

Books of Special Interest

Social Studies

THE EVOLUTION OF VALUES: Studies in Sociology with Special Applications to Teaching. By C. BOUGLÉ. Translated by HELEN STALKER SELLARS. New York: Henry Holt & Company. 1926.

Reviewed by T. V. SMITH

IN seeking a science of society, the sociologist seems obligated to award differential honors to the various sciences, arts, and disciplines that go to make up our civilized complex. Professor Bouglé accepts this obligation and in a somewhat discursive, though highly stimulating, book discharges his debt. Because in the end he is determined to free other values from the essentially religious *motif*, he is all the more careful to do full justice to the universality of religious value in primitive life. Following Lévy-Bruhl and at a greater distance Durkheim, he is forced to see that all values for early man operated under religious forms and received the strength of religious sanctions. The "evolution of values," however, is precisely the story of the differentiation into various fields of these originally homogeneous human interests.

To be urbane means now among other things to have compartmentized one's self sufficiently to keep separate such interests as science, art, morality, religion. And yet differentiation is but one of the principles operative in the story of values; the other is its opposite, integration. But around what substitute for the primitive core is modern life to be organized into a unity? The first answer is that no substitute is needed. The seriousness with which our author feels he must deal, for instance, with the question as to whether morality can exist apart from religion illustrates the dominance in France of what must be called perverse prejudice. Bouglé himself is clear that science affords the one modern hope for wholeness. As a basis for robust personality, there is no substitute for intelligence. Values are "permanent possibilities" of human satisfaction; and there are no persisting and expanding possibilities of satisfaction apart from critical insight. It is intellect that sits at the center of the web of modern life and coordinates into one the various objectifications of human desire that pass as esthetic, ethical, religious, economic, scientific, political.



This does not mean, however, that education as the chief means of cultural continuity can be mere instruction. The transfer of pure intelligence upon the basis of brute facts is not enough. Indeed, such procedure is not possible. "The transmission of values is indispensable; it is certainly inevitable." What attitude toward this or that is superinduced in teaching anything is after all the thing of primary importance in education as in life. The fact that all sciences, physics and chemistry as well as economics and ethics, arise out of a welter of evaluations, live and develop as a part of a cultural complex, and serve, willy-nilly, to thwart or further human aspiration, may well give pause to all who see in scientific education nothing but the acquisition by the young of brute facts relinquished by the old in a moment of intellectual parturition. In the act the old slough off their very skins. Moreover, the subjective character of all human preferences when they remain divorced from objective institutions and from the sciences as means for their permanent maintenance may well lessen the bellicosity of those who apologize for normative sciences or the fine arts.

No; education cannot be mere training; for that degrades the cultivation and transmission of values to the hazards of sub-consciousness; nor can it be mere instruction; for that makes a hoped-for by-product out of what should be an assured achievement—the perpetuity of values. No; education must be *initiation*, no less so in our civilized era than in primitive times. But the emphasis upon a scientific attitude is our surest means of initiating the young into all the values of modern life. Religious education conserves the old, but closes the eyes to new types of value. "By a special favor," says Gomperz, "the Greek people had predecessors who possessed bodies of priests but, itself, has always lacked them." Only a secular and flexible emphasis will sufficiently guarantee the conditions of freedom in which all values, even the religious ones, may live and prosper. Knowledge alone is virtue; and it, to be kept so, needs to be interpreted as wisdom and thus be currently humanized.

This elaborate French apology for laïcism over against religious education startles one who is habituated to think of France as the land of intellectual freedom. While France is spared fundamentalism in the American sense, there goes on there a determined struggle between those who espouse the religious way of life and those who defend the democratic way of life, for possession of the educational system. That gained, all is gained for the one; all is lost for the other. The opinion may be hazarded that no textbook in ethics could command respect in any important American university today that even seriously asked whether morality must not rest upon religion in order to be effective. The violence of our strife over formal fundamentalism seems to have its compensation in the relative freedom which has been accorded ethics as the theory of the good life. But now and then, here and there, already the ubiquitous right of the public school to secularize the outlook of the growing generation is being called in question. "With each similar challenge, such an apology as this book contains becomes more relevant to the American scene." This issue aside, the discussion has much to offer of immediate and unquestioned relevancy. Its psychological conception of value: its sociological description of the way naturally subjective value grows objective and imperative; its instructive account of the correlation between science and democracy; its stimulating treatment of the way common means may be used for diverse ends, making thus possible ethical variety upon the basis of functional unity; and finally its splendid portrayal of the social conditions of scientific progress—all these furnish the English reader grounds for gratefulness to Helen Stalker Sellars for her spirited translation. The introductory note by Roy Wood Sellars leaves something to be desired as an orientation in modern value-theory and much to be desired in the way of imagination and style.

