





## The New Books International

(Continued from page 282)

Mussolini has accomplished, it is not necessary to go to such extravagant lengths. There is ample philosophy to justify his aims and his methods without ascribing to him all the virtues of all philosophies. It is surely a misuse of words to acclaim him as a great democrat, who has so often denounced democracy as social degeneration. And if Mussolini himself would not stick his tongue in his cheek, many others in Italy would, on reading such a passage as this: "What a marvelous thing it is that this social peace, this recognition of a common brotherhood of all classes, with which Italy is now blessed, is due to him who, for years, by speech and writing, did more than any other man to frustrate it, namely, Mussolini."

It is too late in the day for such a book as this. Even the more serious attempts at appraisal have not yet resulted in anything like an adequate estimate. Why go back to the beginning? Why throw to the winds even such discrimination as has been given us?

THE TRAGEDY OF GREECE. By S. P. P. COSMETATOS. Brentano's. 1928. \$4.50.

The defense of the character, motives, and policies of the late King Constantine, of Greece, almost inevitably involves attacks on the conduct of Lloyd George and his British associates, of the French Governments and of the Greek premier, Venizelos. Seldom, however, is such severe, almost violent, criticism made so convincing by quotations from public documents, and private memoirs and letters. Refutation would require access to the archives of various governments and prolonged research, such as has evidently been made in this case.

There has been a growing feeling that Greece was not fairly treated in the Great War, and especially during the subsequent war with Turkey for the possession of Western Anatolia. Its defeat, through the lack of support from the Great Powers which encouraged the attempt to conquer the regions inhabited by Greeks in Asia Minor, was followed by political chaos at home and by the strain of being forced to provide for and assimilate some 1,350,000 refugees from Turkey. This required assistance from the League of Nations, and the American "Near East Relief" rendered invaluable aid.

The motives of Great Britain, France, and Italy are shown in the most sordid light, as being dominated by economic and political imperialism, international jealousies, and a lust for territorial aggrandizement, using Greece as a pawn in the game. The unwillingness of the other European Powers to permit either Great Britain or Russia to dominate Constantinople, either directly or through one of the Balkan states, is well known to have been one of the main diplomatic forces in world policies for the last century, especially since the Crimean War, and is probably largely responsible for the withdrawal of the French from Cilicia and of the Italians from southwestern Anatolia.

The effect of the interaction of these different factors upon Greece was, in the opinion of the author, responsible for most of the misfortunes of his country.

He makes the serious mistake, however, of making no allowance, in his accusation, either for honest mistakes of judgment on the part of the statesmen concerned, or for genuine patriotism in guarding the interests of their own countries. This detracts somewhat from the confidence which might be placed in his assertions that the men whose actions he condemns were always actuated by the worst of motives.

The book is certainly worth reading by anyone who desires to gain a reliable comprehension of the Great War, since it presents a side of the question which is usually ignored or glossed over, but which is entitled to a fair consideration on its merits. The style is unusually readable, even eloquent in places.

JAPANESE ALL. By J. INGRAM BRYAN. Dutton. 1928. \$2.50.

Mr. Bryan was a "professor for sixteen years in Japanese colleges," and his studies of Japanese life are quite from the inside. He writes of the curious population of the Tokio canals; of Japanese objections to kissing, national love of flowers, and superabundance of insects; of ceremonious hospitality and scented food; of actors, conductors, policemen, and other minor officials; of judges who are not so bad on the whole, and of a society of patriotic assassins called *The Genyosha*, which produces at least a

tendency to circumspection on the part of officials. Composing poetry is very general, and of course most of it mediocre, but its ideal is condensation and suggestion. A Japanese earthquake feels like a kick from beneath, and they average in Tokio about four a day. The national game is wrestling. There are in Japan more priests and temples per square acre than in any other country in the world.

OUR CUBAN COLONY. By LELAND H. JENKS. Vanguard. 1928. \$1.

THE BANKERS IN BOLIVIA. By MARGARET A. MARSH. The same.

Not the least important peculiarity of these Vanguard Press books—the two studies just offered were preceded by Professor Knight's account of the Americans in Santo Domingo—is their price. They are what they are announced to be—"studies"—and they present, in readable shape, a lot of authoritative information, backed up by dates and figures, at the nominal price of one dollar.

