

chology of the period," without which the student of past wars cannot properly draw conclusions.

Of mercenaries the author has much to say, which may be summed up in his own words:—"Business was Business" in the sixteenth century no less than in the twentieth!" So, it seems, many a leader found, whose hirelings struck for extra pay or back pay or even haggled on the eve of battle for a special bonus!

A possible stumbling block at first to the student of military history is the fact that Sir Charles scores Machiavelli for identical observations about the limitations of cavalry which Colonel G. T. Denison in his "History of Cavalry" also quotes as evidence of the wily Italian's "correct ideas upon the art of war!" In truth, however, both giants of military historical research are correct, for they use the same quotation to support two different angles of approach towards the same end, the sluggish degeneracy of an over-armed cavalry which had lost shocking power and lacked effective fire power. And cavalry, if you please, Sir Charles, is still cavalry today—whether it be horsed or mechanized.

All in all this is a grand book, whether for research or for entertainment. With the present-day trend to the period historical romance, "A History of the Art of War in the 16th Century" furnishes background for a thousand thrilling plots of derring-do. And one must bow to the eminent historian who has so completely digested and presented in one volume the causes, actions, and effects of a century of warfare.

## Maryland Colonists

**CAPTAINS AND MARINERS OF EARLY MARYLAND.** By Raphael Semmes. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press. 1937. \$5.

Reviewed by HULBERT FOOTNER

THIS is a scholarly work without being in the least forbidding. It is far too entertaining to be relegated to the reference shelves. The marine flavor of the title is slightly misleading, because the "Captains" of the narrative are not the captains of ships, but the leaders of the colonists generally. Actually there is little about mariners; the story is mainly of the settlers and Indians of the seventeenth century. For the most part Mr. Semmes allows them to tell it in the quaint idiom of the day with their own adventurous spelling. He is the most self-effacing of authors. It has obviously been a long labor of love for him to search the archives of America and England for every scrap of original testimony on the times. Consequently the reader is enabled to enter into the very lives of the colonists; to trade with them, journey with them, fight with them; witness their endless attempts to pull wool over each other's eyes.

Mr. Semmes's story of the relations between the colonists and the Indians is a lamentable one. The first settlers were hospitably welcomed by the Indians; nevertheless the colonists came to despise them, gradually overbore them, and drove them off their lands.

## Words and Logic

**THE LOGICAL SYNTAX OF LANGUAGE.** By Rudolf Carnap. Translated from the German by Amethe Smeaton. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co. 1937. \$7.50.

Reviewed by MILTON KARL MUNITZ

AMONG the current winds of doctrine in the philosophical world, the one variously known as logical positivism or scientific empiricism, has assumed significant proportions in the very recent past and promises to become increasingly effective as time goes on. Like its historic forbears, empiricism and positivism, it is primarily a movement of criticism, although like these other movements, it presents certain constructive theses as well. Armed with a criterion of meaning that insists on the empirical verifiability of any presumably significant assertion, it is, as criticism, directed to the eradication of metaphysics from the field of legitimate philosophic inquiry. There are metaphysical statements which presume to inform us of the traits of some reality entirely beyond any possible experience, such as God, a realm of transcendent values, Absolute Experience and the like. And on the basis of the above criterion such statements are entirely meaningless and not, therefore, even possibly true or false.

What then, we may ask, is left for philosophy? Here the constructive thesis begins to appear. Since science is preëminently the activity wherein empirically verifiable assertions are made, philosophy, if it is to retain any useful intellectual function, must recognize its proper role as consisting entirely of the logical analysis of the assertions of science. In this volume, and in a less technical, smaller one, "Philosophy and Logical Syntax," Professor Carnap shows such analysis to consist in the logical syntax of the language of science. By this is meant the system of the formal properties and rules governing the formation of sentences in that language and the transformation or "deduction" of one expression from another. In a fairly technical and logically rigorous manner the author contributes an exact syntactical method or instrument for working out the problems of the logic of science as thus conceived. A final section in the volume dealing with the relations between philosophy and syntax, sums up the main thesis of the work and presents a program for constructive philosophic activity.

