

I read *A Street in Bronzeville* in one excited sitting and warmly recommend that all readers dash to the nearest bookstore and add to the circulation of a rare event in poetry and the humanities.  
ALFRED KREYMBORG.

## Sea Minus Salt

NEW CHUM, by John Masefield. Macmillan.  
\$2.50.

FOR an exciting yarn of the sea and the men who sailed it before the turn of the century, don't go to *New Chum*. But if you are an admirer of Masefield, this autobiographical flashback to his sailing days may interest you. He was a boy of thirteen when he began his first term as an apprentice or "new chum" on the merchant training ship *HMS Conway*, and the book is virtually an hour-by-hour account of it. Masefield's reminiscences are amazing in their detail. By the end of the first day (almost half way through the book) he recollects: "At last, I was snug abed; my first day aboard was over. It had been the longest and the strangest day I had ever known, with much in it intensely interesting; much, delightful, but nearly all of it bewildering, incomprehensible. . . . But it was an odd world; I was off my feet; and felt lost."

Unfortunately this bewilderment and lostness is shared by the reader. A sailing enthusiast, such as one sometimes unhappily finds as a dinner partner, may enjoy a story told in such specialized gear-and-rigging language, though even he may find himself up the mizzen and looking for escape.

Nevertheless some of Masefield's own charm, something of the warmth of his personality, and his love of beauty and of things well done, shines through. Describing the tug taking him to shore and home, he writes: "In the pitch darkness, we drew near the lights of the stage and slackened for coming alongside. I love watching the skill of men; I have for years watched the skill of men who handle tugs, and ferries, and bring them alongside piers just as gently as though the ships were made of egg-shell. We all watched the skill of our tugmen, who, in the darkness, crept to a berth and stopped at invisible marks by a sense which none of us had."

On the whole, however, the book, disappointingly, lacks vigor. The profuse use of dots and dashes for sailors' language, the allusion to songs never sung, pales the color of events, and distills the salt from the sea.

ANNE KYLE.

## Camp BEACON

MAKE RESERVATIONS NOW  
FOR YOUR SUMMER  
VACATION

★  
RATES: \$35 and \$38 weekly

★  
★ STAR STUDDED SOCIAL STAFF  
JACK DE MERCHANT  
LAURA DUNCAN BERNIE HERN  
and others  
Louis Metcalf & Orchestra  
ALL SPORTS FACILITIES  
MANY NEW IMPROVEMENTS FOR YOUR  
COMFORT AND ENJOYMENT

★  
BEACON, N. Y. Tel. Beacon 731  
NEW YORK OFFICE: 207 FOURTH AVENUE  
Tel. STuyvesant 9-0624 (from 2 to 6:30 p.m.)  
BRONX OFFICE Tel. (all day) OLInville 5-7828

## HILLTOP Lodge

ON BEAUTIFUL SYLVAN LAKE

Phone: Hopewell Junction 1761  
R.R. Station: PAWLING, N. Y.

Our Food Is Tops  
EVERY CONCEIVABLE SPORT and  
RECREATION

GOLF FREE ON PREMISES  
TENNIS, Night Tennis, HANDBALL  
SWIMMING, BOATING, HORSE-  
BACK, BASEBALL, CYCLING, Etc.  
Only 65 miles from N.Y.C.

Reserve now for  
THE JEWISH HOLIDAYS

Under direction of  
Paul Wolfson - Sol Rothausen  
N. Y. Office: 277 Broadway  
Tel.: COrtland 7-3958

HOPEWELL JUNCTION, N.Y.

## FOR RENT

—the last Ivory Tower inhabited by timid souls and lazy minds. Out-in-the-world is a wonderful place to live if you *understand it*. Courses like these will help you:

- THE SCIENCE OF SOCIETY  
Albert Prago, Harold Collins,  
Perez Zagorin, Morris H. Lipschitz
- LATIN AMERICA TODAY AND  
TOMORROW  
Dr. Jose Antonio Arze
- THE RISE OF INDUSTRIAL  
AMERICA  
Dr. Herbert Morais
- LABOR IN THE POST-WAR  
WORLD  
John Steuben
- HISTORY OF SCIENTIFIC  
THINKING  
Dr. Dirk J. Struik
- PHILOSOPHY OF HEGEL  
AND MARX  
F. J. Meyer

Fall term Registration begins September 10. Classes begin September 24

## THE JEFFERSON SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

575 Sixth Avenue, New York 11, N. Y. Telephone: WAtkins 9-1602

## 26TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES

Principal Speaker — WILLIAM Z. FOSTER

PLUS

## "SONGS OF STRUGGLE"

A NEW CONCERT REVIEW  
STAGED BY PEARL MULLINS

## MADISON SQUARE GARDEN

September 18 — 7:30 p.m.

TICKETS — 60 cents and \$1.00

On Sale at: All Bookshops, leading trade unions and  
Communist Party Clubs

# NEW MASSES

## Classified Advertisements

50¢ a line. Payable in advance. Min. charge \$1.50. Approx. 7 words to a line.  
Deadline, Fri., 4 p.m.

### FOR SALE

Unusually attractive men's handwoven ties 100% wool. Six for \$5.75 or \$1.25 each. State background color. Madeleine's Imports, 64 Wall St., Norwalk, Conn.

### WANTED FURNISHED APT.

New Masses writer wants large, furnished one or two-room apartment. Preferably in Greenwich Village area. Box 1889.

### WANTED

We'd be happy to buy for cash (and/or services as caretakers or gardeners), or to rent, with or without option to buy, a small garden farm in a good community with a grade school that is really good—that the children like—or one which the people are vitally interested in improving. Address Box 122, Wyandanch, L.I., N.Y.

