

at least slightly tinted. At most, however, such over-emphasis is a natural defect of the quality. It is well that the romantic elements he discovers and his sensitive appreciation of things that are different should be set out in the vivid fashion given them here, for of what is sordid and mercenary we have long since heard quite enough.

WILLIAM MACDONALD

### THE COMING OF SOUTH AMERICA

by *Henry Kittredge Norton* (JOHN DAY. \$3.50)

THIS book embodies the observations and reflections which Mr. Norton made during nearly a year spent in studying political and economic developments in the leading South American countries under the auspices of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Not many of the observations are very penetrating and the reflections are hardly profound; but the reader who can be contented with a pleasantly written journalistic sketch of conditions in Bolivia, Peru, Argentina, Brazil, and Chile will find the book well up to date and usefully informing. Mr. Norton does well to point out that the term "Latin America" is a misnomer, since it not only does not describe accurately the Indian, Negro, and mixed racial elements of the population, but tends to obscure the differences which exist between the various South American countries. On the other hand, the revolutions which occurred in 1930-31 in the five countries which he studied seem to have differed more in incidents than in fundamental causes. In all of them dependence upon the export of some single product is out of proportion to the benefits accruing from other forms of industry or trade.

Anti-American feeling, Mr. Norton thinks, is not very deep-rooted, notwithstanding the

criticisms of intellectuals and a running fire of newspaper attack, and a good deal of such suspicion as exists he attributes to European propaganda. The great bond is the general desire for American capital and American trade. The latter has been realized in a volume of trade greater than that of Great Britain, Germany and France combined; the gratification of the former has appeared in part in public loans whose history has been an "orgy of irresponsible money-lending". Some of the comments upon the United States and its policy which Mr. Norton met with are not complimentary, and his book suggests that the United States has much to learn about the extent to which South American culture has developed, and the degree to which American ways have been adopted without yielding to the American spirit.

WILLIAM MACDONALD

### THE SPIRIT OF BRITISH POLICY *by* *Hermann Kantorowicz* (OXFORD. \$6.50)

THE primary purpose of this book, the work of an eminent German jurist, is to disprove the notion of the "encirclement" of Germany through the operations of British diplomacy as a cause of the World War. The "encirclement myth" has bulked large in the writings of those who have sought to free Germany from the imputation of "war guilt", and Professor Kantorowicz formerly espoused it, but subsequent study has convinced him that the myth, while responsible for the war, was without foundation in fact. He marshals evidence, including the reports of the last four ambassadors of imperial Germany at London, to show that Great Britain was not seriously disturbed by Germany's commercial expansion, that it did not desire war and made no diplomatic preparations for it, and that the origin of the myth is to be ascribed

to the Kaiser, Chancellor von Bülow, and Admiral von Tirpitz in their efforts to arouse support for their big program of naval building. Preceding the particular exposition of this thesis, however, is a brilliant and sympathetic study of British national character which, to most readers, will prove more interesting than the later historical and diplomatic discussion. Professor Gilbert Murray, who contributes the Preface, counters Professor Kantorowicz's rather mocking allusion to Britain's "naïve faith in the efficiency of the League of Nations" by frankly asserting that "for us the success of the League is a matter of life or death". The German text has been revised and somewhat altered in translation.

WILLIAM MACDONALD

TWENTY THOUSAND YEARS IN  
SING SING by *Lewis E. Lawes* (LONG &  
SMITH. \$3.00)

THE title of this diverting volume by the Warden of the most famous American prison is misleading. To accurately describe its contents it should have been called "The Joys of Jail", for here we have a story, not of punishment for sins, but of comfort after crime. After a term in the army Mr. Lawes became a guard in Clinton Prison, at Dannemora, reckoned the severest place of confinement in New York State. Striped uniforms prevailed; limited rations, no talking between prisoners, and but small allowances of tobacco were the rule. Oppression hovered over the whole institution. Guards and keepers were expected to pay political assessments to the dominant political party. Lawes and another man refused to do this and expected soon to be out, but "somehow managed to hang on".

In a year he was transferred to Auburn, and in October, 1906, to the State Reforma-

tory at Elmira, where he spent eight "happy" years. Then, after another reformatory appointment at Hart's Island, he went as warden to Sing Sing in 1919. From this point on his book became picturesque and interesting. His first step was to warn William L. Ward and Michael Walsh, Republican and Democratic bosses of Westchester County, that from that time on politics would have no share in prison management. Both smilingly assented, and soon found it to be true. He began by offering to meet the prisoners halfway, and by every account he has done so. He reformed the prison Welfare League, having learned from a prisoner "that the intellectual part of the inmate population" had never been represented in it. He announced to the League's officers: "most of the inmates of this institution are decent individuals" and proceeded to deal with them on that humane and far-reaching basis.

What the Warden did was really to develop life behind the prison walls into a community. The musical were organized into a band that plays while the men march to their meals. The *Bulletin* was edited by a trained newspaper man, who had killed his wife. The bullying type of guard made way for men with some interest in the welfare of their charges. Prison life under these conditions became as tolerable as the inmates would permit it to be. Athletics were made important, after the Warden had cut out an arrangement whereby sundry prisoners were playing the races through outside telephone connections. So he is able to write: "As a matter of fact, during the last twenty-five years most prison administrations throughout the country have advanced more rapidly in moral tone than other public, quasi-public institutions, or even mercantile establishments". The worst prisoner the death house ever held was a woman who finally won her freedom.