

daring rescues of beautiful women. He is introduced to insidious and deadly new gases and to picturesque characters in high and low life. He is furnished with an unanswerably crushing rejoinder: "Go to Hell!" Try it on the landlord. Mr. Rowland writes with dash and assurance; his novel was first serialized in the *Saturday Evening Post*. It seems a shame that so much energy should be dissipated on arid and superficial ideas.

JOHN W. CRAWFORD

## Colors of Spain

*Terassa of Spain.* By Horace Fish. Mitchell Kennerley. \$2.50.

HORACE FISH'S first novel, "The Great Way," disclosed a spirit strange to contemporary America, unhurrying, given to exploring and recording sentiment, of which American writers seem so much afraid when it is not a matter of "love story" merely. The passion of his book and its humor distinguished it. It was so thoroughly felt throughout. In "Terassa of Spain" he is again vindicating the humanity that subsists between people, old or young men, women, children, in the feeling they have for one another. Possibly the town of Terassa about which these ten stories are grouped has existence only in Mr. Fish's imagination. It is again, as was Dulce in "The Great Way," a vehicle, as the benevolent padre Pedro, the loving, suffering human beings and amusing little boys of Terassa are vehicles of the subtlest propaganda of the fiction writer—persuading of the loveliness of people. The realm this writer's mind inhabits is neither modern America nor dusty and sun-baked Spain. He draws his colors, of the vividest, from a sunny Spanish hill town, it is true, from the bull ring of Barcelona, from word and trait of old priest, wayward girl, circus clown, or bandit. But it is not Spain, it is fiction one encounters here, suited in phrasing sometimes heavily ornate to its romantic content, in sharp contrast with the incisive literalness of a James Joyce in "Dubliners," for example, or even of Proust. If the passion of words causes Horace Fish at times to over-write, it also gives the richness of masterpieces to *The Fighting Iris* and *The Horns of El Dilemma*, stories less written than modeled out of the golden atmosphere of Barcelona with its rags and destitution, its gorgeous crowd, its black-garbed padre, and the vivid tragedy of the bull ring. Of *Apasionada* one can say only it is sheer music. This book of stories makes one wonder what Mr. Fish's progress will be—since another novel is already announced—whether farther into the sentiment of exotic realms, or toward the hastening, noisy, struggling modern world from which his spirit seems so distant. He is one to be watched, for he is now one of our most distinguished prosemen of fiction.

HERBERT J. SELIGMANN

## A Philosophical Detective Story

*The Emperor's Old Clothes.* By Frank Heller. Translated by Robert Emmons Lee. Thomas Y. Crowell Company. \$2.

WHEN the book in question is a novel which has no literary pretensions, but wants to be judged purely from the point of view of so-called "entertainment," then the question naturally is—especially in detective stories like this one—whether the idea is plausible, and whether the mystifying element, that is the suspense, is worked out well enough for the interest to be held to the end. And if these principles are adhered to, and the story is well written, then the book can lay claim to be called "good light fiction." But if in addition to all these points the author permeates his work with a delightful sense of humor, not too proud to joke on his own account, interpolating into the speech of his characters mellow bits of philosophy, then it becomes the duty of the reviewer to remove the book from the rank of light fiction and set it into a place of its own, not too far from the so-called serious books. This reviewer will not tell the story for fear of spoiling the

pleasure of the reader. He will content himself with saying that it deals with the adventures of a writer of detective stories, a man of sedentary habits, who becomes conscience stricken over the fact that he has never witnessed a murder, nor even seen an honest-to-goodness burglar. If a philosophical romance is possible, there is no reason why there should not be a philosophical detective story. And that is what this is.

NATHAN ASCH

## Gipsy Tales

*Murdo.* By Konrad Bercovici. Boni and Liveright. \$2.

TO say that the short stories of Konrad Bercovici are better than the work of most of his contemporaries is to say little. In the Gipsy sagas which he relates is the breath of freedom, the rhythm of poetry, and the sense of intimacy that proves the close imaginative relationship between author and his wild creations. Such a combination is obviously impossible to him who finds subject matter in the current of civilized and humdrum life, and it is not for him who seeks to report the incidents observed in alien surroundings.

