The New Books

Fiction

THE TAKING OF THE GRY. By John Masefield. Macmillan. 1934. $1.75.

"Gry" is the gypsy word for horse—one remembers the jingle in "Lavengro" about "the gry of the farming rye"—and in this book is the name of a ship with a carved demi-horse for a figure-head. The *Gry* was loaded with munitions, and so was essential to the success of the Nationalist party in one of the Central American republics which Mr. Masefield has invented and used as the scene of several earlier romances. The book is the story of how the hero, a young English sailor, and his Latin friend, succeed in getting the *Gry* away from the crew placed aboard to guard her (by the same ruse essentially as in the historic Koepenick affair) and how they bring her safe through a channel which has not been used since Drake's day, and which has been left unblockaded because it is supposed to be impassable. After this has been accomplished, we are assured of the success of the Nationalists in a few lines, and the book ends, being no more than an expanded short story.

Oddly, there is more thrill in the preliminary pages, before there has been a hint even of the coming Civil War, than by the actual coup. For in the first pages, the sailor-narrator talks about the fearful joy of piloting a boat through a difficult and unknown channel; and there the Poet Laureate gives us, as no one else now alive can do, the authentic spell of the sea, the fascinating comprehension of some one else's skilled work, the zest of danger overcome by brains and nerve. But when the story proper begins, when the odds are painstakingly raised higher and higher against the hero, although there is the same clear strong prose there is somehow no suspense. Mr. Masefield is by no means an author who invariably gives his heroes success; indeed, one of his favorite and greatest themes is that of the apparent failure; but for some reason one is all too assured that this is a case where the difficulties were made to melt away, and the Boy Gun-Runners in the Caribbean emerge victorious. Perhaps one may say that this is a first-rate book for boys, but something less than a first-rate book for men and women. B. D.

THE QUEEN'S WIGS. Naomi Royde-Smith. Macmillan. 1934. $2.

A fantastic novel is a difficult thing to write. Perhaps, like poetry, it requires a special talent, for fantasy, like poetry, must come unforcedly, inevitably. Since it has no depth of reality to offer it must display a fineness of texture that may in itself delight, a surface as exquisitely polished as, for instance, a novel of Elinor Wylie's. It must have distinction.

Miss Royde-Smith has produced a fantasy that is a little bit dowdy. Wishing to give an air of actuality to her story she has put in too many prosy details, she is too lengthy in describing the gray English school background from which her dull little heroine is snatched away to move through a net of not particularly ingenious intrigue in the romantic Balkan kingdom of Irolya. She has been too lavish, too extravagant, in her setting of the Irolyan scene and she does not succeed in conveying its intended charm by means of her handsomely painted papier-mâché castles, her characters in stuffy fancy dress costume, or their improbable actions. There are certain lovely descriptions, but on the whole the novel is an example of how to spoil an entertaining idea by too great verboseness and over-description. But no doubt, if there were no other book at hand, it might prove more amusing to some people than their own thoughts. C. C.

THE KING OF THE ARCHERS. René Bazin. Macmillan. 1934. $2.

There is a certain surprise in discovering that "The King of the Archers" is laid in a France that is post-war and contemporaneous, for there is nothing in the novel that is intrinsically modern. But instead of charming, this timelessness, this lack of the salt of contemporaneity, leaves the reader bored, for there are no particular virtues in the telling of this story of simple weavers of Roubaix that make up for the dun-colored homeliness of its texture. There are, to be sure, the qualities of honesty and simplicity, but the honesty is not the deeply-searching honesty that is content with nothing less than the perfect phrase, and the simplicity is too often but one remove from banality.

With its discussion of factory life, and its wish to demonstrate the advantages of weavers' working on home-looms, the book dimly recalls one of those interludes of a Tolstoy novel where a major character pauses to concern himself with the problem of the peasants. The tale of the Demeester family, its threatened disintegration, its final happy reunion, is barely absorbing enough to hold the reader's attention through two hundred pages. The story is lumbering and slow in its beginning, burdened with a minuteness of description that suggests to the reader some academically painted *genre* scene of fifty years ago, yet it is slight and without drama. Whatever felicity of phrase may have existed in the original is not particularly apparent in the translation, and the statements of the characters fall wooden and unresonant on the printed page, with no voice in them to fill them and give them life.

