

"THE ROLLER COASTER RIDE OF THE CENTURY"

—*Boston Herald*

"Features a heroine who steps up one's pulse."

—*Cincinnati Enquirer*

"Beautifully written and shocking story. The suspense throughout is terrific."

—*The New Yorker*

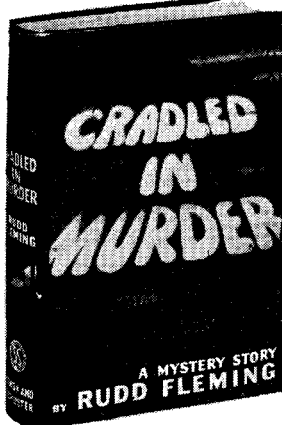
"Plot: clever; style: swift, spare."

—*Time Magazine*

"Narrated with crisp, diabolical deftness."

—*N. Y. World-Telegram*

\$2.00 SIMON AND SCHUSTER



"A NEW TECHNIQUE TO THE THRILLER"

—*Will Cuppy, Herald Tribune "Books"*

"You won't want to put down this superb thriller until you've finished the last page."

—*N. Y. World-Telegram*

"Masterful!"

—*N. Y. Times Book Review*

"The denouement is and will leave you shivering. Tops in horror and evil."

—*Philadelphia Record*

"The most unusual tale of the month." —*Scribner's Magazine*

\$2.00 • An Inner Sanctum Mystery

Causes of Change

A PHILOSOPHY FOR A MODERN MAN. By H. Levy. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 1938. \$2.50.

Reviewed by LEONARD BACON

THIS fascinating book was apparently written with several objects in view, one of which was to produce a maximum incidence of apoplexy in the Union League Club. At least it is perfectly adapted to the purpose. And the reviewer is not prepared to take up a quarrel on that ground.

Two-thirds of the work seem to him beyond praise, the rest as it may be. The analysis of the changing world and the exposition of the nature and cause of change will make anyone with an intellect more complex than an amoeba's pause and inquire. Clearness is a noble attribute, and Professor Levy is not only clear but fertile in illustration. A layman cannot pretend to point out where Professor Levy's thought departs from great originals. Most of the fundamental notions of the book are new to me. But I do know that his exposition of Hegelian dialectic, which most people only understand by guess or by God, is really lucid. William James's joke about fathoming Hegel only under the influence of nitrous oxide almost loses its point as the ideas are exhibited in the light of Professor Levy's deadly clarity.

His explanation of the generalized law of change is egregiously simple. Wherever change occurs the sequence will be

of this nature. An exterior force applied to a given situation produces an interior stress by which the situation is altered into a new one. Thus heat (an exterior force) is applied to water on the stove (a given situation) producing molecular agitation (an interior stress) which alters the situation into steam (a new situation). This really looks like a generalized law of change. At least anyone will sweat who can find any change which cannot be described in these terms. But it is respectfully submitted that the discovery of these factors in a complex situation is a task for Hercules. Nor am I disposed to take lying down Professor Levy's application of his dialectic to the large problems of society. It is hard to believe that the British Labor Party is necessarily the outcome of all history. As the man said, it is such a small rabbit to take out of such a large hat.

Also I wish he had not in passing taken the conventional crack at Darwin, whom for some reason Marxians feel it desirable to liquidate. It won't do to say that Darwin was wrong because he was a child of his time. As has been pointed out, Marx was a child of the same time.

Be that as it may, people ought to read the first four chapters of this book hard, particularly the fourth, "What Causes Change." But the remainder must be read with a full comprehension of the fact that the wishful thinking of a fine mathematician resembles the wishful thinking of persons whose minds are less delicately organized.

