The New Books

Fiction

TUTT FOR TUTT. By Arthur Train. Scribners. 1934. \$2.

To those who have enjoyed the Tutt books as they should be enjoyed—and this is what has happened, surely, to practically all who have read them-it is sufficient to say that in this new collection of stories Ephraim Tutt remains Ephraim Tutt and Arthur Train remains Arthur Train. To define Ephraim Tutt for those who have not yet made his acquaintance is a less simple task; it is quite inadequate to say that he is a compound of simplicity and guile, of tenderness and force, of the backwoods primitive and the cultured gentleman, etc. The truth is that he is a genuine creation, a human being whom Mr. Train has given to us as a friend and companion, and whose little peculiarities are as endearing as are his cardinal traits. In point of sheer ingenuity he does not rank with Sherlock Holmes, but he is a far more complete human being; and while the adventures of the shrewd, resourceful, romantic old New York lawyer do not grip the mind so intensely as those of the uncannily logical London detective, they are both more amusing and more touching. In these days, when grim problems claim almost a monopoly of our attention, stories that not only delight the mind but move us to laughter and tears are something for which we may be truly thankful.

F. F.

THE RECKONING. By Leane Zugsmith. Smith & Hass. 1934. \$2.50.

Leane Zugsmith is primarily a portrayer of character. She has the photographic eye for the details of gesture and idiom and she has the selective sense that tells her just which ones should be recorded and which ignored to create the whole person for the reader. The awkward angle at which a woman sets down her feet gives as much of her past and her future as a paragraph might. A cat "unslotting" its eyes in a kitchen warms the whole scene to intimacy. Arthur Turk clinging desperately, through great emotional stress, to the elegant nominative, "No hard feelings between you and I," exposes himself as well as his vernacular.

Characters abound in the present novel. Whether they are to play principal roles in the reckoning of New York's social system or are to appear only momentarily in a coached part before the jury, they are complete in their short-sighted self-seeking, their futile idealism, or their unthinking blundering ahead. In importance Oliver Pace should probably come first. A fairly young, unsuccessful lawyer in the beginning, with his driving interest in justice and his unresolved bondage to his dominating mother, he decides against his

nature to strive, by whatever means he can put his mind and hands to, for power. After his greatest effort in the struggle he finds himself out-tricked and power as elusive as justice. Or perhaps Castie Petrella, who lied himself into Welfare Island rather than admit to his meager fifteen years of age, should come first as the ball that started the whole thing rolling.

The story itself is, of course, an indictment of the legal and social systems where Casties are first made and then condemned for existing, but Miss Zugsmith's ability at story telling (her novels are full of complete and perfectly finished short stories, as in this instance, the parting of Mr. Turk and Maude) lifts her work safely clear of any didacticism.

G. G.

ABOUT LEVY. By Arthur Calder-Marshall. Scribners. 1934. \$2.

A man on trial for murder brings an impact of vicarious drama to the lives of all who have known him, and the drama is none the less real even to those whose acquaintance with him was casual. An excellent idea for a novel, and Mr. Calder-Marshall has done it justice. He has an unusual versatility in his ability to project various characters-Levy's two inamoratæ, one real and passionate, the other cold and artificial; the middle-aged priest who had been his tutor; the loafer in the pub, discussing the case over a pint of bitters; Levy's sister, secure and secluded, avoiding contact with him. The author presents them all quickly, surely, and with conviction. He handles equally well the dramatic narrative and the stream of consciousness, alternating them to suit his needs, always with his eye on the multifarious interplay of the events and characters. About Levy, who never appears directly, we finally know every-thing that can be said by the objective method-a method, incidentally, which, gives the novel a superficial resemblance to the by-products of "Grand Hotel." It's much better than that,

G. S.

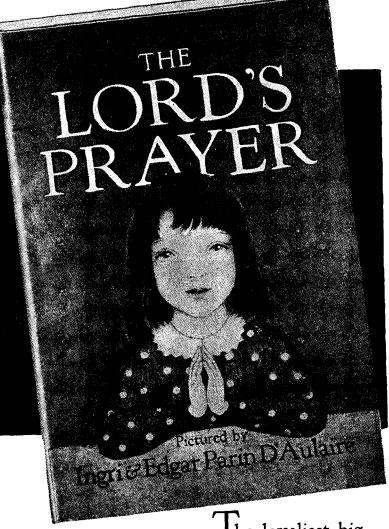
THE LADIES. By Stanley Hopkins. Harpers. 1934. \$2.