That an approach to the problems of formal logic via considerations of general syntax is extremely fruitful, this work makes abundantly clear. It likewise cannot be doubted that an adoption of the general critical theses of logical positivism will inevitably involve much discomfort to speculative philosophies that have been elaborated in the grand manner and without regard to the special findings of the sciences. But instead of identifying philosophy wholly with formal logic, as the author insists, would it not be in greater accordance with usage and history to require the extension of the same method of empirical and logical analysis to at least two types of inquiry

that have been traditionally associated with the spirit of philosophy?

We refer first, to a critical examination of the empirically discoverable generic traits of natural existence, and second, to the ethical concern with the intrinsic goods or values of experience. Philosophy, a union of logical technique and comprehensive vision, will then retain its ancient privilege of surveying and estimating the natural conditions and ideal goals of human existence.

## Interpreting "Macbeth"

**THE THANE OF CAWDOR. A Detective Study of Macbeth.** By David Baird. New York: Oxford University Press. 1937. \$2.

THE murder of Duncan and that of Banquo are not among the unexplained mysteries. Shakespeare has long ago divulged both the motives and the methods and Mr. Baird does not dispute the poet's analysis of the crimes. But, by assuming that the Doctor of Physic (who in the play appears in only two brief scenes of Act V) was attending Lady Macbeth from the start, and was of an inquiring disposition, the author of this clever book is able to bring various circumstances into sharper focus.

On two sides Mr. Baird's Doctor offers information that will assist students of the play. He enters fully into the constitutional questions affecting succession to the crown under the Gaelic law of tanistry, and produces a genealogical table which, though it diverges from Shakespeare's authority (Holinshed), may be correct. And he gives us a very precise idea, illustrated by drawings, of the structure of Macbeth's castle and the disposition of the guests on the night of Duncan's misadventure. Obviously, the Doctor knows more about these matters than Shakespeare did, but his reconstructions are plausible and sometimes help us neatly over dark places in the dramatic plot.

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# The New Books

## Anthropology

**SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY OF NORTH AMERICAN TRIBES**, *Essays in Social Organization, Law, and Religion*. Edited by Fred Eggan, with an introduction by Robert Redfield. University of Chicago Press. 1937. \$3.

Upon the occasion of Professor A. R. Radcliffe-Brown's departure from the University of Chicago to occupy the chair of social anthropology at Oxford, a group of his disciples has prepared a notable contribution to social anthropology in his honor. The articles included in "Social Anthropology of North American Tribes" are written by men who are not merely his pupils, but mature scientists who, in the course of their active practice, have developed their own points of view, upon a base of his teachings of "function" and "science."

Adequate discussion of the papers would have to be technical and lengthy. Suffice it to say that they do not merely analyze the social set-ups of specific tribes, but in almost every case develop these analyses to illustrate broad concepts and theories of real interest. As praiseworthy examples, with no intention of slighting thereby the other contributions, one may mention Sol Tax's delightfully clear and non-technical opening remarks on the terms "history," "science," and "explanation" as used in anthropology, and Fred Eggan's clear, readable study of the Cheyenne and Arapaho. The other contributors are William H. Gilbert, Jr., J. Gilbert McAllister,

Philleo Nash, Morris E. Opler, and John H. Provinse.

O. LA F.

## Biography

**A COLLEGE PROFESSOR OF THE RENAISSANCE. LUCIO MARINEO SICULO AMONG THE SPANISH HUMANISTS**. By Caro Lynn. University of Chicago Press. 1937. \$3.

The fifteenth century did not open in Spain with that grand parade of learning and culture which characterized the same period in Italy. The peninsula was governmentally and economically too chaotic. Continuous wars gave its people time to consider only their physical safety. The Moorish civilization in the South alone had any claim to elegance. But, with the marriage of Ferdinand and Isabella, and the uniting of the powers of Aragon and Castile, life grew more settled. The Moors were finally expelled from Granada, and Christian Spain began to have both the leisure and the wealth to devote itself to the arts. The new learning crept in from Italy; the universities were permeated by the spirit of humanism; the aristocrats, led by the king and queen, took to their hearts the graces of polite letters.

