

breaks in the late Middle Ages." But the craze has fascinated historians and psychologists for more than three hundred years. Miss Starkey has examined mountains of evidence, some of it fresh, and has produced a fascinating, judicious, and valuable study. There are many notes, a selected bibliography, and a good index.

WEALTH OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, by James A. Barnes. \$5.75. *Prentice-Hall*. To Professor Barnes (of Temple University), the wealth of the American people lies not only in their fabulous productivity, but also in their privileges, their leisure, their educational and cultural opportunities. His massive, fact-crammed volume displays not only our mouth-watering abundance, but shows too how our wealth has forced us, step by step, to assume the economic, political and military leadership of the free world. He readily concedes that in the field of moral leadership we move with lagging, reluctant tread, but so far the general direction has always been forward. Lucid, temperate in tone, and helpfully illustrated.

BIOGRAPHY

SHAKESPEARE, A Biography and An Interpretation, by Ivor Brown. \$4.00. *Doubleday*. Mr. Brown, an eminent English author and drama critic, has here distilled the best scholarship regarding the miraculous man of Stratford and written what is probably the best all-around book on him. He calls it "a lover's book," and that is precisely what it is. It is remarkably well written, and

its point of view is that of a highly intelligent man who knows his way around the mysteries surrounding the life and works of the greatest master of the English language of all time. Particularly to be commended are Mr. Brown's sections on the Dark Lady of the Sonnets, and also worthy of note is the way he disposes of those credulous people who still think that Shakespeare wasn't Shakespeare.

THE STRANGE LIFE OF AUGUST STRINDBERG, by Elizabeth Sprigge. \$3.50. *Macmillan*. This is probably the best biography of the great dramatist in the English language. It is built upon a tremendous amount of solid research, and is guided by an acute critical sense. Miss Sprigge has many profound things to say about the amazing plays of the great Swedish dramatist, and she also is very happy in her sections dealing with the influence he has exerted on other dramatists, including our own Eugene O'Neill. She attempts a psychoanalytical interpretation of Strindberg, and says that he was probably a schizophrenic and very likely the victim of an Oedipus complex. Some interesting photographs, two valuable appendices, and a very good index round out a first-rate book.

THE WORLD OF EMMA LAZARUS, by H. E. Jacob. \$3.00. *Schocken*. The woman whose stirring poem is inscribed at the base of the Statue of Liberty was an American Jew who lived in the years 1849-1887. In her brief and illness-ridden life she had written many poems which had won the admiration of such men as Emerson and Robert Brown-

ing. This is, strangely enough, the first full-length biography of her, and it is a very able job. There are many quotations from Miss Lazarus' poems.

ANTHOLOGIES

THE WISDOM OF CATHOLICISM, edited by Anton C. Pegis. \$6.00. *Random House*. A huge anthology of Catholic religion and philosophy, which succeeds in presenting to the reader "the enduring themes, the constant centers of interest, the great teachings and ideals, the heroic lives and eminent writings of the outstanding Catholic men and women who are the landmarks of Catholicism in history." The editor is president of the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies in Canada, and his book has the *imprimatur* of Cardinal McGuigan of Toronto.

WRITING FOR LOVE OR MONEY, edited by Norman Cousins. \$3.50. *Longmans*. This agreeable little volume, a collection of articles that originally appeared in the *Saturday Review of Literature*, is not a "how-to" book. It will not teach neophytes how to crash the slicks in ten expensive lessons. But it will tell them, often authoritatively, of the pangs of creation, the toils of editing, and the science of manuscript-marketing. The contributors range from Stephen Leacock (on making an index) to Thomas Wolfe (on producing literature). The aspiring writer will read it with profit and humility.

FICTION

NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR, by George Orwell. \$3.00. *Harcourt Brace*.

Mr. Orwell's grim look into the future finds the world divided into three totalitarian states, all of which are perpetually at war, and none of which would seem much worth living in to anyone not a fascist or Communist. Life in Airstrip One, as London is called in 1984, features an abysmally low standard of living, a strict prohibition against sex, and a bastard English known as Newspeak, which in its final perfected form will make heretical thinking impossible. The hero of the story is a Winston Smith, who works in the Records Department of the Ministry of Truth, revising old newspapers and magazines to make them conform to the present party line. Mr. Smith not only has retrograde ideas, but, with the eager cooperation of a pretty young fellow-traitor named Julia, he puts them into practice. Their punishment is swift and awful. Superb satire, which is always convincing and is deeply moving in spots.

THE OASIS, by Mary McCarthy. \$2.00. *Random House*. The action of this so-called novel takes place in an abandoned spot in New England where a group of liberals, radicals, and nondescript advanced thinkers gather in search of the truly happy life. Nothing actually takes place except that, despite their civilized pretenses, they fight among themselves, snitch on one another, and in general behave like spoiled brats. The characters seem to resemble the editors of, and contributors to, a certain intellectual periodical that prides itself on its profundity, most of it bogus. Not one of the men or women really comes to life, but