

The New Books

Belles Lettres

DON QUIXOTE: An Introductory Essay on Psychology. By Salvador de Madariaga. Oxford University Press. 1935. \$2.50.

There are some books that should be reviewed either in a lengthy essay or by a brief note intended to stir the right readers to find out the contents for themselves. Such a book is Madariaga's essay on Don Quixote. There is no question that he actually has something to say. The theme of his study is based upon Cervantes's remark that he had become the stepfather of Don Quixote, in other words, that Don Quixote had taken on a life of his own which sometimes was out of the control and even out of the sympathy of his author. Madariaga feels that the struggle in the book is not so much between an outworn chivalry and a sane realism, as between the idealism of Don Quixote and the materialism of Sancho Panza. Thus he explains the impatient and brutal mishandling of Don Quixote, which must puzzle many readers who see without understanding a certain resentment in the author against his own creation. Thus he explains the tragic decline of Don Quixote who surrenders his idealism with his fantasies. Madariaga has made no attempt to discuss every aspect of this great book. He has rather desired to show why it continues to have psychological vitality when so many other character studies of the Renaissance are long since dead. What he has to say is by no means the whole explanation of "Don Quixote," but it is certainly an explanation, and one reader, at least, who has just completed a second perusal, feels that there is justice in Madariaga's definition of the book as a work of art which sometimes goes beyond the conscious knowledge of its author.

H. S. C.

Fiction

JAKE. By Naomi Royde Smith. Macmillan. 1935. \$2.50.

Miss Royde Smith's talent for communicating the subtle beauty and excitement of little things appears to advantage in her new novel. Her humor relieves the tension of this excitement and blows cool in unexpected and gratifying gusts. Both qualities added to a very intelligent interest in the varieties and inconsistencies of human nature cause the reader to follow with pleasure the story of young Jake Moore, greatest violinist of his age, his guardian, his mother, his first teacher, and certain predatory women. And he will not easily forget the author's skill in suggesting emotional undercurrents in many scenes. Most romantic, but restrained and moving, are the hours spent by the two prodigies, Jake and little Allie, mathematical genius and his worshipper, in a Swiss shepherd's hut, in the dark of the moon, drawing a map of the heavens. Throughout, the décor of the tale is romantic, the music colony Mildensee, musical Paris, alpine meadows. But these qualities do not follow the author either

in her conception of the novel as a whole or in the several scenes of great emotional disturbance. The musical triumphs of Jake, for instance, are breathlessly, gaspingly, described; the physiological effect upon the intent reader irritates him because the excellence of the book lies in its delicate and humorous perceptions.

E. C. W.

A PREFACE TO MATURITY. By Jule Brousseau. Crowell. 1935. \$2.50.

Surely no young woman ever went through the torment of self-orientation and self-integration with more dismal seriousness than Theodora Menninger, Mrs. Brousseau's protagonist in her first novel. Much of this seriousness carries over into the conception and the execution of her novel, with the result that its purposiveness is vitiated, with, at times, a humor that is as pathetic as it is unintended. This grimness, this essential humorlessness coupled with a des-

perate determination on the part of the author to see things straight and set them down honestly, makes it possible for her to write such sentences as: "But in the days and nights that followed it seemed to her that a mouth had opened, deep down beneath her spine"; or, in Theodora's first passionate encounter, permit so completely false a speech as this: "She was shaken. 'You—! Oh, I am virgin,' she stammered. 'You invade me, Alec!'"

The child of a woman who had married a man she always felt was superior to herself, and hence despised, Theodora suffered through her childhood and adolescence with a sense of separation, "apartness." She witnessed her father's disintegration by way of alcohol, and his suicide; she witnessed her mother's belated self-assertion, how she lifted herself by sheer determination into a wide success in the world of business; she broke with her mother when she learned finally what the effort had done to her—made her hard, ruthless, an exploiter of her fellow-man. But her own integration was even more difficult to come by, and she had two romantic episodes

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to assist her: one with a young man who was really looking for a mother; one with a man to whom she could respond physically—but he was looking for love. Both helped her one step further toward the sense of union she had searched for all her conscious life, but which she had not yet achieved when this portion of her story closes.

Mrs. Brousseau possesses considerable sensitivity to the minutiae of human relationships, and at times she can write with lucidity and charm. But her first fictional effort can justifiably be saddled with the very defects with which she stigmatizes Theodora Menninger. It is introspective to a depressing degree and achieves little depth; it has moments of abandonment to a specious sort of romantic mystical philosophy; it is so earnest it is painful.

A. C. B.

THE BLACK SWAN. By Ann Strawbridge. Coward-McCann. 1935. \$2.

Disciples of Dorothy Dix should approve of this story. The heroine, repulsed in youthful love and advised by a gay aunt that women who find true love are as rare as black swans, pursues a brilliant social career with a cold, unsusceptible heart, makes the conventional marriage, has children, finds life empty, then is suddenly overwhelmed by a fascinating and sympathetic man separated from a Roman Catholic wife. The author, after arranging several tragic occurrences, including the husband's death, to shake her nerve, offers a knock-down solution: Be true to home and family and the love cherished in your secret heart will achieve spiritual perfection.

The advantage of being a disciple of Dorothy Dix is that one doesn't have to follow her advice. Miss Strawbridge's heroine has no such luck. One feels rather sorry for her. She is spirited, imaginative, green-eyed, and beautiful. One sympathizes with the doubts and longings that beset her under the cherry trees on her family estate. Surely, she would have had a better chance in real life?

