

vances a novel theory to excuse her marriage to Bothwell following the unsavoury affair at Dunbar Castle. "Bothwell raped her—according to his own confession," says the author, "with the help of witchcraft and 'sweet waters'"; and as a result of the effect of the aphrodisiac "her yielding would appear to her as an inexcusable lapse from her standard of conduct, yet one of which she had been guilty of *her own free will*". Hence she would feel that marriage was morally incumbent upon her.

The Mary Mr. Dakers shows us was high spirited and determined, but never malicious. He quotes the lively Scandal Letter to show what manner of gossip the Queen might have circulated concerning her "good sister, Elizabeth", had she been so minded. In addition to this letter the appendix contains Letter II of the Casket Series, as well as the text of the Crawford deposition. A thoughtfully prepared index has also been provided which will please the student and must not frighten off the lay reader, who will find in the subject matter of this biography the stuff of which Sabatini best-sellers are made.

BETTY DRURY

THE BALCONINNY by J. B. Priestley  
(HARPER. \$2.00)

WHETHER you choose, at random, the sketched impressions from a little balcony overlooking the sea, done in his own brand of magic water-colours; or his droll comments on a Punch and Judy show, or on the disillusionment brought by a travelling circus which carries marvellous posters of wild animals, but whose sole menagerie consists of two small elephants and a couple of rather moth-eaten clowns, you will discover the old Priestley looking with affectionate regard upon life wherever and however he finds it.

You know that he is a romantic at heart who has been—perhaps not unfortunately, after all—born in a modern age. You know that he tends toward the sentimental rather than the smart, but that his sentimentality is rarely without an ironic edge. You know that he is the high priest of the Dickensian cult; you know—even before reading *In Defence of Kindness*—his opinions on the younger "intellectual" novelists; and you can smile, tolerantly at least, to find him yearning for a world in which kindness, not cruelty, predominates. Most of all you bless him for the ever-present humour that ripples like a banner over his crusade. Possibly because it possesses so little of the silk of Aestheticism, Priestley's style has the smoothness and durability of well woven linen. His phrases are not those of the precise connoisseur, but of the plain fellow whose tastes are simple, and whose outlook is sane and honest.

RUTH LECHLITNER

LYAUTEY by André Maurois (APPLETON. \$3.00)

ANDRÉ MAUROIS, master of biographical portraiture, has changed his subject from figures of the past to a French contemporary. His life of Marshal Lyautey, the Empire builder, is a notable biography written with restraint and insight. The direct objectivity of the narrative is a new departure. With great clearness and vividness he presents the complex nature of French history and politics, so much a part of Lyautey's record, and the influence they exerted on his extraordinary character. For Lyautey is "the Royalist who has given an Empire to the Republic".

Lyautey descends from a family long in service to France. Maurois charmingly depicts the home environment, where the Legitimist cause was revered, and also, with

psychologic understanding, the difficult adjustment Lyautey performed in serving in the army of the Third Republic. His ambition went beyond routine army duty. He was an intellectual, a man of the world, at ease in a drawing room with Proust. He contributed an article on *The Social Functions of an Officer* to the *Revue des deux mondes*, but the ministry was not appreciative of such social functions. And Lyautey was practically kicked up the back stairs into his colonial career.

Abroad Lyautey found outlets for his abundant energy in a life of action. The conservative became a brilliant man of action. From his service in Indo-China and Madagascar under Gallieni, Gouraud and Mangin—all sons of the people—the aristocratic conservative learned the business of colonizing. Maurois is careful to show that Lyautey was not the only contributor to the extension of French possessions. It is merely stressed that Lyautey, in civilizing Algeria and annexing Morocco, secured from barbaric tribes valuable colonies which no one else had visualized. He dominated the African scene with a diplomacy as fruitful as his military strategy. His romantic venture in conquest is as entertaining as anything written of the Foreign Legion. He modernized a mediaeval territory, building harbours, railroads, towns, preserved the native quarters and assisted in encouraging native art, until the country was remade. There are thirty towns in the world today which exist solely because of his administrative ability. His accomplishing such work in a half-score of years in Morocco brought full recognition of his genius, as Maurois takes pains to point out, by the politicians of the Republic, though politically and temperamentally at odds with Lyautey.

The man is as picturesque as his achievement. Like a true aristocrat he parleyed with

Arab chiefs on equal terms. They met him with ill-will and left with admiration. He was a soldier with the mentality of a Cartesian rationalist. He wanted questions presented "in logical order". He disliked army regulation and all red tape—bureaucrats found him a terror—and as he mastered the Moroccan situation he overcame official stuffiness with dexterity. It is doubtful if there was ever such an imaginative mind and romantic temperament in so responsible a public office. He appreciated the glow of adventure as much as Lawrence of Arabia. Besides, he had a talent for advertising. His showmanship sold Morocco to the French people, who formerly held the country in small esteem and worth.

EDWIN H. CLARK

#### RELIGION ON THE AMERICAN FRONTIER: THE BAPTISTS *edited by William Warren Sweet* (HOLT. \$5.00)

THIS book is the first of a series of volumes, projected by the Department of Church History of the University of Chicago Divinity School, in which are to be collected the original documentary sources for the history of Christianity in America, the Baptists being chosen for the initial instalment because members of that sect were the first to interest themselves in the religious condition of the early frontier between the Alleghenies and the Mississippi. Somewhat more than five-sixths of the text is made up extracts from sectarian histories, autobiographies, and unpublished records of local churches and regional associations. To this mass of material the general editor of the series, Professor Case, prefixes an admirable historical introduction, and there is a classified bibliography of wholly unusual range.

The value of such a work for the student of American social history needs no demon-