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Such, indeed, were the democratic concomitants of even the negative aspects of a people's war.

INGRAM BANDER.

Too Dormant

RUNNING TO PARADISE, by John Lodwick. Dodd, Mead. \$2.75.

IF "RUNNING TO PARADISE" were a documentary film instead of a novel, you would probably say, as you left the movie house, that the direction and photography were pretty awful, but that the material itself saved the picture. The material, in this case, is the French defeat of some three years ago, as seen by a Foreign Legionnaire. John Lodwick, the author, fought in the Battle of Soissons and in the Second Battle of the Marne, and could hardly help noticing the more striking details of what went on about him. Thus, the criminal negligence of the High Command, the desperate desire of the common soldier to resist, the panic that sometimes overcame men who were without arms or leadership—all these are clear enough despite the author's pathetic political ignorance and even more pathetic prose. Mr. Lodwick has much to learn about characterization; among other things, he refers to all Jews as hook-nosed and to all Negroes as unintelligent—dangerous, inaccurate words which delight the Nazis.

It isn't that the author is vicious: he's just uninformed. He thinks of his hero (i.e., himself) as a regular hellcat, always drinking and fighting and talking about women in a way that shows that he knows the difference between the sexes. The compulsion to make this British-type fraternity boy seem profound and thoughtful leads to a mass of dreary speculations and to such striking observations as that "there is a destiny that shapes our ends" and that "in the souls of all men a hyena of greed lies sleeping." *Something* lies sleeping—probably the hero, who is appropriately named Dormant. Dormant muddles through two great battles of a most hopelessly confused war, is put into a French prison camp for no good reason, is treated like a dog generally because he has fought the Germans and wishes to fight them again, and yet remains as unconscious as ever of the nature of the cruel dilemma forced upon France by Daladier and his fascist friends. He is ignorant enough to describe a Marxist character as a spreader of "chauvinistic" propaganda. Further evidence of this obtuseness is the author's constant striving for the kind of whimsical travel essay perfected by writers like Robert Louis Stevenson and Margaret Halsey. Nothing could be more grotesque, considering the grim subject matter. In fact, Mr. Lodwick seems to have learned nothing from his experiences. He boasts of having joined up mainly to get something to write about, and apparently he is telling

the truth.

The best parts are the battle scenes and the pictures of the people whom Dormant meets while escaping. There are good descriptions of reactionary officialdom and of the mechanics of Nazi occupation. These passages, which present men in desperate combat and which describe a disorganized and terror-stricken France, give *Running to Paradise* its unique documentary significance.

MICHAEL ROBERTS.

Modern Medicos

MIRACLES OF MILITARY MEDICINE, by Albert Q. Maisel. Duell, Sloan & Pearce. \$2.75.

IN THE war against Hitlerism, medical science has produced many "miracles," while the Hitler forces have contributed little, if anything, to the relief of the wounded and the dying. This is only natural, since the cause of the people is on the side of life, that of reaction on the side of death.

The struggle of the Spanish republic against fascism brought the American, Barsky; the Frenchman D'Harcourt, and the New Zealander Jolly to the battlefields of Madrid and Guadalajara. Mr. Maisel tells how these men, under the able guidance of Catalonia's chief surgeon, Jose Trueta, developed the closed plaster cast method for the immobilization of compound fractures. It was a radical departure from previous practice in that it employed no drainage, dressing, or antiseptic irrigation. In the last war eighty to ninety percent of such wounds resulted in infection by hemolytic streptococci and high mortality rates. The work of this international medical corps has become the bible for United Nations doctors and Jolly's book *Field Surgery in Total War*, a summation of the Spanish experiences, is a best seller at the American Medical Corps School.

In 1938 our Soviet ally routed the Japanese after the warlords' challenge at Lake Hassan—and Red Army doctors gave the world a new technique for the rapid anesthetization of large areas of the body. Professor Vishnevsky's procedure or "creeping infiltration technique" eliminates the need for complicated equipment at the front and reduces postoperative shock. In 1939 Mannerheim and his colleagues threatened Leningrad. After 106 days of fighting, the danger to the city was removed and medical science of the Soviet Union had produced another "miracle." Establishing base hospitals close to the front, and taking every last advantage of transport and medical specialization, the Russian doctors reduced thoracic surgery deaths from seventy percent in the last war to only twenty-five percent.

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front was a very great obstacle until 1935, when Soviet doctors developed the blood bank from cadaver blood. The Canadian Dr. Norman Bethune proved the Russian experiments practical during the Spanish fight against Franco and his Italian and Nazi legions. American doctors, combining the Russian and Spanish experiences with those of the Austrian Landsteiner—who developed the four blood types—established new medical records at Pearl Harbor.

Mr. Maisel tells of hundreds of new developments and inventions—like the ambulance with trap-door bottoms, used by the amazing Russian armies. This ambulance drives into the battle, drops its trap-doors, and the doctor lifts the wounded into the truck. No Russian wounded have suffered from frost-bite because they have chemical heating pads in which heat is liberated by snow. The Americans also have made their contributions—for example, the amphibious sea jeep, which climbs hills, and can bring wounded out to a hospital ship anchored off shore. These are only small details in a book that pays impressive tribute to the ingenuity and courage of fighting medicos of the United Nations.

JAMES KNIGHT.

Pre-Civil War Days

THE STANDARD OF LIVING IN 1860, by Edgar W. Martin. University of Chicago Press. \$4.50.

DR. MARTIN's orderly and sober presentation of the results of his very considerable researches results in a distinctly valuable book. Errors are exceedingly rare—the American Colonization Society was founded in 1816, not 1817, and its inclusion within a chapter devoted to charitable endeavors indicates a misinterpretation of the organization's function; and draping quotation marks around the words gentlemen and ladies when applying them to Negroes demonstrates bad taste, at least.

The book is unique in its exhaustive treatment of a subject that has been too little investigated; namely, exactly what did people, of all groups, eat, wear, read, enjoy, produce, how did they travel, communicate, what charitable and governmental aids existed? Dr. Martin's work provides the available answers, and his investigations are so conscientious that he does not hesitate to express the numerous doubts and uncertainties, and to indicate the voids that must face a historical statistician of American pre-Civil War days. The book's value is further enhanced by an appendix filled with excellent tables on such vital matters as wage and price levels, length of the working day, and standards of living. A bibliography, however, might well have been included.

The work should be known to, and within easy reach of, every historian.

HERBERT APTHEKER.

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