

stand against her colonial peoples. It is here, in Asia, that Soviet ideology makes its great appeal; where the American government stands aloof, Russia offers something in the way of quasi (if temporary) freedom, and Britain offers the same outdated status of the past century.

As for Russia, Stowe apparently feels that she has swung from Communism slightly toward the Right. Here he will find disagreement as well as agreement, but not of the type he expects. It has been said elsewhere that in place of Leninism, Russia today has gangsterism, but, any way you look at it, the threat of Russia is all important. Important, too, is Stowe's theory that the sufferings in Europe have given impetus to Socialism rather than to Communism. England's new socialistic government is an indication. Stowe is frankly of the opinion that Socialism, or at least greater

government direction of economics, is the middle way, and for confirmation he points to the Scandinavian countries.

Worst of all (in his opinion) is our lack of interest in world affairs, and our indifference, even though the last war is not yet finished. His plea is for understanding; the threat the atomic age holds over us demands earnest appreciation of what events in any distant corner of the earth can mean for us. Our own skirts are hardly clean even in internal affairs: prejudice and class conflict are notably apparent. On both counts—what is wrong with our system, and the issues we must face quickly in the international sphere—Stowe offers an excellent book. The trouble is that not enough people read these things. If they did, there would be no problem, but Stowe has done his part in trying to draw attention to the issues.

BRIEFER COMMENT

THE WORLD SCENE

The Future in Perspective, by Sigmond Neumann, (Putnam, \$3.00), is an interesting review of the troubles of Europe since Bismarck's time. Indeed, for this purpose it is excellent; it is not detailed nor a textbook, but the facts are generally sketched in. The pages devoted to the future, however, are few and disappointing in that they offer little except optimism. After discussing World War I at length, then the period of adjustment which followed, and finally World War II, the author points to the decline of Eng-

land from first place. He expresses faith that Russia has enough to do at home to keep her from aggression; that faith seems presently unjustified. His hope is that Russia and the United States will find a way to collaborate; they are the titans whose cooperation must ensure world peace. In his opinion, the United Nations is the first step in the right direction. This is largely a volume of hopefulness, possibly too much so, and not incisive enough in its examination of causes.

It is with good reason that Hallett Abend hates everything Jap-

anese, and he has in previous books made that reason clear. Now, in *Reconquest*. Its Results and Responsibilities, (Doubleday, \$2.75), he reviews what has happened in Europe and in Asia. He was one of 13 writers to travel around the world under the sponsorship of the War Department in June, 1945. Some of his material is personal observation of individual errors on the part of enemy and ally, and this adds to our knowledge. Much of it has been told before. He didn't seem to find repentance in Germany or Austria or in the Orient either, and the Chungking regime receives scant praise. Britain apparently has his approval; he considers that she is already bent on a new deal for her colonies. Russia, however, is set on still greater expansion, partly condoned by the secret agreements made at Yalta and elsewhere.

John Dos Passos in *Tour of Duty*, (Houghton, Mifflin, \$3.00), is more objective in the recital of a swing from San Francisco to Honolulu and the Orient, thence to post-war Germany. This was also in 1945. Dos Passos offers no interpretations or opinions, but reports his observations about American G.I.'s, the Nazi's victims in the Far East islands, the German prisoners and D.P.'s after V-E Day. Most of the chapters appeared in *Life* for which Dos Passos was a war correspondent. Of particular interest are the stories of the "little people"—the unimportant pawns or victims of war—told in the author's effective style.

WAR

No Woman's World, by Iris Carpenter, (Houghton, Mifflin, \$3.00),

is the story of a British war correspondent with the invasion forces after D-Day. There is a good deal of detailed description of civilians and troops, and the strategy of the operations. Naturally, this is from the British viewpoint, which means the other side of the discussion, but Miss Carpenter evidently thought Bradley's ideas good. There is much about the fighting, casualties and differences of top opinion. The unusual feature is that it is a woman who saw these things, but her reactions seem to have been identical with those of the men.

AT HOME

While we are being fed with pleas and prayers to help this or that foreign land re-establish itself economically or convert from a primitive country to a modern state, it is well to consider our United States in the low standard sections. *The Revolt of the South and West*, by A. G. Mezerik (Duell, Sloan & Pearce, \$3.00), bitterly attacks the Eastern monopolies and financiers for their constant controls over other sections. Part of it is the familiar protest against our big corporations, but the author presents facts to support his contentions. Part of the trouble seems to lie in the failure of politicians and lawmakers to regulate impartially the common carriers. Mezerick shows that Big Business induced bias even in wartime in governmental procedures. Add this to the books which try to wake up America.

The inside story of the conversion of American industry to a wartime basis is told in *Arsenal of Democracy*, by Donald M. Nelson (Har-