The Criminal Record

The Saturday Review's Guide to Detective Fiction

Title and Author	Crime, Place, Sleuth	Summing Up	Verdict
THE CAIRO GARTER MURDERS Van Wyck Mason (Crime Club: \$2.)	Hugh North and Bruce Kilgour trail dangerous mass-killer from ocean liner to sandy wastes of Egyptian desert.	From sea-swept start through lush oriental high-jinks to fantastic finish on moon-lit Sahara, a swell succession of thrills.	Top-notch
THE SCARF ON THE SCARECROW Martin Joseph Freeman (Dutton: \$2.)	Mother and son sent under sod by slayer seeking "golden rod." Deducing done by Jerry Todd.	Lively, well-plotted yarn of double murder and hidden treasure with slick killer and slicker sleuth.	Better grade
MURDER IN WAITING Robert Murphy (Scribner's: \$2.)	Murder among hard-drinking set at country estate anticipated by wager of private investigator, who solves it.	Crowded incident, cryptic dialogue, and intricate solution leave reader as confused as the plot.	Exhausting
VALID OR FORGED? Lloyd L. Jones (Funk and Wagnalls: \$2.) (Non-fiction)	Practical hand-book for lawyers, bank-cashiers, and others who must keep eyes peeled for too-expert penmen.	Instructive text and revealing pictures show how science makes row of ambitious forger very hard to hoe.	Valuable
MURDERS IN SILK Mike Teagle (Hillman-Curl: \$2.)	One gent perishes in ladies' room of r. r. coach; flames consume another; shots riddle third as Pa Bixby solves puzzle.	Spry septuagenarian sleuth and raffish son star in sanguinary and slightly screwy salmagundi of silk, sex, and slaying.	Lurid

Charles Darwin

By GEOFFREY WEST

An appropriately modern and balanced portrait of a man who profoundly influenced the thinking of the modern world. The author has told the complete story of Darwin's life, of the young man who first studied to become a doctor, then a priest, and finally turned to biology only as an avocation. Darwin was far from brilliant and his life was a fascinating mixture of chance, hard work, and outstanding honesty—and a curiosity that was to turn his thinking into one of the greatest single forces of history. Illustrated. \$3.50



In the Spirit of William James

By RALPH BARTON PERRY

Based on the Powell Lectures, at Indiana University, this volume draws freely from the author's Pulitzer Prize winning book *The Thought and Character of William James*. \$2.00

Letters of Queen Victoria



Edited by HECTOR BOLITHO

The intimate story of a great woman is revealed through these letters of Victoria written to German relatives. The letters, never before published or even available to biographers, span her mature life and "one sees, perhaps more clearly than ever before, what a remarkable woman Victoria was."—*N. Y. Times*. \$3.00

THE Folklore of Capitalism 7th
Big Printing \$3
By THURMAN W. ARNOLD

YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS
New Haven, Connecticut

NOT A BAD IDEA—

We have been impressed of late by the number of new subscribers who tell us they first heard of *The Saturday Review* through an enthusiastic friend. Not a bad idea. Why not show your friends a copy of the SRL and see if anything happens?

Pragmatist

IN THE SPIRIT OF WILLIAM JAMES.
By Ralph Barton Perry. New Haven:
Yale University Press. 1938. \$2.

Reviewed by ROBERT BIERSTEDT

IN these incisively written Powell Lectures on Philosophy delivered at Indiana University in January, 1937, Ralph Barton Perry proves once more his friendship with his great teacher. Drawing freely from his Pulitzer Prize biography, "The Thought and Character of William James," he encourages the reader to agree that "the fascination of biography lies in the elusive mystery of personality," and then offers five lectures which make the personality of William James less elusive and less mysterious, and which enhance rather than diminish the fascination of his life and his philosophy.

