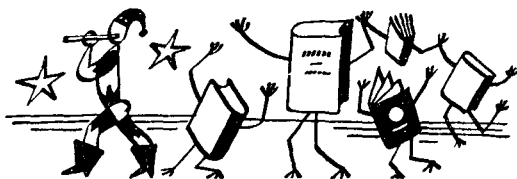

THE CHECK LIST



PUBLIC AFFAIRS

I CHOSE JUSTICE, by Victor Kravchenko. \$3.75. *Scribners*. Mr. Kravchenko, the former Soviet official whose earlier work, *I Chose Freedom*, has probably done as much as any book yet written to disenchant world opinion with the Soviet Union, has come up with another volume which should prove harrowing reading for Communists and fellow-travelers. Nominally an account of his successful libel suit against a French Communist magazine which attacked his first book, it is actually a stunning indictment of life in the USSR. To refute the charge in *Les Lettres Françaises* that his earlier book was an anti-Soviet fabrication concocted by the U. S. State Department, the author marshalled witnesses from anti-Soviet Russian escapees who testified publicly at the possible risk of their lives. Their testimony on the collectivization drives, the mass purges and conditions in forced labor camps, reproduced in this book, adds new material to the familiar catalogue of Soviet horror. Mr. Kravchenko's narrative is buttressed with such documentation as photostats of orders of confinement in labor camps, and scrip money used in the camps.

ZERO, *The Story of Terrorism*, by Robert Payne. \$3.00. *John Day*. Mr. Payne has constructed a very substantial bogey-man, the "Nechayev monster," by which he attempts to explain the nature and scope of modern terrorism. Sergei Nechayev was the Russian nihilist whose *Revolutionary Catechism* directly influenced both Lenin and Hitler. Payne sees him as "personified irresponsibility," a man who believed in terror for the sake of terror, and he sees him everywhere — in communism, fascism, economic royalism, religious schismaticism, romanticism, and even in Howard Unruh (who recently shot twelve people in Camden, N. J.). He lumps most of these diverse elements together under the common banner of what he terms "the nihilist conspiracy." But his attempt to define the modern world purely in terms of destructivity *vs.* creativity is at best myopic; he completely ignores the problem of power for the sake of power, as expressed in George Orwell's *1984*, and he seldom considers the sociological conditions behind each outbreak of terrorism.

THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRATIC CAPITALISM, by Thurman W. Arnold,

Morris L. Ernst, Adolf A. Berle, Jr., Lloyd K. Garrison and Sir Alfred Zimmern. \$2.00. *University of Pennsylvania Press*. The second series of Benjamin Franklin Lectures is particularly valuable because of a clear-cut essay by Adolf Berle on the nature of the modern corporation. Mr. Berle believes that the corporation "has become a unique institution," an entity whose size can be justified by its actual operating economies and services; but he also thinks that a common ground can be worked out with the state, through public opinion, in regard to public planning. In his fine lecture on civil liberties, Morris Ernst warns that the trend to monopoly in the communications field is dangerous; he recommends that financial sources be publicly disclosed when organized minorities attempt to influence public opinion. In the remaining lectures, Thurman Arnold finds that "inexorable economic forces" will push the United States into a wider free-trade area with Western Europe, Lloyd Garrison suggests top-level meetings between labor and management, and Sir Alfred Zimmern has a few sound ideas for strengthening the judicial and executive branches of the UN. The total outlook is intelligent and optimistic.

GROUP MEDICINE & HEALTH INSURANCE IN ACTION, by Dr. Robert E. Rothenberg and Dr. Karl Pickard. \$5.00. *Crown*. This is a detailed analysis of the work of the Central Medical Group of Brooklyn, affiliated with the Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York. It covers the first two years of the operation of the plan (1947-1949), and seems to be

the first study on such a vast scale in American medical history. The authors come to the following conclusion: "It is our unreserved opinion that group medical practice, in association with complete, comprehensive, prepaid health insurance, represents the solution to the medical care problems of the public as well as the physician." In other words, they are in favor of "a compromise between the status quo and compulsory health insurance."

AUTHORITARIANISM AND THE INDIVIDUAL, by Harold Metz and C. A. H. Thomson. \$3.50. *The Brookings Institution*. A sober and sensible, though nowhere especially profound, assessment of the place of human freedom in societies other than our own. Feudalism, monarchism, Communism, fascism, national socialism, and certain types of theocracy, are given perhaps 65 pages apiece, and are discovered to prove the authors' contention that freedom flourishes where society "is organized solely to facilitate the efforts of each individual to conceive and to achieve his ends." A good primer, but not much more.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

THE CURTAIN ISN'T IRON, by Joseph C. Harsch. \$2.00. *Doubleday*. Mr. Harsch, for many years a European correspondent for the *Christian Science Monitor*, proposes a "middle way" out of the cold-war deadlock lying "between war on the one hand and appeasement on the other." He favors maximum exploitation