C. C.

TRANSIENT LADY. By Octavus Roy Cohen. Appleton-Century. 1934. $2.

From somewhere undetermined, the transient lady had come to Karnak, a county seat in the fairly deep South, and with her two male companions had set up a roller skating rink in a decaying warehouse. In the manner of most small towns, Karnak was excessively sensitive to the presence of the three foreigners, and when one of them in self-defense killed the brother of the county boss there was every prospect for the foreigner's quick hanging or quicker lynching. Two things, however, combined to put off the event: a squabble

(*Continued on next page*)

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P. S.
"Stuart is like Burns in this at least—that he seems to have loved a great many girls, and all of them because they were young, sweet, and pretty; because, like the land, they indicated a fragrant spring. He wants to live with all of them and he wants to lie in the grave with all of them. He loves the soil, too, and good honest work, and freedom. He detests city jobs, conventional education, and the business of holding down petty political positions. The good clean life is, for him, the farmer's life. He knows his townspeople and his farm hands, and he writes tenderly, humorously, and full-bloodedly of them. He is not really a poet at all, in the usual sense of the word; he is not the lyric singer Burns was. But he feels and lives as Burns might have felt and lived, in America, and here he sets it down."—*Eda Lou Walton, The Nation.*

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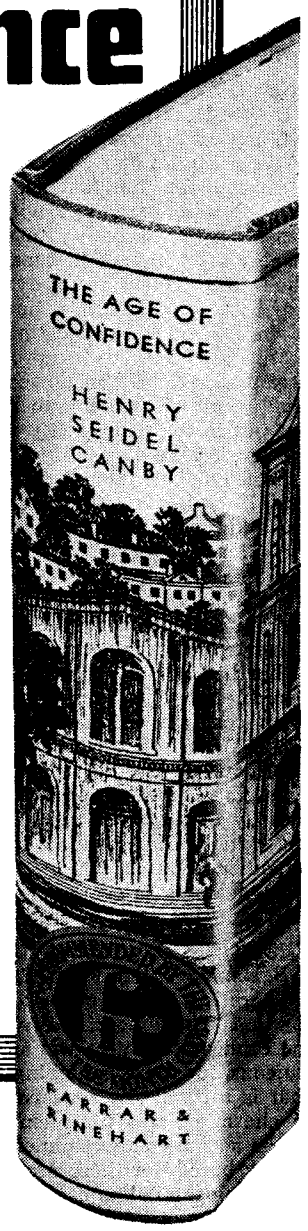

The New Books

(*Continued from preceding page*)

between large families that rose into a first-class feud; and a handsome young aristocrat who came galloping to the personal and legal rescue of the girl and her two friends.

Mr. Cohen writes with his accustomed facility and demonstrates once more his talent in light local color. The minor characters are usually entertaining. But the story has little to recommend it save its surface competence and (in the judgment of some readers) its scrupulous cleanliness.

R. B. M.

Travel

THE OTHER GERMANY. By Gordon Bolitho. Appleton-Century. 1934. $3.

One reads Mr. Bolitho's book with constantly growing amazement. It is not only that the author has seen fit to tell again the story that so many of us have known for years: namely, that during the war a lot of people thought that the Germans were devils, and later found out that they were human beings. It is not only that we are taken through romantic old Heidelberg, that dear place which so many foreigners find just lovely, and so many Germans find pretty boring. It is not only that Mr. Bolitho has discovered that some Germans have large estates, and are hospitable, whereas others have nothing, and are bitter. And it is not only that Mr. Bolitho finds the German Jews horrid, and does not care to associate with them, because they are rude (although, always British, always fair, he says that the Germans are really to blame for the horridness of the Jews).