To say that "The Ladies" is an unusually fine first novel seems almost to mingle some patronage with the praise it amply earns. Perhaps it would be better to say simply that it is a fine novel; but it is nevertheless true that its best qualities, its self-control in attack, and its wealth of character, are precisely those that are most notable in a first book, where a single actor and a single point of view too often suffice. "The Ladies" is a story of the dryrotten life in a backwater town in the deep (Continued on page 583)

The Criminal Record

The Saturday Review's Guide to Detective Fiction

Title and Author	Crime, Place, Sleuth	Summing Up	Verdict
THE NINE TAILORS Dorothy L. Sayers (Harcourt, Brace: \$2)	Gravediggers at East Anglia funeral turn up unknown corpse. Lord Peter Wimsey does his most brilliant work.	Fascinating accounts of bell-ringing, excellent characterization and lo- cal color, make this much more than a good mystery.	ΑΑΑΑΑ
LONDON CALLING Val Gielgud & Holt Marvell (Crime Club: \$2.)	Murder in multiple- studioed Broadcasting House, London, taxes brains of sleuthing reader and Scotland Yard Inspector Spears.	Novel setting, complex of motives, several sus- pects, and ingenious alibi make tight-knit, steady-paced yarn.	Topping
THE CASE OF THE FIFTH KEY Gregory Dean (Covici-Friede: \$2.)	From scratches and broken button, swivel chair detector Ben Si- mon reconstructs nar- cotic dealer's murder in Manhattan's East For- ties.	Author Dean has de- veloped new pattern; interest holds through Simon's second case, despite multiplicity of speaking parts.	85%
THE GHOST HUNTERS Ralph Aiken (McBride: \$2.)	Wealthy playboy buys Connecticut farm, hopes for ghosts, en- counters bootleggers, pretty girl, and inciden- tal murder.	Much youthful whoopee, spiritualistic nonsense, state police, and Wodehouse butler help to confuse issue.	Muddled
THE LESSER ANTILLES CASE Rufus King (Crime Club: \$2)	Murder strikes in life- boat holding ten sur- vivors from wrecked millionaire's yacht; Lt. Valcour, famed sleuth, goes cruising in Carib- bean.	Slight strain on read- er's credulity fails to mar deftly managed yarn of killing afloat and ashore. Author should look up mean- ing of "eclectic."	Engaging



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Inquiries in regard to the choice of books should be addressed to MISS LOVEMAN, c/o The Saturday Review. A stamped and addressed envelope should be enclosed for reply.

THE SOUTH AND SOUTHWEST

N this lovely Saturday afternoon, with the drums beating the time for the Saint Patrick's Day marchers in the street below, and the sunshine falling golden on the buildings opposite, Spring is so much in the air that the thought of summer vacationing no longer seems fantastic but a prospect soon to be realized. So we take up the letter of J. A. B. of Wichita Falls, Texas, which has been lying unanswered more weeks than we like to remember, in the belief that preparations for the summer of travel in the South and Southwest which its writer is planning are assuming something of urgency. She writes us:

... I want a list of books from which I may get a comprehensive survey of the historic points of the South and Southwest. I expect to spend much of the summer in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and also want a list of books about this part of the country. This is to include any subject, art, travel, music, history, archœology, and anything particularly about the city of Santa Fe itself.

We have no doubt that what J. A. B. wants is something recent; yet since every land is the more interesting if its present is projected against a background of the past, we perversely begin our list of books on the South by mentioning some works written befo' de Wah. As a matter of fact we're snatching at an opportunity of talking about them, for they happen to be favorites of our own, and so few persons seem to know them that we burn with the missionary's zeal to spread the gospel. The first is Harriet Martineau's SOCIETY IN AMERICA, written in 1837, but still a study of fascinating interest. Miss Martineau came to America from England with her reputation already established and with introductions to persons of importance all over the United States. She was extremely deaf, and was forced to use an ear trumpet, a fact which she accounted an advantage in her travels since, as she said, it forced her hosts to keep their conversation to topics of interest and to abjure the trivial. She visited throughout the Southern states, everywhere turning her attention to social and economic conditions. Possessed of a powerful mind, masculine, indeed, in its grip and detachment, and an excellent critical faculty, she produced one of the most trenchant commentaries on the South of her time that is to be found. Discriminating and analytical, though vigorously opposed to slavery, it is free from the emotionalism which entered into so much of the writing of the period. The book is out of print, we believe, but can be procured in libraries. With Miss Martineau's SOCIETY IN AMERICA we urge J. A. B. to read Frederic Law Olmsted's journey in the back country in THE WINTER OF 1853-54 (Putnam) and JOURNEY IN THE SEABOARD SLAVE STATES (Putnam). These chronicles of horseback travels by the landscape architect of Central Park are delightful records and most illuminating descriptions of the people, customs, and conditions of the immediately pre-Civil War period.

Well, after having bottled up our enthusiasm for years, we've at last had our say, and having had it shall try to give our more up-to-date references in more rapid order. There's not much in the way of travel literature on the South but J. A. B. might try Julian Street's AMERICAN ADVE TURES (Appleton-Century: 2 vols. \$6) which contains description and discussion of social custom's, J. F. Faris's SEEING THE SUNNY SOUTH (Lippincott: \$6), and John Muir's A THOUSAND MILE WALK TO THE GULF (Houghton Mifflin: \$3.25), in which that excellent naturalist mingled botanical description with his more general travel chronicle. For an understanding of the mood and mind of the present-day South she should read the symposium entitled I'll TAKE MY STAND (Harpers: \$3) issued a few years ago, in which twelve writers expressed themselves in lively fashion on the South and the agrarian tradition, and the recently published cuL-TURE IN THE SOUTH (University of North Carolina Press: \$4), edited by W. T. Couch. Another book that should prove of interest is Howard W. Odum's AMERICAN EPOCH (Holt: \$3.50), "southern portraiture in - tional pictures." C. A. Hibbard's Ly-UTH (Macmillan: \$2.25) and his THE IN CONTEMPORARY LITFRATURE (University of North Carolina Press: 50 cents), will give her light on Southern letters.

