

peacefully the glorious day when he shall receive the holy oil in the lawyer's office."

The story is of a man who died before he became king. His mother holds the purse. Waiting for her to die, he passes from one dream to the next, from one faint desire to another, all aborted and all essentially empty because they carry no meaning to his middle-class world, which he is not strong enough to despise. There is no value in dreams except when read in terms of purchase and sale. So he waits, emptying his own faint life and the lives of those he touches.

The author sits on a fence and spits down, but gently. Sometimes he is sorry that the middle class is decaying, sometimes he is glad. Sometimes he says "She (Marlise, the mother-symbol of the middle class) has often called my attention to the fact that poverty and sickness weaken the worker's arm. In order that the worker should give a good account of himself he must have enough to eat, he must be sturdy, and in the course of the year he must have a certain number of hours of amusement." And afterward, "All this does not alter the fact that Marlise has never refused a loaf of bread to a poor man or a bottle of wine to a sick one." If the author recognizes the nature of an exploiting class which gives the worker only enough to reproduce his labor and himself, doling out a few clipped pennies behind a paternal smirk, well, the world, even decayed, is too much with us. It is simpler to give sentiment for truth, nostalgia for action.

LOUIS LERMAN.

Anti-Negro Propaganda

DON'T YOU WEEP, DON'T YOU MOAN, by Richard Coleman. Macmillan Co. \$2.50.

"IN THIS novel," says the blurb, "there are all the superstition, the primitive fanaticism, the sensuality, light heartedness and easy humor of the black man. . . . There is the violence that cannot be dissociated from the illiterate Negro's character."

Laying the scene in Charleston, Coleman follows the above easy formula and strings together a series of incidents designed to bolster up a preconceived viewpoint. Everyone of the old minstrel show clichés is illustrated at great length. There are sensual dances, crap games, easy seductions, watermelon feasts, razor battles, fish fries and a final maudlin ending with our hero returned to the soil—all primitive people love the soil, you know.

The whites in the novel stand in careful contrast. They are Good White Folks who "love" and "trust" their Negroes and at the same time rule with a firm hand. One doesn't have to be told in so many words that it is just and proper that these whites should be the rulers and Negroes the ruled.

And, as Mr. Coleman is careful to point out, it follows that the only Negroes who amount to a tinker's damn are those reared

and tutored by the superior whites. All other black people, in his own words, are just "niggers."

The result is an intensely schematic novel, grist in the mill for the Hundred Percenters, and the rankest kind of anti-Negro propaganda.

LOREN MILLER.

Made in America

FASCISM AND AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP, by George Norlin. (The University of North Carolina Press. \$1.00.)

USING as his point of departure the advent of fascism in Germany, the author, who is president of the University of Colorado and was for some months before and after Hitler's coming into power guest professor at the University of Berlin, sets out to impress upon us the necessity of "preserving our democracy against the onslaughts of dictatorship."

Unfortunately, all that can be said for this treatise is that it displays some measure of literary taste and an amount of erudition fit and proper for a college president. If the problem with which it is supposed to deal were not so serious and immediate, one might in great kindness classify it as a hopelessly muddled essay by a sophomore who wished to impress his teacher with the

breadth of his reading.

But Mr. Norlin's essay cannot be dismissed so lightly. His generous concessions to the advantages of fascism in reviving Spartan virtues of simplicity and sacrifice, and his final plea for nationalism, is the dangerous stuff of which the intellectual followers of fascism are so readily made.

Mr. Norlin's Christianity is offended by the sentimental appeal which Hitler makes to Germany to follow the Old Norse Gods.

But Norlin would make a similar gesture in his desire to have the American "mob" turn away from their preoccupation with problems of economics and politics and follow the Hollywood version of *Little Women*. "In it" he found "a happy rediscovery of America." In this connection it is also interesting to note that on the one occasion where Mr. Norlin refers to Communism by name he condemns its "disintegrating influence in Germany" as a partial justification for the Hitler regime which he professes to despise, and that on other occasions, while he had something good to say about fascism, he clearly hints that "subversive" forces at work in our society should be suppressed.

Mr. Norlin is one of those university presidents, all too common to-day, who express dislike of fascism made in Germany, but yearn for an American brand.

BEN GOLDSTEIN.

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Brief Review

A BETTER ECONOMIC ORDER, by John A. Ryan. (Harper & Bros. \$2.50.) Father Ryan ought to read Earl Browder's pamphlet on religion to see how much better informed Communists are on religion than the holy brethren are on Communism. Ryan's book is easy reading, popular economics, making the banal misjudgments and misrepresentations of the Communist position and advocating, as might be expected, the continuation of the profit system, "subjected to the restraints of reason and justice" in a guild-like system, based upon "harmony" between employers and employees.

YOUNG WARD'S DIARY. Edited by Bernhard J. Stern. (G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$3.) The famous sociologist Ward kept a diary covering the formative years of his struggles to rise from the worker's lot, by hard work, into the realms of scholarship. It is naive and honest and contains interesting sidelights on contemporary social and economic conditions. Dr. Stern's excellent and comprehensive foreword is illuminating.