What is really astonishing is that something written so short a time ago as this book, should read as though it had come out of the ark. Beginning in 1930, and continuing to Christmas, 1933, Mr. Bolitho has written a number of sketches that sound as though they were out of a past life. The Germany he portrays is so thoroughly gone that to read of it is futile.

Mr. Bolitho is superficial, he is also gullible. After living in Hitler's Germany until Christmas, 1933, he can still let it be published over his name that National Socialism has emancipated German women, has increased German devotion and made people happy in church again, has made over-worked servants love their masters as in the good old days. Mr. Bolitho saw little or no evidence of brutality on the part of Hitler's men (perhaps because he was happily shooting roebuck on the estate of a friend), and found that nothing much happened to the Jews.

"The Other Germany" was written before 1934. It is amazing that it could have been written; but that it could be published in book form in 1934 is utterly baffling.

S. A. N.

Latest Books Received

BIOGRAPHY

K-7: As Told to B. Boyce. By G. F. Zimmer. Appleton. $2.50. *Bob Davis at Large.* R. H. Davis. Appleton. $2.50. *A Shepherd of the Far North.* R. Glody. San Francisco: Wagner.

ECONOMICS

Economic Principles and Problems. Ed. W. E. Spahr. Farrar. 2 vols. $5, each vol. $2.50. *The Meaning of Marx.* Ed. S. Hook. Farrar. $1.

INTERNATIONAL

Bolshevism, Fascism and the Liberal Democratic State. M. Parmelee. Wiley. $3. *New Federal Organizations.* Brookings Institution. $1.50.

MISCELLANEOUS

Eminent British Writers of the Nineteenth Century. Ed. R. Withington and C. Van Winkle. Harpers. $4.75. *The Lifesaver's Candy Recipes.* A. Prescott. Blue Ribbon. $1. *Addlegrams.* Admiral C. Jettison. Houghton. $1.50. *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology.* Ed. Committee of the Classical Instructors of Harvard University. Harvard Univ. Pr. *Generation of the Universe and "Design for Living."* P. A. Campbell. East Cleveland, O. *Women Over Forty.* S. Trent. Macaulay. $2. *The Body Beautiful Through Exercise and Vitamin.* A. C. Board. Whitman. $1. *The World Today.* Encyclopaedia Britannica. *English Prose and Poetry,* 1660-1800. Ed. O. Shepard and P. S. Wood. Houghton. $4. *The Modern Approach to the Old Testament.* J. C. Townsend. Stratford. $2. *Organization for Social Welfare.* G. B. Mangold. Macmillan. $3.50. *From Rome to Nation-States.* E. W. Dow. Ann Arbor: Wahr. $1.15. *Introduction to Cambridge.* S. C. Roberts. Macmillan. $1. *The Story of the Bible.* W. R. Bowie. Abingdon. $3. *The Farther Shore.* Ed. N. E. Griffin and L. Hunt. Houghton. $3. *"One Hell of a Business."* H. C. Engelbrecht. McBride. $1. *The British Fishery at Newfoundland.* R. G. Lounsbury. Yale Univ. Pr. $4. *Working with God.* G. Hunting. Unity. $1. *Processes of Graphic Reproduction in Printing.* H. Curwen. Oxford Univ. Pr. $3.75. *Rumeileb. Part III.* E. Grant. Haverford. *Dr. Bundesen's Diet Book.* H. N. Bundesen, M.D. Reilly. $1.50. *The Modern Home Physician.* Ed. V. Robinson, M.D. Wise. $3.50. *Wood-Carving as a Hobby.* H. W. Faulkner. Harpers. $2. *Mental Hygiene for Effective Living.* E. A. Kirkpatrick. Appleton. $3. *Oklahoma.* V. E. Harlow. Oklahoma City: Harlow.

RELIGION

The Bible in Pictures. G. Doré. Wise. $2.50. *Jesus and the Word.* D. R. Bultmann. Scribners. $2. *The Riddle of the Universe Today.* J. McCabe. Harpers. $2.50.