A Neglected Collection

ITALIAN PRIMITIVES AT YALE UNIVERSITY. Comments and Revisions. By RICHARD OFFNER. New Haven: Yale University Press. 1927. \$12 net.

Reviewed by FRANK JEWETT MATHER, JR.

THIS very handsome quarto is issued under the auspices of the Yale Association in Fine Arts, and is a very elaborate appreciation and commentary on the primitive Italian pictures in the Jarves collection. This famous collection was more or less ignored by its owner for a full generation after its acquisition. Towards the end of this period the more necessary revisions of Jarves's obsolete attributions were made by William Rankin and the Berensons. In 1916 in a belated and still too hasty act of contrition Yale employed Dr. Osvald Sirén to make a formidable catalogue *de luxe*. In it the noted Swedish scholar showed his familiar formula of interblent hurry, insight, and recklessness, introducing perhaps as much confusion as he corrected. Now a far more cautious scholar goes over his track.

On the side of attribution Dr. Offner's chief and necessary service is in setting up danger signals alongside the flimsier ascriptions of Sirén. On the positive side he transfers to Nardo di Cione a stately pair of apostles generally given to the great Orcagna. Here we believe judicious opinion will bear Dr. Offner out. Much less convincing is the suggestion of Paolo di Stefano as the painter of the delightful Masaccian cassone front, the Garden of Love. However the reconstruction of Paolo is in itself interesting. In discussing the numerous cassone panels Dr. Offner rightly rejects in favor of a shop Schubring's overingenious attempt to subdivide the shop product among several personalities. A group of saints ascribed to Sarnina Dr. Offner prudently relegates to the bottega of Agnolo Gaddi.

To the specialist Dr. Offner is most interesting when he uses the thirteenth century pictures at Yale, an extraordinary group, as point of departure for stylistic collocactions. Thus we have a really important new group for the so-called Magdalen Master. The illustrations offer many novelties to the student and the details of good scale supply welcome new resources for further research. In this field we think the last word has not been said concerning the interesting passion series, Figure 34, ascribed on Mr. Berenson's authority, to the School of Romagna about 1350. As narrative painting the work is of unique vivacity; its apparent relations to the school of Rimini may be fortuitous.

The appearance of a youthful St. John the Baptist twice in one altarpiece would be very odd outside of Florence. The eagerness of the types forecasts the Cecelia Master. There is nothing that necessarily dates the piece later than 1300. There are suggestive analogies with the mosaics of the Florentine Baptistery of about that date. In short the piece might provisionally be regarded as an exceptional work of a Florentine miniaturist who stands at the head of a tradition developed by the Cecelia Master and Pacino.

Excellent critical appreciations of schools and masters will make this book, chiefly written for the specialist, also useful to the laity as a gallery guide. Here we are glad to note that Dr. Offner seems to be emerging from the cryptic and tortured style of his beginnings. Such a style is a peculiar hardship to his readers, for Dr. Offner's matter is always important, and one has to read him despite the rhetorical obstacles he sees fit to erect.

Bibliography

A REGISTER OF BIBLIOGRAPHIES OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE. By CLARK SUTHERLAND NORTHUP. New Haven: Yale University Press. 1926.

