

book can easily be followed by the general reader.

THE ARTS

NOTES ON CHOPIN, by André Gide. \$3.75. *Philosophical Library*. A life-long admirer of the work of Chopin, M. Gide had planned a book on him as far back as 1892, but this apparently is his first extended work on him. It is very short and not very important — more than half of the present volume is filled out with musical remarks from some of Gide's other writings. He thinks that Chopin was a genuine musical artist, as distinguished from a poet. Chopin hardly ever employed oratory or any other vulgar ornamentation; he "proposes, supposes, insinuates, seduces, persuades; he almost never asserts."

ARCHITECTURE AND THE SPIRIT OF MAN, by Joseph Hudnut. \$4.50.

Harvard. Professor Hudnut's lively, provocative *dicta* on architecture do much to make its mysteries intelligible to the layman. An architect of pronounced likes and dislikes himself, he praises and blames with equal vigor, and always in forthright prose. Thus he will deplore the work of designers who "speak Greek without understanding it," or praise Rockefeller Center as one of the few skyscraper schemes "clearly relevant to the future." Professor Hudnut's own *credo* is clear: he subscribes to the belief Louis Sullivan uttered half a century ago that "form follows function," and regrets that this enduring principle is so inadequately applied either here or abroad. A mature, stimulating book.

MISCELLANEOUS

AGAIN THE GOOSE STEP, by Delbert Clark. \$3.00. *Bobbs-Merrill*. Mr. Clark, a former New York *Times* correspondent in Berlin, burns with righteous anger because we have tossed away the fruits of victory in Germany. We have abandoned, he declares bitterly, our vital program of Three Ds — Demilitarization, Denazification, Democratization — and are now relying on frock-coated *fuehrers*-in-training as a Siegfried Line against Communism. Admittedly, the Western powers have failed to follow their own blueprint in rebuilding the Reich, but the builders ran into problems (notably the Kremlin) the architects never anticipated. Mr. Clark's case would sound a good deal more convincing if he stated it less stridently.

ATLANTIS, by Ignatius Donnelly, edited by Egerton Sykes. \$4.50. *Harper*. Probably not one American in a thousand has ever heard of Ignatius Donnelly, the Midwesterner who was the founder of Atlantology. It was this book, first published in 1882, that sought to establish "scientifically" that an antediluvian island continent once existed where the Atlantic now is. Since that time, it is surprising to discover, a corpus of some 5000 books in many languages has arisen on the subject. This new edition of the *fons et origo*, updated by a devoted British disciple, cannot fail to impress the reader with its plausible data, its fascinating *minutiae* — and its faintly crackbrained theorizing.

THE OPEN FORUM



PROTESTANTS, CATHOLICS AND ATHEISTS

We have received a tremendous number of letters as a result of the two lead articles in the September issue — "Protestant Concern over Catholicism," by the Rev. W. Russell Bowie, and "The Catholic Position — A Reply," by Father John Courtney Murray, S.J. — and they are still pouring in by every mail. We are, therefore, doing an unprecedented thing, devoting the entire "Open Forum" this month to these letters. Naturally, we can print only a few of them, but the selections we have made are representative of the lot. Toward the end of the "Open Forum" this month are over-all comments on them by both Dr. Bowie and Father Murray. We shall print more of the letters in the next issue. — THE EDITORS

SIR: I congratulate you on your courage in tackling the religious question. Most papers and magazines brush it off.

As with all controversies, there is truth on both sides. . . .

Maybe we could do without all religions.

MRS. WILLIAM LEAKE

Frank P. O., Pa.

SIR: Thank you for printing the two articles on Protestant-Catholic differences in your September issue. Such discussions never settle anything, but they are always excellent reading.

I have only one criticism. Couldn't you have found a Catholic spokesman who would at least try to meet the Protestant allegations head-on? There is no denying that Dr. Bowie said exactly what a great many of us are thinking. I have always wondered what the Catholic answer might be. Father Murray leaves me still wondering. With one or two rather feeble exceptions, his argument seems to me to be merely, "Nonsense! Bigotry! I haven't space enough to argue the whole issue here!" Are we to understand that the Roman Catholic Church has only that to say in reply to our charges? . . .

REV. HUGO W. SCHROEDER

Baltimore, Md.

SIR: . . . An argument, a debate, a fuss, a fight, has never settled anything really. Deep in his heart, each debator or