

his material in scholarly fashion. His statements and the interpretations drawn from them are not based on emotion, but on hard, incontrovertible facts. Nowhere does he attempt to minimize or excuse shortcomings; the narrative, though at times overburdened with details, is remarkably frank and straightforward. The atmosphere of exaggerated nationalism with its cheap, boasting patriotism, so characteristic of the blood-and-thunder type of history, is, happily, lacking.

About one-third of the volume, which contains five hundred forty-odd pages, is devoted to the history of Ireland prior to the sixteenth century. The story of the legendary period, and the attempt of St. Patrick and his successors to bring Ireland within the realm of organized Christian society, is followed by a detailed discussion of the feudal era including the Danish, Norman-English and Scotch conquests. If one tires of the seemingly interminable conflicts between O'Neills, O'Donnells, O'Conors, Burkes, MacCarthys, O'Rourkes, O'Briens, MacLoughlins, O'Mores, O'Tooles, O'Byrnes, O'Reillys and Maguires—to mention only a few—he nevertheless realizes all the more clearly that it was just this tribal or feudal dissension which furnished the opportunity for foreign conquest of Ireland. In other words, at the time when western Europe was grouping itself into strong centralized states, Ireland remained a multitude of petty, jealous principalities. Even the Irish poets and historians by concentrating the attention of each tribe on its own past—its achievements against other tribes—fostered tribalism and decentralization.

But Mr. Gwynn is fully cognizant of the fact that laws, kings, dynasties, military exploits, romantic marriages, assassinations and reigns of terror—indeed the irrelevant and melodramatic—that bulk large in our political histories constitute only a fractional part of the real history of any people. Throughout the book and particularly in the sixteen chapters covering the period from the sixteenth to the middle of the eighteenth centuries he has been at pains to emphasize the underlying social, economic, religious and intellectual factors in Ireland's checkered career. In this connection the old notion, still entertained by many individuals, that the long standing trouble between England and Ireland hinged mainly on racial and religious differences is shown to be without foundation. The root of the difficulty was social and economic. Ireland, an agricultural country, was conquered and her people dispossessed of their lands, their only source of livelihood; evictions, pauperism, crime, rebellion and bitter hatreds followed. In fact, as Mr. Gwynn points out, Elizabethan Englishmen regarded Ireland and the Irish exactly as Victorian Englishmen regarded South Africa and its native races. Exorbitant taxes and the strict application of a mercantilistic policy completed Ireland's economic ruin. The religious and racial factors were secondary. Catholicism figured prominently largely because it became inextricably blended and confused with the cause of Irish nationality.

Modern Ireland is the theme of the last twelve chapters of the volume of which the last briefly outlines the birth of the Irish Free State. Mr. Gwynn makes no attempt to prophesy Ireland's future. That was not his purpose. He set out to interpret present day Ireland in the light of her past history. In this he has been eminently successful.

HARRY J. CARMAN.

Andorra

Andorra, by Isabelle Sandy. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company. \$2.00.

ANDORRA draws its name from the little republic in the Pyrenees, settled like Venice in the days of the invasions, and outlasting even Venice in its long independence. As the Venetians fled before the barbarians to the islands of the Adriatic, and became sailors, the Andorrans moved into the mountains and became shepherds. Under divided allegiance to French and Spanish suzerains, Andorra maintained its independence and developed a dignified social and civil life based on the patriarchal principle. It thus provides the natural material of a classic, a drama in which human emotion in its simple, elementary forms is controlled by the higher law, fear of God and duty to family and state. The story of the three generations of Xiriballs is as potentially tragic as the stories of Thebes or Argos. To their mountain hearth comes lawless passion and fraternal crime, but the evil spirit is exorcised by the simple faith of the father, Joan Xiriball, whose steadfast resistance is symbolic of Andorra itself, "immovable like a gigantic cliff rising from a tempestuous sea." Mlle. Sandy has written a beautiful book, a worthy addition to that line of French fiction from Colomba to Maria Chapdelaine, in which the passion of romance is subdued to classic dignity and grace, and in which nature forms a noble and enduring background to the heroic quality of mankind.

R. M. L.

Women and Wives, by Harvey Fergusson. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. \$2.50.

THIS is a novel with the courage of its convictions. It sets out grimly to paint the decay of an average middle-class American marriage—a marriage which eventually collapses, not from any overt acts of violence or unfaith, but through a slow and pernicious boredom which atrophies the protagonists. As such, it is studiously honest, faithful, and intelligent—and a bit dull.

J. G.

Contributors

CHRISTOPHER MORLEY, author and journalist, has written among other things *Parsons' Pleasure*, *Where the Blue Begins*, *Pipefuls*, and *The Powder of Sympathy*.

GEORGE SOULE, director of the Labor Bureau, is the author of *The Intellectual* and *The Labor Movement*.

SISLEY HUDDLESTON, British journalist, is a former Paris correspondent of the *London Times*, and the author of *Poincaré*, *A Biographical Portrait*.

BABETTE DEUTSCH, frequent contributor of verse to current publications, has written among other things *Banners*, a volume of poems.

CONRAD AIKEN, poet and critic, is the author of *Priapus and the Pool*, *Punch: The Immortal Liar*, *Scepticisms*, and *The Pilgrimage of Festus*.

M. E. RAVAGE is the author of *An American in the Making*, and *The Malady of Europe*.

LEWIS MUMFORD, frequent contributor to the *New Republic*, is the author of *The Story of the Utopias*.

HARRY J. CARMAN is assistant professor of history at Columbia University.