For the Southwest there is considerable material. No one knows the section better and with more scientific precision than Mary Austin, whose LAND OF JOURNEY'S ENDING (Appleton-Century: \$4) ought certainly to be on J. A. B.'s list. A book which has for many years enjoyed great popularity is C. F. Lummis's MESA, CAÑON AND PUEBLO (Appleton-Century: \$4.50) which deals with the nature, the earth building, the people, and the buried romance of the section. A more recent one, the emphasis of which goes on archaeology, is S. Magoffin's down the santa fe TRAIL AND INTO MEXICO (Yale University Press: \$4). More specifically devoted to travel are C. F. Saunders's FINDING THE WORTHWHILE IN THE SOUTHWEST (McBride: \$1.50), C. L. Bernheimer's RAINBOW BRIDGE (Doubleday, Doran: \$3), and E. C. Peixotto's OUR HISPANIC SOUTHWEST (Scribners: \$3.50). A work which would prove well worth J. A. B.'s reading, if she is willing to take the time for a scientific study, is Alfred L. Kroeber's NATURE CULTURE OF THE SOUTHWEST (University of California Press), and one which will give her information on the literary developments of the section is THE SOUTHWEST IN LITERATURE (Macmillan: \$1.68), by M. Major and R.W. Smith. J. W. Rogers's FINDING LITERATURE ON THE TEXAS PLAINS (Southwest Press: \$1) contains a "Representative Bibliography of Books on the Southwest," by J. F. Dobie.

J. A. B. in her letter requesting the foregoing travel information asked also whether we could put her on the track of a "book published some time ago about the interpretation of architecture." This, we imagine, is Lewis Mumford's STICKS AND STONES, published originally by Boni & Liveright (\$2.50), and just reissued at \$2 by W. W. Norton in his newly instituted White Oak Library series. This is a study of American architecture and civilization.

BOOKS ON THE RENAISSANCE

L. L. of New York City wishes "a list of the most authoritative books on the Renaissance, also the best of general histories of France in French."

For the Renaissance in general-and not merely in Italy-the most recent book of importance is Paul Van Dyke's AGE OF THE RENASCENCE (Scribners), in which the stress goes on the intellectual movement. The most comprehensive general work, perhaps, is Hyma's THE CHRISTIAN RENAIS-SANCE (Appleton-Century), which treats the awakening as more than a humanistic movement, and finds its roots deep inwoven through Northern Europe where it regards it as the precursor of the Reformation. Henry Osborn Taylor's THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY (Macmillan), and Preserved Smith's AGE OF THE REFORMATION (Holt) should also be consulted. On the Renaissance in Italy the great works are J. C. Burckhardt's civi-LIZATION OF THE PERIOD OF THE RENAISSANCE IN ITALY (Macmillan), which throws its emphasis on philosophic aspects, leaves out the artistic development, and largely ignores economic manifestations, and John A. Symonds's RENAISSANCE IN ITALY, which, though now somewhat antiquated, especially in its treatment of art, is admirable in its discussion of the revival of learning and written throughout in fascinating manner. We still look back with delight on a summer vacation during our college years in which we read through several large volumes of the work with unflagging interest. A more recent treatment of the Italian Renaissance, which can also lay claim to liveliness of presentation, is Rachel Annand Taylor's INVITA-TION TO RENAISSANCE ITALY (Harpers). And we mustn't forget Ralph Roeder's recently published THE MAN OF THE RENAISSANCE (Viking), which through the medium of four personalities reflects their age in fascinating fashion. As to the histories of France which L. L. wants, we hope he won't be daunted to discover that there are fifteen volumes to Gabriel Hanotaux's HISTOIRE DE LA NATION FRANCAISE, and nine to HISTOIRE DE LA FRANCE DEPUIS LES ORIGINES JUSQU'À LA RÉvolution. Both of these are collaborations. the last said to be one of the most perfect of its kind ever achieved Less extensive. and long a standard history both in French and in the English translation, is Victor Duruy's HISTOIRE DE FRANCE.

PERSONALS

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FUGITIVE — English instructor, "thirty years agrowing," weary of long sentence in polite New England college, prefers hard labor, part or full-time, on editorial side of periodical or publishing house east of Hudson. Sometime foreign correspondent. Languages. Reviewing. Escaping in June. Accomplice? Box 576.

JOB WANTED: anywhere, anything. Educated, unattached, thirty. Metropolitan newspaperman for ten years went broke in Hollywood. Now in middle west. Box 577.

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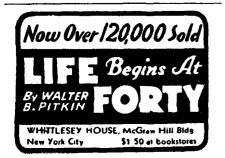
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