Cuba and Bolivia are examples, so far as these observers are concerned, of the process of economical absorption of one country by another. In Cuba, rich, populous, prosperous, the process has gone much further than it has in Bolivia, poor, sparsely settled, and so anxious for foreign capital that it will accept it on almost any terms.

The Cuban countryman no longer has anything to fear from the supposed danger of annexation—and "the senators from seventeen beet-sugar states will be vigilant guardians of our national conscience in this respect." He is better off, as the contemporary world usually reckons such things, than he was before 1898. But he has exchanged his comparatively pastoral world, and the freedom that went with it, for a position as cog in a great industrial enterprise (big-scale sugar-making) which supplies him with wages, a house, and in a less concrete sense with education, recreation, and bread. "His future is not his own. It is determined for him from a director's room in New York." And as Professor Jenks points out, the same thing is true of much of our own South, and it is doubtful if the Cuban isn't more the master of his fate than the Gulf State American farmer.

In Bolivia, remote, shut away in its Andean highlands, with its downtrodden brown mass driven by its own *mestizo* majority, the lines of the picture stand out in rougher lines. Until the 1947 bonds are retired, Bolivian economies will be controlled practically by a Permanent Fiscal Commission, of which two of the three members are American. Marines are not likely to figure in the forthcoming story—Bolivia is too far away, and has no seaport, amongst other reasons. But that more subtle sort of "imperialism," which consists in getting control of the resources of a country through loans and a virtual receivership, pending the payment of principal and interest, seems likely, the author implies, to pursue its usual course.

Both books are written from what might loosely be called an anti-imperialistic point of view, but as Professor Jenks observes, nobody knows just what anybody else means by that term, and in any case, these little volumes present a mass of objective fact which can't be lightly dismissed whatever the reader's predispositions may be.

THAT UNTRAVELL'D WORLD. Groton, Mass. Groton School. 1928.

Chinese enthusiasts often urge that Chinese culture should be taught in American schools and this volume is an attempt of eleven students interested in China to give a summary of Chinese history, literature, art, and religion in such a manner as to attract young people to read for their own pleasure standard books on the Orient, chosen from a well selected bibliography at the end of each chapter. As might be expected from such collaboration, the sections vary greatly. The biography of "The Great Dowager" is like a good Japanese drawing, producing an effect with a few masterly strokes which compels the admiration even of a serious student of Chinese history. The historical accounts are well selected in the manner which makes Mr. Gowen's histories so excellent. It is always difficult to write condensed articles on art, literature, and culture, but these are fairly adequate.

The interpretation, however, of the relations between China and other nations, is the least satisfactory portion of this work, which is otherwise so successful. The selection of incidents, even of adjectives, often gives a mistaken impression, as in the case of extra-territoriality and foreign administration of customs and justice. This is

probably due to the fact that the references include a large percentage of authors who are either young Chinese, extremely pro-Chinese, or are radicals like Bertrand Russell, Nathaniel Peffer, and Upton Close. It is evident that too much care cannot be exercised in avoiding implanting prejudices in youth which it will be difficult to eradicate later. The alteration of a few pages would make the book wholly admirable for its purpose.

### Juvenile

(The Children's Bookshop will appear next week.)

THE FOSSIL FOUNTAIN. By Arthur Mason and Mary Frank. Doubleday, Doran. \$1.75 net.

JULIETTE LOW AND THE GIRL SCOUTS. Edited by Anne Hyde Choate and Helen Ferris. Doubleday, Doran. \$2 net.

UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS. By Edith Bishop Sherman. Doubleday, Doran. \$2 net.

A PRINCESS COMES TO OUR TOWN. By Rose Fyleman. Doubleday, Doran. \$2 net.

A PAIR OF ROVERS. By John Lesterman. Harcourt, Brace. \$2.

LENAPE TRAILS. By Clifton Lisle. Harcourt, Brace. \$2.

THE LITTLE PEOPLE OF THE HILLS. By Florence Choate and Elizabeth Curtis. Harcourt, Brace. \$2.50.

TREASURE OF CARCASSONERE. By A. Robida. Longmans. \$2.