RICH MAN, POOR MAN, by Ryllis Alexander Goslin and Omar Pancoast Goslin. (Harper & Bros. \$1.) For simplicity of statement and illustration this picture-book primer, issued by the People's League for Economic Security, is a model. The problem could scarcely be more pithily and concretely stated. In the matter of solutions, however, we have a formation of "oughts" winged with "ifs"—Stable money; credit control; government operation of industries; government control of natural resources; power plants and transportation; government entering the field of distribution through a controlled system of cooperatives. But what kind of government would want to and be able to do these things; and how? These embarrassing considerations get no attention.

SHOVELS AND GUNS. *The C. C. C. in Action*, by James Lasswell. *International Pamphlet No. 45*. (International Pamphlets. 3 cents.) That the C. C. C., one of the very few administration measures tenderly let alone by Republican critics and enthusiastically indorsed by The Wall Street Journal, is a disguised method of militarizing the unemployed youth is forcefully and convincingly demonstrated in this well written and fully documented pamphlet.

MARBLE AND MUD, by Jane Burr. (The Compo Press. \$1.) Exposé, professedly from the inside of high society life, showing its degradation, the chief motif being the seeping into the upper class matriarchate of the psychology of the keptee. Poorly done.

ASYLUM, by William Seabrook. (Harcourt, Brace & Co. \$2.) The well-known travel writer describes how he had himself committed for alcoholism to "one of the old-

est and largest asylums in the East," and after seven months emerged cured. In the later chapters there is some interesting analysis of a drunkard's predicament, but in the main this book is aimed at popular entertainment at the expense of the inmates and the author misses a fine opportunity to describe how a man with obvious talents for geographical observation must become, under capitalism, a sensational jazz-writer.

WE TOO ARE DRIFTING, by Gale Wilhelm. (Random House. \$2.) This story of a Lesbian triangle in two hundred pages is well written in the Hemingway manner and has all the omissions and ingredients of a popular appeal, but deals only with the superficial and brutal side of the question. San Francisco in recent years is the background, but the reader will hear no echoes of the tremendous social struggles going on there at the same time.

I WAS HITLER'S PRISONER, by Stefan Lorant. (G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$2.75.) Lorant was not a Communist, Socialist, pacifist or Jew. He was a nationalist who like the Austrian Hitler, was of foreign extraction. He came from Hungary. The only explicable cause for his arrest was the fact of his editing a journal in competition with a more favored Nazi organ. His unique, gruesomely absorbing diary is a damning document in the overwhelming indictment of Naziism.

MEN OF TURMOIL: Biographies by Leading Authorities of the Dominating Personalities of Our Day. (Minton, Balch and Company. \$3.75.) The "great contemporaries" number thirty-seven. Being an English book, the largest national group is English. It includes political figures, inventors, writers, musicians, artists and holy men. The best biography by far is that of Stalin by Ralph Fox. The competition is keener for the worst. Disquieting is the fact that in this volume, expressing in the main a liberal, intellectual viewpoint, not only in the biographies of dictators like Hitler, Mussolini, Kemal and Ibn' Saud, but almost wherever allusion is made to the political scene, there is a curious reverence and yearning for dictatorship.

A SHORT HISTORY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, by Dr. Kamil Krofta. (Robert W. McBride and Co. \$2.)

The author is the present head of the Czechoslovak Foreign Office and has served as his country's ambassador to four foreign capitals. His book is, consequently, an extremely poker-faced history—an official document intended for consumption abroad. In a consideration of his country's remote past, where Mr. Krofta can afford to relax from diplomatic caution, he shows no historical acumen. For instance, the movement for religious reform, the development of cities and their bourgeoisie, and the awakening of a Czech nationalism all of which happened together are treated separately without an effort to understand their inter-relationship.

CORNISH OF SCOTLAND YARD, by G. W. Cornish. (The Macmillan Company. \$2.) Crudely written, this book by an ex-superintendent of Scotland Yard reveals that an understanding of criminal psychology and of the social determinants of crime are apparently not regarded as important equipment for capitalist police officials.

TSAR OF FREEDOM. Life and Reign of Alexander II by Stephen Graham. Illustrated. (Yale University Press. \$3.50.)

The fact that in the reign of Alexander II, Russia produced Dostoevsky, Tolstoy and Turgenev, makes Mr. Graham respectful. The present volume, therefore, is free of the peculiar racial slanders that marked his treatment of Russians in his biographies of Ivan the Terrible and Boris Godunov. Even here, however, speaking of the venality of czarist officialdom, he cannot forbear a return to racial prejudice and attributes it to oriental infiltration into the Russian stock. This is an indication of the unscientific temper of Mr. Graham's mind. Alexander II is a hero to him because he approaches the type of an English gentleman. The corrupt Greek Orthodox Church becomes a beautiful vessel of mysticism; the serf emancipation which fastened economic bonds upon the peasantry is seen in none of its economic realities; czarist imperialism is even given some laurels; and, of course, all references to Soviet Russia are in a tone of inarticulate horror. All that can be said for the author is that he has a good, plain, narrative style that had been much better employed on, let us say, ghost stories.

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