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The New Books

Fiction

(Continued from preceding page)

MR. GODLY BESIDE HIMSELF. By Gerald Bullett. Boni & Liveright. \$2.50.
PROFESSOR. By Stanley Johnson. Harcourt, Brace. \$2 net.

History

AN OUTLINE OF JEWISH HISTORY. By S. M. DOUBNOW. New York: Max M. Maisel. 1925. 3 vols.

This authoritative and comprehensive survey of Jewish history by Simon Doubnow is now for the first time translated from the Russian into English. Written in a popular style Doubnow's "Outline of Jewish History" is at once reliable and impartial and embodies the results of the best scholarship on the subject. It is a first-class handy reference book for teachers and students and very useful to the general reader.

Doubnow sets forth in a clear and attractive manner the political, social, economic, and intellectual life of the Jewish people, as well as their philanthropic and educational endeavors in every land. The author endeavors to bring out in a clear manner the guiding principles of the Jewish spirit as evolved in the process of Jewish history. He presents all his matter in a fair, unbiased, and purely objective manner. Jewish history, it is well known, has shared the fate of the Jews, in that it has been treated either from an offensive or defensive point of view. In Doubnow's work the course of Jewish history has been traced without regard to any issue whatever, since the author aimed at the presentation of facts and their correct interpretation.

THE STORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO. By THOMAS WAKEFIELD GOODSPEED. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1925.

Dr. Goodspeed's outline of the truly marvelous story of the growth of the University of Chicago—from a project for a Baptist college with an equipment of a million to one of the world's greatest institutions, with over thirteen thousand students and an endowment of fifty-four million, all within a third of a century—comes pat as part of the University's campaign for a doubling of that colossal endowment. No one is so well qualified as he to tell this story, for he was one of the progenitors of the institution, was secretary of the board of trustees from the start, and has been kept actively in harness to the present writing, in one capacity or another. This small book supplements and brings down to date his larger history published in 1916.

Nowhere in modern history is there a better demonstration of the truth of Emerson's remark that every great institution is the "lengthened shadow of a man" than in the case of the University of Chicago, for in a peculiar sense it is the creation of its first president, Dr. William R. Harper. From the first, his vision soared beyond present limitations: he planned the thing much as it stands today, and the tremendous driving force of his character not only started it but still, in a sense, keeps it going, for his two successors in office have followed the lines he laid down.

Dr. Goodspeed gives a brief but sufficient account of the ill-fated earlier University, and of the Baptist Theological Seminary, out of which the first idea of the present University grew. He tells, in some detail, of the securing of the endowment from Mr. Rockefeller, and of the hard times of the early years with the "struggle with the deficit." He sketches the rapid material development, the rise of new buildings and the proliferation of activities, from the opening year with its 742 students to the present. He notes that the University seems now to be entering upon what may be called its third phase of growth, the tendency of which may, perhaps, be suggested by the recent cancellation of the requirement of its charter that the president must be a Baptist.

RECENT AMERICAN HISTORY. By LESTER BURRELL SHIPPEE. Macmillan. 1924. \$3.25.

Many complex problems face the writer who undertakes to construct an orderly narrative of the last sixty years in the history of the United States. Professor Shippee in this volume has handled some of the more important of these problems with more than ordinary success. His account follows three main threads, politics, industrial development with the more obvious social repercussions that have followed it, and foreign affairs. The treatment is well balanced and quite without bias. The five

hundred and thirty-seven pages of text present, in the main, a compilation of facts carefully selected and set forth in a clear and orderly manner. Professor Shippee has prepared a thoroughly good textbook. Like most textbooks it is wanting in literary distinction and stimulating interpretations. One wishes that some chapters on intellectual and religious history could have been added and that the sections dealing with societal developments like the changes of recent decades in city and rural life could have been enlarged.

THE RISE OF LOUIS NAPOLEON. By F. A. Simpson. Longmans. \$5.

International

INTERNATIONAL TRADE FINANCE. By GEORGE W. EDWARDS. Holt. 1924. \$3.60.