BOGA THE ELEPHANT. By "K.O.S." Macmillan. \$2.50.

NARIO'S CASTLE. By Helen Forbes. Macmillan. \$1.75.

ANDY BREAKS TRAIL. By Constance Lindsay Skinner. Macmillan. \$1.75.

THE RED ROSE OF DUNMORE. By Hawthorne Daniel. Macmillan. \$2.

THE NURNBERG STOVE. By Ouida. Macmillan. \$1.

LITTLE DOG TOBY. By Rachel Field. Macmillan.

THE SHORT SWORD. By V. M. Irwin. Macmillan. \$1.75.

THE TRUMPETER OF KRAKOW. By Eric P. Kelly. Macmillan. \$2.50.

"OLD" JIM BRIDGER. By Edwin L. Sabin. Crowell. \$2 net.

### Recent Borzoi Books

## A Variety of Things

By MAX BEERBOHM

"So full of a number of treasures that it is difficult to know which to tell about . . . Here are fantastic moral tales and fairy stories, an essay on Venice and one on caricature, a superb parody of the prose of Henry James, a play, a memoir of two imaginary friends . . ."—Henry Hazlitt, in *The New York Sun*. \$3.00

## GRIMHAVEN

By Robert Joyce Tasker

"A notable, a keen and intensely moving account of what happens to a man in prison . . . Deliberately, grimly, Robert Joyce Tasker has chosen to analyze himself, his feeling toward the world and the prison, and to write about what goes on there."—Harry Hansen, in *The New York World*. \$3.00

## TRENCK

The Love Story of a Favourite

By BRUNO FRANK

"A vivid unforgettable picture of the love of Baron von Friederich von de Trenck for Amelia, sister of the King. . . Although a tale of love, fascinating in its first sweet flowering, pathetic and tragic in its sorrowful termination, *Trenck* is permeated with the essence and soul of Frederick."—*Baltimore Sun*. \$2.50

Also by Bruno Frank: *The Days of the King*.

## HERITAGE

By ROSE C. FELD

A first novel of great distinction dealing with three generations on a New Hampshire farm. "A novel of a single clean thrust, by virtue of the dominance of its theme, the assured presentation of its characters in their relation to each other and the environment; the simplicity and economy of its narrative done with a hand that never wavers or falters."—*The New Republic*. \$2.50

## The Devil's Shadow

By FRANK THIESS

*The Devil's Shadow* presents, in the adventures of Caspar Müller, the most complete picture that has yet been drawn of Germany during the post-war inflation period. It is an astonishingly vivid portrayal of an entire social order, by turns bewildered, despairing, and cynical, dancing on the fresh grave of its own aspirations. \$3.00

Also by Frank Thiess: *The Gateway to Life*.

## DEFEAT

By RICARDA HUCH

A novel of Garibaldi and his times by Germany's foremost woman writer. "She too, reads swiftly and surely, not untidily, the hearts and souls of her people, and they stand before me as veritable reincarnations. She has a wonderful gift of language . . . It is a graphic and gripping story."—*Baltimore Sun*. \$3.00

## The Women at the Pump

By KNUT HAMSUN

*The Women at the Pump* is a vivid and sincere depiction of a small fishing village. Out of the lives of its inhabitants, their adulteries, thefts, struggles, failures and triumphs, grows a story which has all the interest and power of intense reality. \$3.00

Also by Knut Hamsun: *The Growth of the Soil*.

Alfred A. Knopf · Publisher · N.Y.





# IS THE GREAT AMERICAN NOVEL A POEM?



## POINT COUNTER POINT by Aldous Huxley

In this tremendous novel the author of *Antic Hay* and *Those Barren Leaves* has had the courage to probe to the depths the life of moderns in the modern world. Beyond sophistication—beyond satire—beyond comedy—it is the tragic masterpiece of a generation. The October selection of The Literary Guild. 80th Thousand. \$2.50

## INTO THE ABYSS by John Knittel

Translated by its young author from the German, this powerful novel of the peasants in the Swiss Alps introduces a new genius comparable to Hardy and Hamsun. Dr. Joseph Collins writes: "‘Into the Abyss’ is far and away the best novel of the year. I fancy that Flaubert would not have been ashamed to father it. Thérèse is as finished a portrait as Madame Bovary." \$2.50