It is therefore a foregone conclusion that "Murdo" will have an enthusiastic reception from discriminating readers. Yet it is just as certain that the book will not enhance Mr. Bercovici's reputation. For "Murdo," valuable and interesting in itself, adds nothing to the stature of the author of "Ghitza"; it is an enlargement, not a growth. Moreover, the proportion of stories in this volume which are constructed rather than realized is an indication that Mr. Bercovici has now emptied the bin where the seeds of these tales were stored. Let us hope that the Death of Murdo is the last of his adventures, that he will not return like Sherlock Holmes or Mr. Dooley to sadden us with dull and trivial repetitions of former successes.

JOHAN J. SMERTENKO

## Books in Brief

*The Poetical Works of Leigh Hunt.* Edited by H. S. Milford. Oxford University Press, American Branch. \$3.

This volume, in the admirable Oxford Poets series, is the first "fairly complete" edition of the verse of a minor poet who is also a minor essayist. The two minors come close to making a major.

*Self Healing Through Autosuggestion.* By Dr. C. F. Winbigler. American Library Service. \$1.25.

The impression that one gets from this book is that Dr. Winbigler would have the reader believe that he, Dr. Winbigler, has just stepped down from the Olympic heights where he wrote what he calls his "large work on suggestion" in order to chat patronizingly with ordinary folk. At the end of the book he gives some formulae for the relief of insomnia and constipation and a few similar common ills. While M. Coué is mentioned but rarely in the text there is obvious similarity in much of the subject matter. Some of the physiological statements in the book are quaint.

*English Words and their Background.* By George H. McKnight, Ph.D. D. Appleton and Company. \$2.50.

This is a most interesting book. Mr. McKnight makes the study of words a fascinating, romantic sort of adventure. He gives us no suffocating textbook, no philological dry rot, but shows rather how words "illustrate the cultural progress of the race, not only the development of the material elements of civilization, but the progress in knowledge and the changes that have affected modes of thought." Nor does he assume the role of a word dictator. Always accurate and scientific in his presentation, Mr. McKnight is able by means of suggestion and analogy to build up a story of words which, in their infinite possibilities, in their continual state of flux, make up a story of mankind.

# International Relations Section

## Japanese Students Show Their Opposition to Militarism

U PROAR and expressions of opposition from students took place at the inauguration ceremony of the Waseda University Gunji Kenkyu-dan (Society for the Study of Military Affairs) on May 10, last. As the *Japan Chronicle* tells the story,

Several automobiles of the War Office carried about thirty army and navy officers to the school, including General Shirakawa, the Vice-Minister for War, Generals Nakashima and Ishimitsu, the commanders of the Imperial Guard Division and the First Division, Admiral Furukawa, the director of the education bureau of the Navy Office, Admiral Tsuneda, of the Naval General Staff, and others, their breasts shining with decorations. At the entrance of the university was hanging a flag with characters: "Down with Militarism! Capture the Meeting Hall! Anti-Society for the Study of Military Affairs." When the military officers were entering the hall of meeting, one of the anti-society members cried: "Behold those human butchers!" At the appointed time there was, besides the professors and seventy members of the society, an audience of nearly a thousand students.

Professor Aoyagi, the president of the society, took the rostrum and began: "I—" A student from the audience completed the sentence with "—am a militarist." Loud laughter greeted this sally, which was followed by: "Be ashamed of yourself, Aoyagi!" "He feels no shame; he has sold his soul to the militarists." Professor Aoyagi turned pale, says the *Asahi*, but he courageously said that liberty and discipline never were in conflict. They (the members) were not proclaiming militarism, but nationalism. The rest of his speech was drowned in the noise. The military officers compressed their lips and looked darkly at the disorder. "Who admitted these swash-bucklers into the students' school?" one cried. "Drag them out!" shouted others.