Among the begetters of this cultural awakening was a Sicilian, Lucio Marineo, who had absorbed at Catania, Palermo, and Rome the enthusiasm of the classical revival. Brought to Spain in 1484, he soon became professor of poetry and rhetoric at Salamanca, from which eminence his influence and his fame spread throughout

the nation. His wide learning, his gentle manners, and his graceful skill at eulogy gave him popularity in many circles and won for him the friendship even of the king and queen. The generosity of his teaching and the tactful graciousness of his writing did much to create the great period of Spanish culture which flowered in the sixteenth century, the beginnings of which he himself lived to see.

Miss Lynn has presented in this book not only a complete and highly satisfactory biography of Marineo, but also a detailed study of Spanish humanism. Her research has been thorough and loving, and she has had the talent to build up out of her gleanings a book which is readable and rewarding.

C. D. A.

**MAJOR NOAH**. By Isaac Goldberg. Knopf. 1937. \$3.

Major Mordecai Manuel Noah—Heinrich Heine joked about him, Poe analyzed his character through his handwriting and commended his playwrighting, Greeley rebuked him for his attitude toward Negroes, Howell's honeymooners sighed over him in "Their Wedding Journey," Zangwill included him in "They That Walk in Darkness," Maurice Schwartz in 1927 produced a comedy about him in Yiddish. In American legend he was fair to become a tragic buffoon. Mr. Goldberg has made Noah's picturesque personality glow again for us.

M. M. Noah was born in Philadelphia in 1785 of Jewish parents justly proud of their ancestors. Early he apprenticed himself as a gilder and carver, read at the Old Franklin Library, became an enthusiastic Jeffersonian republican, attended the theatres, in 1808 wrote a play. He moved to Charleston, wrote newspaper articles signed "Muly Malak," screeched effectively as a War-hawk, and was rewarded by Madison with the consulship at Tunis where he arrived after an in-advertent grand tour.

Noah moved to New York City where his uncle Nephtali Phillips, a power in politics, made him editor of the *National Advocate*. He won political power with his pen and maintained it until his death in 1851. His utopian scheme to found Zion on Grand Island near Buffalo is characteristically theatrical and shrouded with real estate speculation. Here Mr. Goldberg would have done well to remark that this period in New York State also bred the dreams of Joseph Smith and the calculations of William Miller. He has, however, done well in pointing out to Jews that if they cannot forget the charlatan of Ararat, they can be proud as Jews of this pioneer Zionist and as Americans of this dynamic though errant creature.

D. B.

## Fiction

**SUNSET AT NOON**. By Ruth Feiner. Lippincott. 1937. \$2.50.

Her outlook on life affected first by the suicide of her ineffective father, then by her position as penniless dependent on a rich uncle, Stanzi grew up an obstinate little prig. Consciousness of being very moderately good-looking only increased

## The Criminal Record

The Saturday Review's Guide to Detective Fiction

Title and Author	Crime, Place, Sleuth	Summing Up	Verdict
<b>THE PEACOCK FEATHER MURDERS</b> Carter Dickson (Morrow: \$2.)	Two different murders in practically sealed rooms with fantastic trappings, and police politely invited, arouse Sir H. Merivale from lethargy.	First-rate puzzler, with oh-so-simple (once you know it) solution—carefully annotated, with lively talk and interesting people.	Dickson <i>de luxe</i>
<b>THE MAN WHO WAS MURDERED TWICE</b> R. H. Lifford (Furman: \$2.)	Playboy filched of fortune by crooked financial adviser. Simon Crole, hired to regain gold, finds murder rampant.	Copious killings on California coast with Eastern thugs supplying some of the more murderous moments. Much action—no mystery.	Gun-play
<b>DEATH OF A GOLFER</b> Anthony Wynne (Lippincott: \$2.)	British ship-builder strangely stabbed on links. Immediate bystanders suspected but Dr. Hailey clears them and produces proper killer.	Much beating around bush about deadly golf clubs (cf. N. Wolfe) but conclusion is almost farthest-fetched on record.	Hailey- <i>atque</i> <i>vale</i>
<b>TENANT FOR DEATH</b> Cyril Hare (Dodd, Mead: \$2.)	Murder of crooked financier and complete evaporation of man last seen with him effectively unriddled by lunch-loving Insp. Mellett.	Agreeable and meticulously worked out tale on conventional British lines with more humor than found in most Scotland Yard exploits.	Good