Professor Edwards has attempted to give within the compass of one volume a survey of the balance of payments, foreign exchange, international banking, foreign trade finance, foreign credits, and foreign credit insurance, the discount markets, and the methods by which trade between the United States and countries with depreciated currency has been financed. It is obvious that all of these subjects cannot be treated in detail; there must be emphasis and the author cannot have hoped to satisfy all of his readers by his own choice of topics to be stressed. Nor can the reviewer expect that his views will accord with those of other readers who may hold firm beliefs about the relative importance of different phases of international trade finance. In such circumstances it seems best to suppress personal predilections so far as possible, and to portray the real contributions which Dr. Edwards has made to the study of foreign trade financing.

The writer is inclined to believe that the most significant contribution which has been made lies in the description of the international banking organization. Dr. Edwards analyzes the banking systems of this and other countries in so far as they affect foreign trade in any vital way, and traces the development of the international banking systems from the pre-war period to the present. The present condition of the American banks engaged in financing foreign trade and the causes of the post-war developments in branch banking are carefully outlined. In fact, the writer knows of no place where so adequate a description of the development and present condition of American foreign branch banking is given, and feels that these chapters alone would, if necessary, justify the existence of the book.

In the second part of the volume is found a careful study of foreign credits and a particularly welcome section on foreign credit insurance—topics which are omitted entirely or treated in a very sketchy fashion only in most texts on foreign exchange and trade finance. The reader who expects to learn the technique of foreign trade financing is, however, likely to be somewhat disappointed, as the chapters which deal specifically with this subject are, in our opinion, much too compressed to be helpful to the beginner. One who has already an understanding of the principles involved can read them with profit, and will find chapter ten—Documents of Collateral—unusually good.

The chief weakness of the book lies, perhaps, in the omissions in the treatment of foreign exchange. A clear and practical description of the exchange market is given, together with a satisfactory classification of the typical credit instruments used in foreign exchange, but there is little attention devoted to the rates of exchange, and the effects of the rates on the currents of trade. Nevertheless Dr. Edwards has produced a book which is distinctly worth while, and which should carry an appeal to the practical man of affairs, and to the college instructor.

THE COLLAPSE OF CENTRAL EUROPE. By KARL FRIEDRICH NOWAK. Dutton. 1924. \$8.

Dr. Nowak, if he were not known for an authority on Central Europe, would have made himself one by writing this book. He is unpartisan to a fault. The leaders of Germany and Austria-Hungary condemn themselves and are not condemned. Here and there the author interposes that a different policy might have had a happier result; but in the main his book is a brilliant, authoritative, and concise narrative of events in the two Empires from the days of the Brest-Litovsk peace conference to the beginning of the end—dissolution.

(Continued on page 638)

Columbia University Press
2960 B'way
New York,
N. Y.

STUDIES IN THE HISTORY OF IDEAS
Edited by the Department of Philosophy of Columbia University
Volume II. 337 pages. \$3.00

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The Reader's Guide

Conducted by MAY LAMBERTON BECKER

Inquiries in regard to the selection of books and questions of like nature should be addressed to Mrs. BECKER, c/o The Saturday Review.

A BALANCED RATION

WILD MARRIAGES. By B. H. Lehman (Harpers).

THESE UNITED STATES. Edited by Ernest Gruening (Boni & Liveright).

CALLINICUS. By J. B. S. Haldane. (Dutton).

M. H., a Northerner living in Louisiana, asks for books about the State, historical, folk-lore, and fiction.

THERE is a chapter on Louisiana in the first of the two volumes of "These United States," edited by Ernest Gruening and written by famous natives of all the States, one for each (Boni & Liveright). I do not know if these reports on the souls and bodies of the States are all as sound as those I have been able to verify from experience, but to name but one, the book would be worth owning if only for Dorothy Canfield's "Vermont." Another book of general interest useful here is "North America," by J. R. Smith (Harcourt, Brace), a library in one large and absorbingly interesting volume. This is neither a travel-book nor a geography but something higher than either with the best qualities of both. Even the illustrations are unusual. A State history of Louisiana comes from the Hauser Co., New Orleans, and the Southern Pacific issues travel pamphlets. The American Folk Lore Society has published a large collection of "Louisiana Folk Tales." "A Confederate Girl's Diary," by Mrs. Sarah Morgan Dawson (Houghton Mifflin), is straight history, and Louisiana is uncommonly rich in historical novels: the latest to appear is Grace King's "La Dame de Ste. Hermine" (Macmillan), a strong, sad story of the early days of New France. Everyone knows George Cable's "Old Creole Days," "Bonaventure," and especially "The Grandissimes" (Scribner), and one who has once read Lafcadio Hearn's "Chita" (Harper) has it yet in the mind—I read it in its original magazine form and it is still vivid in memory. Kate Chopin's "Bayou Folk" (Houghton Mifflin) is a series of stories and sketches of the descendants of the Acadian refugees, and Nevil Henshaw's "The Inheritance of Jean Trouve" (Bobbs Merrill) is laid in New Orleans and in the swamp country. "Under the Levee," by E. Earl Sparking (Scribner), is the largest set of stories to utilize the extraordinary resources of this part of the world for a writer whose forte is the exotic, the colorful, and the macabre. There is a strong flavor of this last in most of these tales, spiced with humor.