### INSURANCE

PAUL CROSBIE—INSURANCE of every kind, whatever your needs. Frequent Savings. 17 East 49th St., New York 17, N. Y. Phone EL. 6-5234.

### INSURANCE

LEON BENOFF, 881 East 149th St., N. Y. C. Fire, Auto, Burglary, Liability, Compensation, etc. Tel. MELrose 6-0984.

### GYMNASIUM

REDUCE! Special for women . . . \$35 complete 5-week course now \$29 for limited time. Includes Swedish massage, pine baths, mild exercise, etc. Trial \$2.50. Special gym course \$12 monthly. Men: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings only. GOODWIN'S GYMNASIUM, 1457 Broadway (42nd St.). Wisconsin 7-8256.

### POSITION DESIRED

Young Lady, 30, desires permanent position as secretary or governess to party going to reside in Los Angeles or nearby vicinity, Calif. Call JEFF. 3-2750.

50 miles from New York

## Mamanasco LAKE LODGE

a resort of distinction, fashioned from a country estate. Water sports, hiking trails, tennis. Library, open fireplaces. Congenial atmosphere. Famous cuisine. Phone 820

BIDGEFIELD, CONN.

NOW AVAILABLE FOR CIVILIAN USE  
ARMY TALK, Orientation Fact  
Sheet Number 70:

### PREJUDICE!

### Roadblock to Progress

The complete text of this important Army education pamphlet. The answer to Bilbo and Rankin. Reprinted by permission of the War Department by International Labor Defense 112 East 19th Street, New York 3, N. Y. 100 for \$4 500 for \$16 1,000 for \$30

## Metropolitan Music School INC.

111 West 88th Street, New York 24  
Pre-School Classes, Instrumental, Vocal, Theoretical Subjects  
Lecture Classes, Forums, Jazz Department  
Registration starts September 4th.  
(Bulletin Available)

## A Lost Time

BARINGTON, by Edward Tatum Wallace.  
Simon & Schuster. \$2.50.

THIS is a book of the Venture Press, a new department of Simon & Schuster designed to bring out "firsts" of literary distinction. If *Barington* is an example it is a "venture" to be supported. There should be a place for such unorthodox publications, often damned as "slight," but which contain nuclei, in both form and content, that are rich in promise and for which in the past there has been little place in publishing. Such books may help to break down the iron-bound concepts of what a book must be.

*Barington* has all the spontaneity of a notebook. It is the author's very personal recollection of the village of his youth, around 1900, when the sparking was still done in the buggy and the town hall was the village hardware shop. The nostalgia of the dying village permeates the book. Bart Tatum, the genial uncle who runs the barber shop, dies just as the tide of industrial America floods in upon the village and the hand-made tool, the axe, the shovels, give way to the Sears Roebuck mail order catalogue where you get earth augurs, "cats" and machine-made lace. Sometimes Mr. Wallace annotates the peculiar mores of the village like an anthropologist, digging bit by bit down into the humus of memory, placing side by side the relics of the past; and the frozen words of a lost time melted in the warm air of his longing; and he heard them all.

There is a sound place for this kind of root material, not too much doctored and tampered with to make a "slick" book; and I believe there will be readers grateful for this kind of honest, homespun, undoped reporting of the things of memory and imagination.

MERIDEL LE SUEUR.

## Brief Review

VICTORIA THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS: *The Life of Lewis Carroll*, by Becker Lennon. Simon & Schuster. \$3.50.

How did it happen that the Rev. Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, parson, mathematician and Oxford don, created that wonderful, imaginative world of the white Rabbit, the Red Queen, the Jabberwocky, and the Walrus and the carpenter? Mrs. Lennon's biography attempts an answer in mainly psychoanalytic terms. She gathers her evidence from Carroll's own published

writings, his letters and the testimonies of his contemporaries, as these reflect Dodgson-Carroll's conditionings, frustrations and relationships. Here her scholarship is beyond reproach.

The author acknowledges that literature is not created in a vacuum, that it is the result of internal development within an environmental structure. But Mrs. Lennon's assumptions and generalizations concerning the Victorian period are not enough. Furthermore, her Freudian interpretation frequently descends to the mechanical. The book is further marred by a phony "entre nous" with her presumably sophisticated readers, leading to such strained passages as "the hope of making logic square with common sense, of finding some coherent relation between the ideal platonic chair, the non-existent Berkeleyan chair and the upholstered armchair on which he barked his shins."

## Worth Noting

WHAT is said to be the first union contract negotiated by a music school was signed recently by the Metropolitan Music School at 111 West 88th Street, New York. Paid vacations and a sick leave provision are among the clauses. The contract was with the Music Teachers' chapter of the Teachers' Union. Another New York music school, The Neighborhood Music School at 2914 Cooper Avenue, the Bronx, is following suit and a contract is under negotiation.

LU DMILLA PAVLICHENKO, Hero of the Soviet Union, whose sniping ended the careers of hundreds of Nazis, has just graduated with honors in the history course at Kiev University that the German invasion had interrupted. Her diploma project was a study of the role of the Ukrainian political leader, Bogdan Khmelnytsky.

THE Book-of-the-Month Club selection for November will be *Days and Nights* by the Soviet writer Konstantin Simonov, whose play *The Russian People* was produced in New York two years ago. The novel deals with events of the siege of Stalingrad.

A COLLECTION of the war year writings of Louis Aragon, French Communist writer and underground leader, is soon to be issued by Duell, Sloan & Pearce. The collection is edited by Hannah Josephson and Malcolm Cowley.