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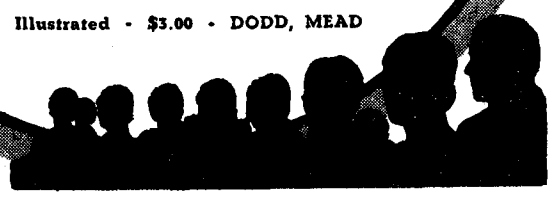

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Inquiries in regard to the choice of books should be addressed to MISS LOVEMAN, c/o *The Saturday Review*. A stamped and addressed envelope should be enclosed for reply.

SUGGESTIONS FOR A LIBRARY

W. C. L. of Closter, N. J., *has assembled what he considers a small but choice library, and is now anxious to develop two branches of it. "I want to build up," he says, "a complete section devoted to philosophy and psychology," and asks for a few of the more elementary titles which ought to be included in it.*

SINCE W. C. L.'s library seems to be a serious undertaking, destined for permanence and no mere haphazard gathering of books to fit the fads of the moment, I felt it needed the advice of an expert and so threw myself once more for assistance on the ever ready kindness of Professor Jastrow. He, with the modesty of the scholar, says there is no way of making a really representative collection of works in philosophy since of the dozens of classes of books in that field one is properly devoted to surveys, another to introductory texts, and a third to original and creative contributions, and all are subject to the course of history. He suggests, however, that W. C. L. add John Dewey's HOW WE THINK (Heath) and HUMAN NATURE AND CONDUCT (Holt) to the batch of books he has already placed on his shelves. As to psychology he says:

> The one book dealing with history is Gardner Murphy's HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION TO MODERN PSYCHOLOGY (1933). For *general psychology*, Gardner Murphy's book with that title. Of similar value, each distinctive, are Hollingworth's GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY, and, stressing the experimental side, R. H. Wheeler's THE SCIENCE OF PSYCHOLOGY, 1929. Also very readable accounts are by Woodworth, and Daniel B. Leary (Modern Psychology); THE STORY OF SCIENTIFIC PSYCHOLOGY, by Adalbert Ford; GREAT EXPERIMENTS IN PSYCHOLOGY, by Garrett; and (for liveliness) Adams: PSYCHOLOGY OR SUPERSTITION. Also THE MEANING OF PSYCHOLOGY, by C. K. Ogden, and a good compilation of selections by Robinson called READINGS IN GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY. Of the divisions of Psychology, it is sufficient to mention the abnormal. Murphy, Hollingworth, Fisher, and Bridges, are representative in this field. For Educational and Applied Psychology, Poffenberger. For Social Psychology, representative books are by Allport, Ewer, McDougall, and Dunlap. For a text, I would suggest Coleman and Commins as a simplified version.
>
> Of the other classes of books dealing with special fields there is no end. The books (above cited) of Leary and of Coleman and Commins contain the most accessible bibliographies. They are good lists for all purposes.

SOUTHWESTERN CULTURE

V. A. C. of San Diego, Calif., *who, when last she wrote to this department was on the first lap of a struggle for the recovery of her health, and who is steadily improving though she still has many a month of convalescence before her, wishes to put in some of her enforced idleness in reading a book or books dealing with the archæology of the Southwestern states.*

MAGIC SPADES (Holt), by R. V. D. Magoffin and Emily Davis, which appeared a few years ago, was written especially for the layman such as V. A. C. describes herself to be. She will find in it much of interest, as also in THE RAINMAKERS: INDIANS OF ARIZONA AND NEW MEXICO (Houghton Mifflin), which discusses history, art, etc., as well as the present culture of the Indians. There is a booklet put out by the University of California Press, by Alfred Kroeber, one of the foremost authorities in the field, entitled NATIVE CULTURE OF THE SOUTHWEST, and E. L. Hewett's ANCIENT LIFE IN THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST (Bobbs-Merrill) should also give V. A. C. the information she wants. May they speed the hours to good health for her.