WE aim to please but when the Akron, Ohio, Public Library asked us to prove once for all our claim to second-hand Persian scholarship by naming Marjorie Barkley McClure's cat, the Reader's Guide found itself, as many a cat has been, up a tree. It appears that this lady, whom you will recognize as the author of a widely read novel called "High Fires" (Little, Brown) had been lately presented with a jet-black Persian which she desired to call by the name in that language meaning Midnight, whatever that word might prove to be. When my rash boast appeared in the Guide, the Akron Library, to whom the task had been confided, promptly unloaded it upon me, and I upon Harry Griswold Dwight, author of "Constantinople Old and New" (Scribner), for if you write a book as delightfully amusing as "Persian Miniatures" (Dobuleday, Page), you may be expected not only to have access to a Persian dictionary but to possess the needful friend-

liness to cats. And sure enough came back this letter:

I once had a black Persian myself, but he disappeared long since and so I couldn't ask him. My Persian dictionary, moreover, is safely in storage in New York. And of course I long ago forgot the three Persian words I ever knew—of which midnight was not one. Having left the State Department, too, and therefore being out of touch with Persian secretaries, as well as too lazy to go to the Congressional Library, I did what probably mystified not a little the gentleman to whom "Persian Miniatures" is dedicated. I cabled to him in London, asking him the Persian word for midnight. Nevertheless he very promptly cabled back the mystic syllables

NESFESHAB

(accent on the last syllable, with a minor one on the first).

If I were a Persian cat naturalized in America, I fear that name would strike me unfavorably. But for ordinary occasions it might be shortened to Shab, which means Night. Or if the cat is a lady she might be called Leila (pronounced Lay-lah) which also means Night.

H. G. DWIGHT.

And so, even if it takes a cable, the clients of this department rally to its reputation for good advice on literary matters. And if anyone doubts the strictly literary character of that question, let him look in the "Note Books of Samuel Butler" where I am informed that he makes the statement that the test of literary ability is to be able properly to name a kitten.

But from now on, questions on Persian shawls, cats, blinds and apparatus will be answered by mail!

P. H., New York, asks for a statement of the principles of philosophy as set forth by the Greeks.

IN the Series of World's Manuals issued by the Oxford University Press—in which are some uncommonly useful little books on large subjects—is one by M. E. J. Taylor on "Greek Philosophy" that gives, condensed, but not hurried or blurred, the underlying principles and distinctive features of the systems of the Greek philosophers. With this one should read Casson's "Ancient Greece," in the same series, and of course their "Legacy of Greece."

Not to go further upon a list that stretches very far, there are volumes on "Platonism": "Aristotelianism," and "Stoicism" in the series of small and valuable volumes on "Our Debt to Greece and Rome" (Marshall Jones), and the indispensable studies of Paul Elmer More, "Platonism," and "The Religion of Plato" (Princeton University Press).

K. S., Newport, R. I., sends the inquirer for plays that could be given in a church a clipping that appeared in the Plain Dealer among Herbert Rugg's topics in religious education: "A dramatization of Tyndale and his difficulties as a translator has been made by Elizabeth Miller Lobingier of Oberlin, O. The dramatization is designed for use as a project of a church Sunday-school class." Another correspondent sends for L. A. S.'s collection of data on "the kiss in literature," news that Harry Kemp's play "The Game Called Kiss" was given four times this month, in the basement theatre of St. Mark's Chapel, 288 East 10th street, with incidental music written by Bobby Edwards.

(Continued on next page)

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