

NOON WINE

by

Katherine Anne Porter

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Dorothy Brewster, in her review in the *New Masses* writes: "Noon-Wine has been five years in the writing... well worth waiting for."

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of stock accusations. But Trotsky is also wrong. In fact, everybody is out of step but Albert Weisbord. The upshot of this ponderous flow of verbiage is a four-point program offered as a substitute for the Communist Party's program as well as for that of the Socialists, the Syndicalists, and the Fourth International:

"(1) To develop the direct action of the masses through raising the slogans *General Strike, Lynch the Lynchers of the Negroes and Poor Toilers, Open the Factories to the Unemployed and the Warehouses to the Hungry, Workers' Control over Production.* (2) To build up the revolutionary mass organizations of the proletariat, particularly their independent militant unions and mass defense groups. (3) To utilize every form possible by which to move the workers from the old liberal classless ideology to the Communist ideology of the class struggle. (4) To conduct a vigorous struggle against all the out-worn forms of European socialism and communism, the lack of initiative of the Germans, the lack of organization of the French, the idealization of the peasantry of the Russians, the parliamentarianism of the English and so forth."

These few lines are all that Weisbord contributes to the solution of the tremendous problems with which he has fumbled. This is the so-called program "which a truly American Communist movement will not hesitate to adopt when the American proletariat has come of age and is ready to take its rightful place in the world struggle for power"—under the leadership, presumably, of the author. What is sensible in this program stems, of course, from the Communist Party; what is silly is the author's own contribution. The whole of it is so meager, so poverty-stricken, so unrelated to the actual world, that it can only be dismissed as the pathetic fantasy of a political narcissist.

ROBERT EVANS.

Recent Books on the Supreme Court

NINE OLD MEN AT THE CROSSROADS, by Drew Pearson and Robert S. Allen. Doubleday, Doran & Co. 25c.

Carries the story of the Nine Old Men up to the moment and shows that Washington is still going round merrily. Attempts to account for the opposition of certain former liberals, like Wheeler and Nye, to the President's Court proposal.

DEMOCRACY AND THE SUPREME COURT, by Robert K. Carr. University of Oklahoma Press. \$1.50.

This book reviews the Supreme Court issue, and is particularly valuable for its analysis of the decisions on New Deal legislation. Liberal in intent, indecisive in its conclusions.

SELECTED SUPREME COURT DECISIONS, edited and arranged by Myer Cohen. Harper & Bros. \$2.50.

Excerpts from historic decisions, arranged in order to illustrate the Supreme Court's attitudes, past and present, towards the constitutionality of legislation affecting labor, the New Deal, competition and monopoly, federal powers, etc.

THE ULTIMATE POWER, by Morris L. Ernst. Doubleday, Doran & Co. \$3.

A constitutional history of the United States in outline, by a prominent liberal lawyer. Excellent reading and generally sound. Conclusion: "Democracy in a complex society can persist only if the ultimate power of government flows without hind-

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rance from the people to their elected responsive officials. The frustration of congressional action by judicial interpretation requires Congress to choose between surrender and leadership."

THE SUPREME COURT ISSUE AND THE CONSTITUTION, edited by W. R. Barnes and A. W. Littlefield. Barnes & Noble. \$1.

A debater's handbook containing opinions on the Court issue by everybody from Oscar Ameringer to Ray Lyman Wilbur, together with useful charts and tables.

SUPREME COURT PRIMER, by Ernest Angell. Reynal & Hitchcock. \$1.

Another handbook, more attractive in format than the above. Contains a review of the Court question, a collection of representative opinions, and a table of decisions invalidating acts of Congress.

Brief Review

WHO'S WHO IN THE ZOO. Prepared by Workers of the W.P.A. Federal Writers' Project in New York City. Sponsored by the Guild's Committee for Federal Writers' Publications, Inc. Published by Halcyon House. \$1.69.

The W.P.A. writers have produced an entertaining picture book by dividing the 4000 known mammal species of the animal kingdom into seventy-eight representative types. The photo editors have done an excellent job in collecting the hundred or more well-printed camera portrayals which are the real *pièce de résistance* of the book. Most of them (and the best ones) bear the credit line of the New York Zoological Society. Ad F. Reinhardt, borrowed from the Federal Art Project for the occasion, has contributed comprehensive decorative head-piece portraits of each species against a background map of its habitat. The written descriptions are provokingly scant, however, and in most cases the reader will wish the writers had done a little more writing, even though the book's aim, as stated modestly in its foreword, is merely to "so arouse the curiosity of our readers as to compel them to explore further into the absorbing annals of wild life." C. J.



Recently Recommended Books

Three Ways of Modern Man, by Harry Slochower. With an introduction by Kenneth Burke. International. Regular, \$2; popular, \$1.50.

Harriet Beecher Stowe, by Catherine Gilbertson. Appleton-Century. \$3.50.

The Fall of the City, by Archibald MacLeish. Farrar & Rinehart. 50c.

Forty Years on Main Street, by William Allen White. Compiled by Russell H. Fitzgibbon from the columns of the Emporia Gazette. Farrar & Rinehart. \$3.

False Security, by Bernard J. Reis. Equinox. \$2.75. Towards the Christian Revolution, edited by R. B. Y. Scott and Gregory Vlastos. Willett, Clark. \$2.

Noon Wine, by Katherine Anne Porter. Schuman's. \$5.

Living China: Modern Chinese Short Stories. Compiled and edited by Edgar Snow. Reynal & Hitchcock. \$2.50.

Predecessors of Adam Smith, by E. A. J. Johnson. Prentice-Hall. \$3.50.

In the American Jungle, by Waldo Frank. Farrar & Rinehart. \$2.50.

The New Soviet Constitution, by Anna Louise Strong. Holt. \$1.50.

Bonaparte, by Eugene Tarlé. Knight. \$4.50.

The Tragic Fallacy: A Study of America's War Policies, by Mauritz A. Hallgren. Knopf. \$4.

The Cock's Funeral, by Ben Field, with an introduction by Erskine Caldwell. International. \$1.25.

Mathematics for the Million, by Lancelot Hogben. Illustrations by J. F. Horrabin. Norton. \$3.75.

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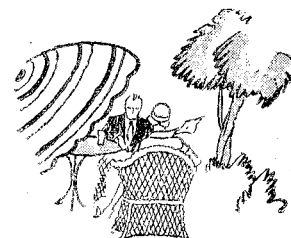
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