A PLAY FOR NURSES

N. E. P. of Whitby, Ontario, *is on the hunt for a play, humorous and to be staged by nurses.*

Having just seen IOLANTHE, and still carrying in my mind the charms of recent performances of THE MIKADO and THE GONDOLIERS, I feel like saying that nothing in the way of theatrical entertainment can be as delightful as Gilbert and Sullivan. But having just seen these performances supremely well given I feel like warning all amateurs away from them. It would be safer for the nurses in whom N. E. P. is interested to forswear even PINAFORE, beloved of the unprofessional, and turn to such pleasant comedies of manners as Rachel Crothers's WHEN LADIES MEET or Frederick Lonsdale's THE LAST OF MRS. CHEYNEY, though it must be confessed that the last-named play needs exceedingly good acting to develop its values. If they want a hilarious farce they might try Paul Osborn's THE VINEGAR TREE, which was so popular in New York a few years ago. There has just appeared a collection of thirteen one-act dramas, assembled by A. P. Sanford under the title ONE ACT PLAYS FOR WOMEN, which, while perhaps somewhat lacking in striking dramatic value, are nevertheless amusing and entertaining, and have the virtue of being for all women casts. This last-named is published by Dodd, Mead. The others are all on the list of Samuel French.

HOUSES IN HAWAII

Lola B. Bellinger, of Tacoma, Wash., writes apropos of the request published in the Clearing House of September 15 in regard to Hawaiian houses:

> Perhaps that query has already been answered by some of your readers, but I am passing on my information to you anyway. In Honolulu you will find as wide a diversity in the types of homes as you will in any other city of one hundred and thirty thousand inhabitants. The more wealthy people have large and well built homes, some colonial, some bungalow types and some just plain houses. The more ordinary people have smaller cottages. However, you will find that few have basements as there is no need for furnaces. Some have fire places, some have no heating equipment at all, other than electric heaters. Also there are many cottages with few windows, that is windows with glass. Instead half of the room will be screened and there will be more lanais or porches than one may find on houses here in the mainland.
>
> Building costs are *higher* than on the mainland as the lumber, etc., has to be shipped in from the coast. I should think you might get figures from some of the building supply companies such as Lewers & Cooke or E. O. Hall. A letter to either firm addressed just to Honolulu, T. H., will reach them.

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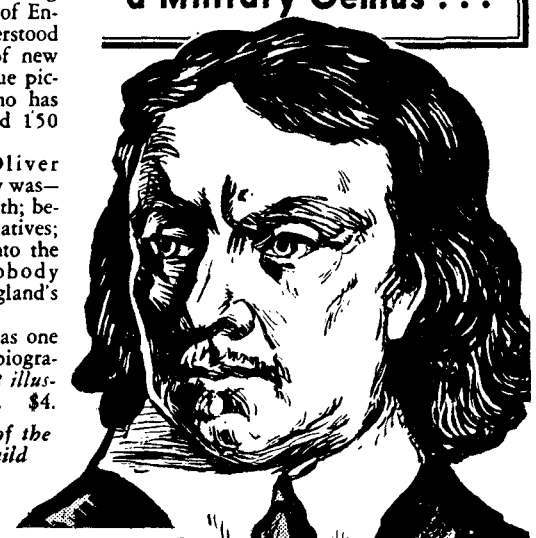

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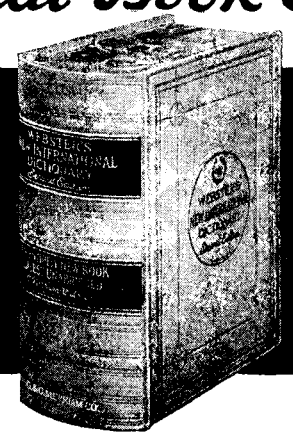

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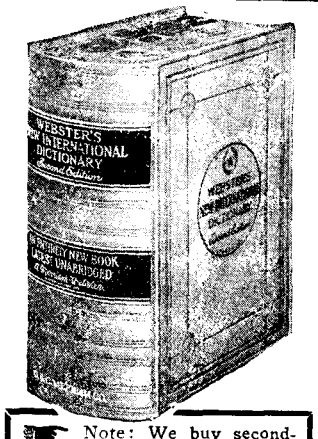

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