

me asking, almost with tears in their eyes, how they may devote their lives to something more useful, more charged with dignity and integrity than selling bonds, peddling insurance or "going into business". After the revolution they will have no need for faltering advice; a hundred blazing opportunities will invite every trained and intelligent man and woman.

As to whether scientists and technicians, backed by the men and women who, like Mr. Chase, "have grasped the hand of science", are the logical administrators of the new system, Mr. Chase is equally clear:

We propose then a National Planning Board . . . supplemented by regional boards . . . manned by engineers, physical scientists, statisticians, economists, accountants, and lawyers. . . . The real work, the real thought, the real action must come from the technicians: that class most able, most clear-headed of all in American life, hitherto only half utilized in technical detail and in college class-rooms. Here, O boys and girls who come to me to ask what you may do to serve the commonweal, is opportunity as great, as thrilling, as any generation, save perhaps in Russia, has ever known.

Now there are many people who will suspect that all this is so much tommyrot. They will have grave difficulty in envisaging millions of workers perspiring in the interests of service to the state and the smooth working of the planned economy, rather than merely "going into business", and in picturing Wall Street millionaires purging themselves of their speculative urge (as Mr. Chase seriously suggests) by buying government lottery tickets. They will have to scratch their heads pretty hard to recall any impression they may have had that the proportion of capable and responsible administrators among scientific and technical men is noticeably higher than among any group of people with a high-school education, if they do not actually suspect that the reverse is true. And they will be hard put to it to convince them-

selves that there will be less buck-passing in a bureaucracy of engineers than in a bureaucracy made up of any other kind of reasonably human being. I do not say that they will be right and that Mr. Chase is wrong. I do say that there are still a large number of them, many of whom are capable of just as sound logic as Mr. Chase. Only they do not believe that human behaviour is as reasonable as Mr. Chase implies.

MARVIN MCCORD LOWES

MEN AND WOMEN OF PLANTAGENET ENGLAND by *Dorothy Margaret Stuart* (HARCOURT, BRACE. \$2.00)

PLANTAGENET England (1152-1485) saw what Pollard the historian calls the emergence of the English. During that period the English were bound into unity as a nation. It is the period of which mediaevalists like Chesterton sing, when life was lived gloriously without -isms of any sort. It was homogeneous, knitted together by chivalry, some serfdom, and the Church. Ecclesiastics, who might have been born tillers of the soil, held the reins of national government. The Church almost was the State. Chivalry was based upon Christian charity, for the good knight and the good squire were actuated to help the sick and the poor. Religious communities, such as those of convent and monastery, were not uncheerful places and did an immense amount of good in providing education and enlightenment, on the one hand, and alms, on the other.

The England Miss Stuart describes is this England of Chaucer, Langland, and Gower, when pilgrimages and miracle plays were common; the England of the great cathedrals of York, Winchester, Gloucester, and Wells, of stained glass, of the timber roof and the manor house, and of overeating, ostentatious (or superstitious) medicine (unless it came

from Salerno), and squelching lawyers' fees. It is the England of simple piety, in whose religion the Virgin Mary civilized and elevated the degraded status in which women had been held, and in which tournaments, jousting, and crusades lent strength to the warlike energies of the race. What people then ate, such as porpoises, seals, bustards, swans, and peacocks, is eloquent testimony to their stout stomachs, just as much as what and how they drank. The divers professions and callings which catered to the prominent classes, the various fine arts of armourer and of many guilds, are also all passed in review by Miss Stuart in an instructive, valuable, and well-written volume, indebted chiefly to manuscripts like the *Luttrell Psalter* and to Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. The worth of the book as a summation of the rites and habits of Englishmen which are not to be found *seriatim* in the literature of the time is subtle, but nevertheless large.

JAMES W. LANE

**MORE MERRY-GO-ROUND** *Anonymous*  
(LIVERIGHT. \$3.00)

THOSE Walter Winchells of Washington, the authors of *Washington Merry-Go-Round*, continue their phrase-making in this sequel. The book has a sprightly, malicious style, but little else. Newspaper men will recognize it as a job of "smart rewrite"; newspaper readers will feel little surprise at many of its "revelations", unless minor gossip startles them.

The writer of "inside stuff" undertakes a hard job. He must be utterly accurate in facts of record, or all he says is suspect. And he must not try to palm off public property as part of his store of special information, now at last revealed to the lucky reader. This book errs in both these ways.

The jacket blurb says, "For the first time

in the history of the country, the real inside story of members of the United States Supreme Court is told, who these men are, what they do, why". Those "inside" histories of the justices could be obtained from *Who's Who in America* and the files of newspapers in any large city. There is no evidence, for example, that the writers went far beyond the pages of *The New Yorker* and the New York *Herald Tribune* in preparing that of Justice Cardozo—except possibly to discover that Cardozo once taught law at Columbia University. Columbia regretfully denies this.

The authors of *More Merry-Go-Round* are thoroughly anti-conservative—one of their rare unalloyed compliments is for Senator Norris—and they indict conservatives on the Supreme Court bench of a high crime. They are also spitefully anti-Hoover. For subjects they choose: "Dance of the Depression", dealing with a miscellany of Washingtonians; "Nine Old Men", the Supreme Court Justices; "The Wizards of Reconstruction", Meyer and Mills; "The Cotillion Leader", Secretary of War Hurley; "Gold Braid and Epaulets", army officers; "Adams and His Admirals"; "Chief Cook and Bottle Washer", Postmaster Brown; "The Capital Underworld"; "Muscle Men" and "The Mutes", Senators; "Head Bouncer", Secretary of Labor Doak; "Lame Ducks", and "The Janizaries", lobbyists.

There are, of course, things wrong and things which might be better in Washington, but anonymous smart-alecking is not likely to cure the troubles.

DAN C. ANDERSON

**ROGER WILLIAMS** by *James Ernst* (MACMILLAN. \$4.00)

PRESENTED as the first full-length biography of Roger Williams, this book expounds the thesis that the place of Williams in the his-