Reviewed by ANNE S. PRATT

PROFESSOR NORTHUP, in compiling this bibliography of bibliographies of the English language and literature, takes a decisive step toward filling a need in a field where such a compilation has long been a desideratum. He states that the book is not a complete list of bibliographies for the subject, as thousands of references which might have been included were rejected, but that it is, rather, a guide indicating important bibliographical undertakings. The compilation undoubtedly represents the thoughtful labor of years, a labor stupendous indeed for an individual and worthy of the efforts of a score of specialists. Professor Northup acknowledges assistance given him by scholars and bibliographers, especially that contributed by Professor Adams in the section of the book devoted to drama.

In this volume of about five hundred pages thousands of bibliographical references are included, not only those published separately but those contained in such sources as periodicals, transactions of societies, and histories, and collections of English literature. General bibliographies on English literature are listed first, followed by an alphabetical arrangement under topics and the names of writers of all periods. The wide scope of the field covered is indicated in such headings as Folklore, Travel, Methodist Literature, and Science. One is surprised to find nothing under the heading of Art or of Philosophy and the lack of bibliographies on subjects relating to the English language leads one to think that the book will not meet the need in this field as completely as in the field of literature. There are a few annotations to the titles listed, these consisting, for the most part, in references to published critical reviews.

The wealth of material included is overwhelming, but the book has serious technical defects which will interfere with its full use as a reference tool. It is unfortunate that many valuable references in the wealth of titles will be lost to readers on account of a lack of such technical aids to the use of the book as a table of abbreviations and a note of explanation as to the scope of the index. Such a useful addition as a list of the headings, not proper names, under which titles are grouped would, possibly, remedy the need caused by the present failure to make sufficient cross references from headings not used to those adopted. Under subjects where numerous titles are collected, with a conspicuous exception under the heading Drama, there is no clear indication of the arrangement adopted, while under the subject Printing and Publishing inconsistencies in plan are obvious. In the formal details of the compilation, however, the infinite care to give accurate descriptions of the titles listed is a valuable feature, and the few misleading forms adopted, such as that followed in citing a later and more important edition in fine print as a note to an earlier edition in more conspicuous type, can be overlooked.

In spite of technical defects, it is a book rich in suggestions to the student, scholar, and librarian. It will undoubtedly form a convenient starting point for anyone searching for bibliographical information in English literature.

The Story of Asia

ASIA, A SHORT HISTORY FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES TO THE PRESENT DAY. By HERBERT H. GOWEN. Boston: Little, Brown. 1926. \$3.50.

Reviewed by F. W. WILLIAMS
Yale University

PROFESSOR GOWEN'S experience as a missionary and teacher among Orientals and with students on the Pacific Coast has impressed him with the need of a general introduction to the story of the peoples of Asia. To open the eyes of our countrymen to the whole continent at once is a stupendous task; to enter it one finds a region where angels fear to tread. From the standpoint of the scholar—not necessarily of the specialist—the attempt must be called magnificent, but it is not exactly history. No more is the automobile road-book geography, yet the tourist who uses one intelligently learns something more than the passive passenger who never inquires where he rides.

On this principle it might be possible to attain an end quite worth while by using this volume as an *Einleitung* to that part of the world which for centuries has been altogether ignored by history teachers here and in Europe. Even as an introduction it is almost useless without a great deal of supplementary instruction; no one by merely reading these four hundred pages could comprehend a small fraction of the events described, or remember one of any dozen of the names sparingly mentioned. But to one who considers world-history as a whole a superficial summary like this reveals a few things of immense significance: it shows the relatively minor part which Europe has played in the development of the world's culture until quite recent times; the rôle of Asia in the fundamental inventions; the conceptions of the spiritual life of man as distinct from his material well-being; the importance of obedience and self-restraint in evolving a political system that secures the greatest happiness to the greatest number; the place of art in a highly refined society. These are suggestive reflections which the children of tomorrow must be brought up to understand if they are to improve upon the misadventures following their fathers' contented ignorance of the East.