D. P.

The Clearing House

CONDUCTED BY AMY LOVEMAN

Inquiries, accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope, should be directed to Miss Loveman, in care of The Saturday Review.

A BALANCED RATION FOR A WEEK'S READING

YEARS ARE SO LONG. By Josephine Lawrence. Stokes.

THE NATIVE'S RETURN. By Louis Adamic. Harpers.

THE WESTWARD STAR. By Frank Ernest Hill. Day.

Germany and Italy

"Please send me a list of the very latest publications, with prices if possible, on the subjects of Germany and Italy," writes Mrs. E. C. T. of Fort Worth, Texas.

THERE is, of course, a large pamphlet literature on the fascist countries, and there are, too, numerous books upon them published in England and continental countries which have not been issued on this side of the water. Since Mrs. E. C. T. wishes a list for club purposes I take it she does not want works noted which are not easily accessible, so I am confining myself, in replying to her, to such volumes as can be procured in the United States without difficulty. I am, moreover, sticking to her stipulation of "the very latest publications" which seems to mean that nothing of large importance will be included. Of the books to be found several are prophecies rather than analyses. Such, for instance, is the booklet by V. McKenzie, *WAR IN EUROPE, 1940?* (University of Seattle: 25 cents), so, too, is H. von Lowenstein-Scharffeneck's *AFTER GERMANY'S FALL* (Macmillan: \$3.50). Official Germany comes under discussion in F. L. Schuman's *THE CONDUCT OF GERMAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS* (American Academy of Political and Social Science: \$2.50). There's

a historical study, by L. L. Snyder, entitled *FROM BISMARCK TO HITLER* (Bayard), a little brochure by M. S. Wertheimer, put out by the Foreign Policy Association, called *GERMANY UNDER HITLER* (25 cents), and another small work which may interest E. C. T., *JEWS IN NAZI GERMANY* (American Jewish Committee, 70 Madison Avenue, New York City: 60 cents). *FASCISM AND CITIZENSHIP* (University of North Carolina Press: \$1), by G. Norlin; *FATHERLAND* (Farrar & Rinehart: \$2.50), by K. Billinger, P. F. Douglass's *GOD AMONG THE GERMANS* (University of Pennsylvania Press: \$3) and H. Levy's *INDUSTRIAL GERMANY* (Macmillan: \$3.50) are all recent books that should prove revealing. Two personal narratives, the one reflecting the experiences of youth in Nazi Germany, and the other recounting the bitter experiences of one of its victims, should be of interest to Mrs. E. C. T. These are *RESTLESS DAYS* (Knopf: \$3), by Lilo Linke; and *I WAS HITLER'S PRISONER* (Putnam: \$2.75), by S. Lorant. E. T. Colton's *FOUR PATTERNS OF REVOLUTION* (Association Press: \$2.50) is a double-barreled volume for Mrs. E. C. T.'s purposes for it takes up both Germany and Italy. On the latter country there has been less written in recent months than on the former, though the Ethiopian situation has already called forth several volumes on Abyssinia and so indirectly on Italian foreign affairs. There is, however, to be published on October 17 a book which ought to be just the sort for which Mrs. E. C. T. is looking,—*MUSSOLINI'S ITALY* (Holt: \$3.75), by Herman Finer.

Horace After 2000 Years

"The Horatian bimillennium, bimillennial, or bimillenary (the last seems so suggestive of hats) has stirred again my interest in Horace whose writings I taught in a women's college a good many years ago," writes I. M. H. of Ottumwa, Iowa. Is there anything recently published about him? The latest book that I have is E. K. Rand's 'A Walk to Horace's Farm.'"

That, I think, is the latest study of importance on the poet. In 1928, Tenney Frank, one of the best Horatian scholars in the country, brought out an interesting volume which I. M. H. may not have seen, entitled *CATULLUS AND HORACE—TWO POETS IN THEIR ENVIRONMENT* (Holt), and in 1922 Grant Showerman issued *HORACE AND HIS INFLUENCE* (Longmans, Green). Edith Hamilton's delightful *THE ROMAN WAY* (Norton) devotes some twenty pages to the poet, illuminating pages which, instead of presenting translations from Horace to illustrate their points, give verses from English poets in the same mood and manner, and Quiller-Couch's *STUDIES IN LITERATURE. FIRST SERIES* (Putnam) gives over pages 51-75 to the poet. I take it for granted that I. M. H. knows Sellar's *HORACE AND THE ELEGIAC POETS* (Oxford University Press). The essay on Horace in that volume

Over the Counter

The Saturday Review's Guide to Current Attractions

Trade Mark	Label	Contents	Flavor
COUNTRY HOLIDAY Frances Woodhouse (Putnam: \$2.)	Novel	Wise and young English medico comes to grips with country ozone and loves it. The pay-off: Contentment.	Wholesome
GRINGO GUNS Peter Field (Morrow: \$2.)	Western	Pat Stevens, Powder Valley gent, and a couple of buddies on the scent for Mexican bandits. The bandits lose.	44 caliber
WE WALK ALONE Harriet Henry (Harpers: \$2.)	Novel	Married pair hire chaste femme to keep wifey on the straight and narrow. Wifey can't take it—and what follows is plenty!	O.K.
REGARDS TO BROADWAY Donald Henderson Clark (Vanguard: \$2.)	Novel	Pre-war Bohemians sin their way into the heavy dough and wind up with ideals.	Phony