## MONEY FOR NOTHING by P. G. Wodehouse

Scene: the village of Rudge-in-the-Vale, where the sight of "a cat stropping its back-bone against the Jubilee Watering Trough" and "some flies doing deep-breathing exercises on the hot window sills" are the chief excitement till the funniest Wodehouse characters of the funniest Wodehouse novel get to work. Right-ho, pip-pip, it's a wow! \$2

➔ **JOHN BROWN'S BODY** is as fascinating as a novel—as easy to read as a novel—and critics call it the greatest American poem! Everywhere people usually shy of poetry have discovered that here at last is a poem more thrilling than fiction—a poem of thrilling history, inspiring biography, tender, gallant romance. Its breathless pages are filled with the tramp of marching men and the magic of old battle flags and battle cries—the forest idyll of the wide-eyed woods girl and her lover in ragged blue—the story of Sally Dupré and her Georgia cavalier—the immortal figures of Lincoln and Lee, Grant and Stonewall Jackson—the tragic human sweep from Harper's Ferry to Gettysburg and Appomattox. 2000 people a week are buying it—it is nearing the 100,000 mark—it is the best-selling non-fiction book in the country, and perhaps first among the novels—

## JOHN BROWN'S BODY

By Stephen Vincent Benét  
\$2.50

➔ Official lists of best-sellers are always interesting to publishers, and we believe that they are equally valuable to readers as a handy guide to books of proven popularity. Among the 25 best-selling novels in the country, according to the latest survey of the Publishers' Weekly, are *THE FOOLISH VIRGIN*, by Kathleen Norris [\$2]; *THE AGE OF REASON*, by Philip Gibbs [\$2]; *TWO FLIGHTS UP*, by Mary Roberts Rinehart [\$2]; *BITTER HERITAGE*, by Margaret Pedler [\$2]; *WINTERSMOON*, by Hugh Walpole [\$2]; . . . In non-fiction, our figures show heavy demand for Rudyard Kipling's new book, *A BOOK OF WORDS* [\$3]; H. G. Wells' "blue prints for a world revolution" in *THE OPEN CONSPIRACY* [\$2]; the heroism, chivalry adventure and humor of *COUNT LUCKNER THE SEA DEVIL* [\$2.50]; and as Election Day draws nearer, M. R. Werner's highly-praised history, *TAMMANY HALL* [\$5] . . . Of the new fiction, these books seem headed for wide popularity, judging from the growing weekly sales: Mathilde Eiker's brilliant and sophisticated novel, *THE LADY OF STAINLESS RAIMENT* [\$2.50]; T. S. Stribling's rich, ironic story of a Tennessee town, *BRIGHT METAL* [\$2.50]; Leonard Nason's three tales of the A. E. F. in *THE TOP KICK* [\$2] . . . All advance reports indicate that Beverley Nichols' *THE STAR SPANGLED MANNER* [\$2.50], with its suave, impudent reports on Big Bill Thompson, Gloria Swanson, and other noted Americans will make the year's smartest book.



## AT THE SOUTH GATE by Grace S. Richmond

This is the glowing, heartening story of two homes—one rich, one poor . . . Pride was a luxury that Michael and Anne could not afford. So they moved into the little house, at the South Gate, near the great mansion of the Braithwaites. And between the two homes fate spun a story . . . and the author of *Red Pepper Burns* and *Lights Up* tells it as her finest yet. \$2

## BLACK COUNTRY by Bruce Beddow

Hugh Walpole discovered this young English author, and says of *Black Country*: "Very remarkable indeed . . . The best novel about the English miner that I have ever read after Lawrence, but it is not all grit and gloom. In its character drawing it is exceptional. The central figure I shall never forget." \$2.50

## SERGEANT YORK His Life Story and War Diary Edited by Tom Skeyhill

Sergeant York, husky Tennessee mountaineer, whipped an entire German machine gun battalion, killing 28, capturing 35 guns and 132 prisoners. After the war he refused amazing offers to write, to lecture, to go in the movies. Today he tells his stirring life story because he needs funds for his mountain school, and every reader will shout "This is a man!" \$2.50

# DOUBLEDAY · · DORAN