of men high in the Army and Navy, saw the importance of the plane as an offensive, strategical, and tactical weapon. Before the war was over virtually every one of his ideas had been adopted by our armed forces, and the very men who had denounced him had only the highest praise for him. In awarding him the Medal of Merit President Truman again referred to his "courageous labors in arousing our democratic public opinion in support of modern and adequate Air Force." THE AMERICAN MERCURY was very proud in discovering Major de

Seversky and in being the first magazine to open its pages to his articles, which eventually became the truly historic book, *Victory Through Air Power*. Now, at a time when our country is again in crisis and when the matter of defense is inexorably tied in with our foreign policy, the MERCURY considers it a privilege to open its pages to him again. What he now has to say is perhaps even more important than what he said in the momentous years 1939-45. It merits the attention of every American solicitous for the welfare of his country. — THE EDITORS

IN THE interests of world peace and its own security, America should help restore the military potential of Western Europe. On this long-term objective there seem to me no reasonable grounds for disagreement.