

A Check List of Forthcoming Books

BALKAN BACKGROUND, by Bernard Newman. Macmillan. This review of the Balkans takes up each country separately, giving information on the racial origins of the peoples of Bulgaria, Romania, Yugoslavia, Albania, Greece and Turkey, on their histories, economic problems and present (1943) conditions. A brief general summary treats of the natural similarities in these peasant countries, the nature of the people and the influence outside factors have had on the Balkan scene.

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THE RECONSTRUCTION OF WORLD AGRICULTURE, by Karl Brandt. W. W. Norton. A study of the world food situation in which Dr. Brandt discusses the changes war has forced upon agriculture, and outlines policies for the peace era. He examines the first World War and its effect upon world agriculture, the trends of the twenties and thirties, the present war in relation to the food problems inside fortress Europe and the Japanese occupied areas, and the agricultural adjustments that will be required during the demobilization period.

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BRAVE MEN, by Ernie Pyle. Henry Holt. Like his first book, the Pulitzer prize-winning *Here Is Your War*, Ernie Pyle's *Brave Men* reports the human side of the war. Based upon his dispatches as cabled from Sicily, Anzio, England and France, it covers the period from July 1943 to September 1944.

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GENERAL IKE. A Biography of Dwight D. Eisenhower, by Alden Hatch. Henry Holt. The story of General Eisenhower's life. The author follows General Ike's life and career from his Kansas boyhood up to his present role as commanding general of the invasion forces.

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FIGHTING LIBERAL. An Autobiography, by George W. Norris. The late Senator Norris' own review of his life which tells of his childhood on an Ohio farm, his struggle for an education and his Washington career, where after his election to Congress in 1903 he served for forty years.

To Men of Good Will

"CO-OPS PLAN FOR THE POST WAR WORLD." Cooperative League of the U.S.A. \$.50

FOR a steady reading diet this reviewer would not ordinarily recommend reports on confer-

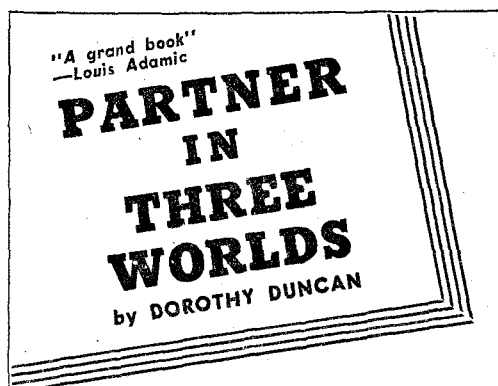
ence proceedings. But this pamphlet is so extraordinary in its social potentialities for all men of good will that it deserves the undivided attention of everyone concerned with restoring a broken world.

How can the devastated peoples of the world be most quickly, efficiently and inexpensively rehabilitated? And why aren't established, world-wide cooperative agencies best equipped to do the job?

The conclusions the speakers reached leave little doubt that cooperative organization, because of the very tenets on which it is founded, could best fulfill the obligations of the Allied Governments in performing this enormous task.

Their arguments are sound and they ring with a conviction born of a century of successful experience in raising living standards for more than one quarter of the population of the globe through the unique cooperative method of distribution. No one interested in the problems that will face the postwar world should fail to read this stimulating report.

L. HOWARD MOSS



Austro-Hungarian, Czechoslovakian, American — Jan Rieger has lived in three unique worlds. His life as seen through the eyes of an American is richly significant, for the future of humanity depends upon the success with which America adjusts itself to him and to his kind.

"Its paramount significance to Americans is its picture of the differences between Central European and American ways of thinking about everyday things. It will be highly prized as the vivid record of a life that developed to a very high pitch." \$2.75

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Democracy on Paper

PRELUDE TO SILENCE, by Arnold Brecht. Oxford University Press. 146 pages. \$2.00

I DON'T know whether Arnold Brecht, high-ranking official of the German civil service during the Weimar period, has the ambition of playing a political role in post-Hitler Germany. If so, that would be too bad, for this man, though he appears to be sincere, proves by his book "Prelude to Silence" (Oxford University Press) that he is incapable of understanding the German problem. He is still bewildered by the fact that the Nazis could ever come to power, and it is beyond his formalistic mind—so typical of the higher ranks of the Weimar bureaucracy—that definitions, constitutions or laws alone do not create nations and do not prevent people from trespassing them. Hopelessly entangled in a network of legalistic phrases, Brecht cannot conceive of the possibility of swift action to crush the enemy of liberty, preferring instead to admonish him to remain "constitutional."

In spite of his presumably honest efforts to discover what is wrong with Germany, Brecht is, nevertheless, trying to confuse the reader with a pedantic terminology. His definition of fascism which, in the case of National Socialism,

is particularly erroneous, gives him the opportunity of twisting a good deal of the history of Weimar in much the same manner as Shuster and Bergstraesser have done it. To Brecht, the nationalist parties in pre-Hitler Germany were not fascist, which, in a narrow and formalistic sense, is correct. But they were reactionary and they promoted the idea of a war of revenge, and in that respect they became rallying centers for fascist aspirations.

At one time, Brecht seems to see the light. On page 141 he says that the legalistic safeguards for a certain article of the Constitution proved inadequate, "especially in a country with authoritarian tradition." Very well, the rulers of the Weimar Republic, instead of permitting their enemies to gain strength "legally," first should have destroyed them, and with them the authoritarian tradition, and then should have started democracy. That German democracy remained merely on paper, disregarded by both "conservatives" and fascists, is largely the fault of people like Brecht, who were unable or unwilling to see the essential things and to act accordingly. I am afraid that these people will be of little help in a new Germany, if it really is to be a new one.

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