The book, however, is not a summary biography nor does it contain biographical sketches, except in the first lecture which contrasts James with Royce and considers that peculiar juxtaposition of ideals which made the former, who received his early training in the relative luxury of European capitals, the champion of an indigenously American philosophy, and the latter, who was first educated in the haphazard schools of the American frontier, the representative of a typically European *Weltanschauung*. The second and third chapters concern James's empirical theory of knowledge and his metaphysics of experience, and are written in a language which readers unacquainted with the vocabulary of technical philosophy will pronounce both comfortable and clear. Indeed, nothing of philosophical precision has ever been foreign to either James or Perry. Chapters four and five, "A Militant Liberal" and "The Right to Believe," disclose James's solutions to dilemmas still current, his attitudes toward individualism, liberty, and tolerance in relation to the exclusive and inclusive principles of life, and his use of the latter principle to reconcile the tolerance of liberalism with the militancy of action. The author concludes with the apparent conflict between empiricism and faith, suggesting that while James never relinquished his fidelity to theoretical and empirical evidence, he also appreciated the unfortunate personal and social consequences of abstinence from beliefs which lack this evidence. With a facility born of an intimate knowledge, Professor Perry further disposes of the criticisms of Van Wyck Brooks, who has lamented James's readiness to allow an American expedience a place in his philosophy, and of Santayana, who charged James with romanticism and with having "forgotten the Greeks."

The author of this book exhibits again not only his own high competence, which has long been taken for granted, but also his conviction of the essential humanity of James. Other disciples can only hasten to concur that "no man has ever made a more heroic struggle to think consistently, or to abide by the consequences of his own affirmations." No one has a better right to say so than Ralph Barton Perry, and no one preserves more reverently the spirit of William James.

The AMEN CORNER

"In gay Vauxhall now saunter beaux
and bells,
And happier cits resort to Sadler's
Wells,"

quotes Austin Dobson at the head of "Old Vauxhall Gardens," one of his *Eighteenth Century Vignettes*, First Series, which has just been re-issued in a new edition in the *World's Classics*, our favorite pocket library.¹ "To sit and bask in the sunshine of the eighteenth century, with Austin Dobson turning on the sun, is a rare and holy joy," wrote Sir Walter Besant. It is especially a joy in this neat dark blue volume, beautifully printed and illustrated with three plates from eighteenth-century originals.

We have also been basking in the sun of *Old Calabria*, with Norman Douglas, who has written a new introduction for the edition just added to the *World's Classics*. It is, to quote the blurb on the jacket (a newly-designed jacket, by the way) "a perfect example of the rarest and finest type of travel book, the story of a personality against the background of an unknown place." Dip into it anywhere and you come upon something too delightful to spoil by quotation. The Oxonian's volume has just opened at the sly chapter called "Albanians and their College."

* * *

Now that we have finished reading it, there are three more new titles in the *World's Classics* tempting us.

Recollections and Essays by Leo Tolstoy, translated with an Introduction by Aylmer Maude is the seventeenth title by Tolstoy to be added to the series. The only completer translation in existence is the *Tolstoy Centenary Edition* in 21 volumes.²

Modern German Short Stories, translated by H. Steinhauer (who contributes an Introduction) and Helen Jessiman, illustrates the development of German literature from 1870 to 1933, and contains, among others, stories by Thomas Mann, Arthur Schnitzler, and Hans Fallada.

Speeches and Documents on International Affairs 1918-1937 is in two volumes,¹ edited with an Introduction by Arthur Berriedale Keith. It is the essence of the annual volumes of Documents from the Royal Institute of International Affairs, and is an invaluable reference work for intelligent readers of current international news who want to be able to turn at once to the sources to refresh their knowledge.

When we begin on the *World's Classics* we could go on forever. We haven't left much room to talk about another recent Oxford book we have been enjoying, but we will just name it—*Four French Novelists*: Marcel Proust, André Gide, Jean Giraudoux, Paul Morand,³ by Georges Lemaitre. It will help you understand France and the position of her writers during the last twenty years or so.

THE OXONIAN.

(¹) 80c each. Write for complete list. Oxford University Press, 114 Fifth Avenue.
(²) \$65.00. (³) \$3.50.