On the whole Professor Gowen is to be congratulated upon the discernment shown in carrying out his great adventure. He shows a fair sense of proportion in selecting the few facts for which he has room, he writes simply and he passes no judgments. Obviously no two authors would do this thing in the same way, but he seems open to criticism in attempting in so small a compass two aims which are entirely different. One of these, a summary of five thousand years of the history of half the habitable globe, occupies less than half of his space, the other, a discussion of present-day problems, full of polemical material, appears as a very long tail to a kite which is so far away as to become a disconnected item. A more philosophic writer might have enlarged upon topics such as the invisible barrier which has always separated Western from Eastern Asia, the contrast between transcendental India and materialistic China, why the Chinese never went to sea, and scores of others. There is plenty of material which if employed might have developed a lively and inspiring work; it would be an overstatement to call this either. A few errors may be noted, not for reproof, for mistakes are inevitable in so comprehensive an abridgment, but for correction against a new edition.

It is the Chinese of the north, not of the south, who call themselves "Sons of Han." A less ambiguous statement as to early writing might have been employed to convey the author's meaning to Western readers who have only one definition of hair-brush; he refers to the writing-brush made of fine hairs. Ismail I lost the great battle of 1514, one of the important battles of history because it separated Shiah and Sunni in Islam forever. The seizure of Parkes and Loch is incorrectly told; they were not on their way to ratify the Treaty of Tientsin. The American share of the Shimonomski indemnity was not refused; after costs and losses in the action were paid the surplus was refunded to Japan unconditionally, not "for purposes of education." The great landing pier in Okohama was built with the money. These are very small slips but they might have been avoided by submitting the copy to a friendly critic before it went to the printer.

Books of Special Interest

A Diplomatic Tangle

DIPLOMATIC EPISODES IN MEXICO, BELGIUM, AND CHILE. By HENRY LANE WILSON. New York: Doubleday, Page & Company. 1927. \$4.

Reviewed by HENRY KITTREDGE NORTON

AMBASSADOR WILSON was a McKinley Republican and President Wilson was—President Wilson. Out of those two facts arose a quarrel which reflected no particular credit upon either of them. This volume in so far as it is of any importance at all, is an exposition of the Ambassador's side of the story. Even if it had all been carefully perused by the President, it is doubtful if the two men would have come any closer to an agreement. Wilson the President was no more capable of understanding Wilson the Ambassador than Wilson the Ambassador was capable of understanding Wilson the President. And Secretary of State Bryan, smilingly acting as intermediary, hardly seems to have understood either of them.

The occasion for the misunderstanding was one of those unfortunate transitions in our public life when the political appointees of one party are removed from our legations and embassies to make room for the favored representatives of the other party. In the case of Mexico, there was some demand among those interested that, because of the extremely delicate situation in that country, Ambassador Wilson should be allowed to continue for a time instead of being superseded at once by a "deserving Democrat." The demand was of sufficient influence to bring about that result with doubtful benefit to the interests concerned, to Mexico, or to the diplomatic prestige of the United States.

A Republican Ambassador holding over under a Democratic administration, especially where the Secretary of State had given great encouragement to the spoilsman, was an invitation both to influential politicians and the would-be influential busybodies to stir up trouble. The head-on collision between the desire of the experienced Ambassador to play the game according to

the long-established rules, to recognize Huerta as the actual government of the country, and to secure in return his recognition of American rights, and the desire of the President to introduce something of his idealistic political theory into the Mexican morass, to chasten Huerta and practically to ignore American rights, gave the trouble-makers all they needed to work with. By the time they got through the Ambassador had resigned under a cloud, the President and the Secretary of State were drawn into various anomalous adventures in foreign policy, and the Mexican government descended into a whirlpool of revolution.

The Ambassador begins his story with his appointment as Minister to Chile, an appointment of which he seems to have approved as warmly as did President McKinley, who sent him off with a rose in his buttonhole. Two-thirds of the book are devoted to the comfortable relation of very ordinary experiences in Chile and later in Belgium, incidents and experiences which at the time might have had a passing interest for the family and friends of the aspiring diplomat. They are told in an appropriate intimate style in which a certain modesty is allowed to disclose the cleverness with which the writer always worsted his opponents. His judgment is then certified by the recital of a testimonial dinner or a resolution or an affidavit showing that somebody else also thought he had done a good piece of work. At the end, one of his most serious complaints against President Wilson is that the latter refused to give him a letter of recommendation.