Dr. Shiozawa then took the rostrum and said the audience misunderstood something. "Nothing whatever!" shouted the students.

"Was not Marquis Okuma the president of the Soldiers' Friends Society?" asked Dr. Shiozawa. "Don't misrepresent the spirit of the marquis!" shouted the students. The doctor concluded his speech saying that militaristic national defense was international. Look at Russia. Look at America. They were devoting all their might.

Dr. Takada [the new president of the university], who had been fidgeting in his chair with impatience, betook himself to the platform and gazed on the students fixedly. "Reflect, Takada!" the students shouted, "Have you forgotten the 16th year of Meiji?" (when he stoutly attacked militarism). Dr. Takada turned scarlet with anger and cried that a nation constitutionally governed should respect the liberty of speech at public meetings. He recounted the views of the late Marquis Okuma concerning the army, and said that when you saw the present condition of America which strongly advocates liberty and equality—"There! That's militarism." Another noise.) If there were militarism actually, it should be destroyed as soon as possible. It must be part of the business of the society. But, he cried, the Waseda University ought to be ashamed of their conduct. He returned to his seat trembling with excitement.

General Shirakawa, the Vice-Minister of War, then read an address on behalf of the War Minister. A voice cried that blood was dripping from the decoration on the breast of the speaker. Another student sang: "Thousands die to raise one hero to fame." Then the members of the anti-society began to sing the

school song in chorus. Several more officers made speeches, but they were drowned in the noise, and the meeting was closed at 4:20 p.m. in confusion.

The *Japan Chronicle* goes on to say that the opponents of the Society for the Study of Military Affairs at Waseda University, having converted the meeting of that society into a mild riot on May 10, called a meeting of their own two days later. They were in turn raided by the advocates of military advancement, and the interruptions led to blows. Six students were seriously injured.

The next day the Kensetsu-sha (Construction Society) of the university, having among its members some of the younger professors, including Messrs. Kitazawa Shinjiro, Oyama Ikuo, and Mr. Sano Manabu, called an emergency meeting and passed resolutions, in the course of which it was said:

We disapprove of the attitude of Dr. Takada and Dr. Shiozawa at the inauguration of the Society for the Study of Military Affairs. They should be impeached in the presence of the Construction Society.

The Society for the Study of Military Affairs invited militarists, including General Shirakawa, the Vice-Minister of War, to the inauguration ceremony. We have reason to suspect that the society has joined hands with the military clique, and has been made the cat's-paw of the militarists. The society should be accused.

Both the *Mainichi* and the *Asahi* state that the police are preparing for action against the Socialists at Waseda and other universities. The former paper makes special mention of the Waseda professors who are on the official black list for their socialistic activities, and it happens that three of them are those who supported the anti-militarist students in their protest against the manner of organizing the Society for the Study of Military Affairs at the University. The militarist students seem to have taken this as an encouragement to themselves and have demanded the punishment of professors and students who "inculcate unpatriotic ideas." The *Mainichi* states that the special higher section of the metropolitan police considers that four professors of the Waseda University, Messrs. Sano Gaku, Inomata Tsunao, Oyama Ikuo, and Kitazawa Shinnosuke, who are on the black list, have gone beyond the bounds of theoretical study of socialism, and entered into the practical movement. They are alleged to be developing a tendency to bolshevize Japanese students.

On account of the opposition to the Society for the Study of Military Affairs, its organizers at the Waseda University dissolved it, but were later understood to be looking toward reorganization. The *Japan Chronicle* has this to say of the scheme which has led to so much opposition:

According to report, the scheme which is supposed to be under discussion between the War Office and the Educational Department, the Home Office and the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, consists not only in extending the term of obligatory education but administering thoroughgoing military education at the universities, middle schools, and elementary schools with the object of reducing the term of barrack service, officers in active service being dispatched to the schools for the purpose and the enforcement of the training being regulated by Imperial Ordinance or War Office Ordinance investing the army with full powers. If so, this would be an attempt at making preparatory military training a compulsory part of school education—at militarizing the nation rather than nationalizing the army.