Having thus established in the mind of the reader his abilities as a diplomat, Mr. Wilson proceeds to the more detailed account of the momentous years in Mexico. Here we leave a desultory travel-book and plunge into the contentious atmosphere of a lawyer's brief. Like the vast majority of such documents it carries a measure of conviction in the absence of any opposing brief. The Ambassador makes a good case for a verdict of "not guilty" so far as the specific charges which have been made against him

are concerned. Of the principal charge, that he conspired against Madero, he effectually clears himself.

One cannot escape the feeling, however, as one pushes on through the book, that the issues involved are trivial and of little importance except to the actors themselves. Behind and beyond all this petty squabbling, there is the sense of littleness in men that should have been big, of pettiness where greatness would have been welcome. The revelation of the inner workings of our diplomacy, while it brings to light no suggestion of the facile villainy with which it is sometimes charged, does show us a sputtering, grinding piece of machinery, for which it would require many pounds of patriotism to furnish forth an ounce of pride. One turns away with the hope that the recent attempts at reorganization in the State Department have achieved at least a measure of success. If they have not, with such an excellent field before them, one would have another bad quarter of an hour over the prospects of democracy.

Henry Lane Wilson's book might have been written in the objective, historical style of some of the British pro-consuls in Egypt or India. It might have given no special attention to the personal difficulties of the author and yet, far more effectively than it does, lifted him above the welter of accusation and counter-accusation. It might at the same time have given us an intimate record of a trying and important period in the life of our southern neighbor. All these larger purposes, if they ever existed, are lost in the author's desire to write a brief in his own defense. He has his brief, but the world is poorer for what might have been a great book.

Rome's Best Work

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE. By FRANK FROST ABBOTT and ALLAN CHESTER JOHNSON. Princeton, N. J.: Princeton University Press. 1926. \$5 net.

Reviewed by W. R. DOBIE

BY presenting in one volume, for the first time, all the documents (inscriptions and papyri) which give information of any importance about the municipalities, villages, and other administrative units of the Roman Empire (before the Byzantine period), Messrs. Abbott and Johnson have done a great service to historians. The first half of the volume consists of a series of essays which give an admirably full and clear account of the institutions and their history.

Although the work is chiefly intended for the specialist, it will interest the more general reader who wants to know what the Empire was really like and is not content with vaguely uplifting effusions about the Grandeur that was Rome. (In passing, we would recommend him to begin with the historical chapters, XIII and XIV.) The government of the provinces was the best work that Rome did, and here we have a workaday, realistic picture of it, with its difficulties, half-successes, and failures.

At first the Romans established no uniform system, except in backward countries without political traditions of their own; they adapted the old institutions which they found, and, in particular, maintained the excellent organization of the Hellenistic kingdoms. But the great size of the Empire inevitably made uniformity necessary. Local governors and tax-collectors were oppressive; provincials shirked the burdens of office; there were economic difficulties. We find the Emperors trying to remedy every evil that arises, and Nero and Caligula appear, not as the monsters of the more spectacular kind of film, but as anxious administrators, sometimes regarded by the provincials with genuine affection. It is true that Nero lives up to his reputation when, to remedy the economic ill-effects of half the land of Africa being owned by six great proprietors, he kills all six. However, this and less drastic expedients were all in vain; the officials created to check oppression themselves became oppressors, and every new measure brought an increase of the bureaucracy, and therefore of the costs of administration, and a greater uniformity, which killed political and intellectual life and turned the Empire into a machine in which every individual was kept strictly to his place. Even then, the machine did not work. In the end, the municipalities, in which Græco-Roman civilization had been kept alive, disappeared, and the provinces reverted to the Eastern or barbarian villages which had been there in the past.

The book is especially interesting in telling us how things were done, not only in matters of general administration, but in details.

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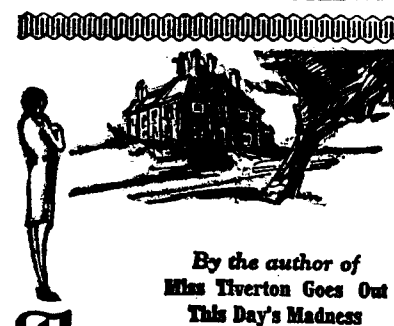
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