

Adjustments to the Depression

THE FAMILY AND THE DEPRESSION. *A Study of One Hundred Chicago Families.* By Ruth Shonle Cavan and Katherine Howland Ranck. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. 1938. \$2.50.

THE FAMILY—PAST AND PRESENT. By Bernhard J. Stern. New York: D. Appleton-Century Co. 1938. \$2.75.

Reviewed by RAYMOND G. FULLER

THE first of these books tells how a hundred Chicago families met the depression—how they behaved under its impact. The families were known, before the depression, to the Institute for Juvenile Research; most of them were self-supporting, some well-to-do. Many of them, at the time of this follow-up study, in 1934-35, had never been on relief. Thus they are much more representative of the community than relief families. The study was made by a sociologist and a psychiatric social worker, and is readably reported; from a research standpoint, it is highly significant and valuable.

How did these families and their members take such things as reduced income, loss of status, a cramped style of living, cramped living quarters, thwarting of ambitions, and so on? How did they react and adjust themselves to these things? What happened to their morale? Properly, considering the small number of cases, the answers are not given in statistical terms, but the analysis of the family stories shows that the reactions and adjustments (including maladjustments) were of great variety.

The general conclusion seems warranted that the ways in which the families responded to the conditions and problems induced by the depression depended on, or at least were similar to, the habitual ways in which they had met earlier changes and crises. The depression, one might say, exaggerated or brought into play the previously existing family and personal habits. Thus, the man who occasionally drank now began to drink to excess. The family that was already harmoniously organized and smoothly functioning became more unified and the members more loyal. Moreover, it would seem that the quality of the family organization—that is, the unity and harmony and functioning efficiency within the family—had more to do with the question of how the family (and its members) met the depression than the depression itself.

The second of these volumes is a rich and varied collection of readings prepared for the Commission on Human Relations of the Progressive Education Association. It is designed primarily for use as a source book in colleges and universities (and even in high schools, though in part it might be rather strong meat for some of the latter) in the study of the changing form of the family, the contemporary trends in family life, and the social and economic factors affecting family functions and relationships. Thus its content ranges from cultural anthropology to the psychiatry and mental hygiene of the family, with provision of a thoroughly adequate historical background for an understanding of what are called "the problems of the family." Russia is not omitted. In short, the lay as well as the sociological reader will find this book a mine of information, suggestion, and query.

"Going, Going, Gone"

CAPTAINS OUTRAGEOUS; THE AMAZING VOYAGE OF THE GLORY BE. By Morton Gill Clark. New York: William Morrow & Co. 1938. \$3.

Reviewed by JOHN W. VANDERCOOK

THERE are few forms of writing more difficult than the one attempted by Mr. Clark in his chronicle of a year's yacht voyaging. Chronicles are chronological and the steady recurrence of Tuesdays after Mondays does not necessarily draw a reader along as inevitably as it does a traveler. The record of a long journey in a far quarter of the world—the 250-ton schooner *Glory Be* beat its way from Tahiti to Cannes—must by some magic communicate in a few pages the distilled flavor of places, people, and incidents that it took months to experience. "Captains Outrageous" differs from its peers in that it is more a tale of confusions than of pleasures. As a saga of misery it is at least successful, with almost classic unity, in conveying its impression of undiluted discontent.

Four not clearly identified young Americans, of whom the author was one, came to an agreement with an owner of a 148-foot auxiliary schooner yacht to sail it across the world for him from Polynesia to the Riviera. By way of payment for the charter they were to install a new and expensive engine and meet all costs of the journey. If it should take more than a year they were to pay a cash penalty for each week overtime.

With an energy unmixed with any judgment the quartet stowed into the leaky confines of the *Glory Be* an incredible motley of officers, crew, and "paying guests." At once everyone aboard began to loathe everyone else. Drunkards, incompetents, and posturers became involved in unending bickering. The *Glory Be*, during a year of almost unbroken gloom, suffered every adversity known to seamen or the sea. She leaked, her pumps broke down, her engine failed. Her sails ripped at every vigorous gust of wind. Passengers and crew—"Captains Outrageous" is monotonously alcoholic—drank themselves into debt and insensibility. Unforeseen expenses reached such overwhelming totals that the quartet spent and pawned themselves into literal destitution.

There is little else. Other than a few pages of description of a few of the Eastern Pacific islands, in which their flavor is quite lost in the all-pervading fumes of gin, and a half-hearted attempt to suggest that the mild little fuzzy-wuzzies of an island off the coast of New Guinea were terrifying and menacing cannibals, Mr. Clark's preoccupation is wholly with disaster. He writes sometimes humorously. But the voyage of the *Glory Be* was not comic. Mr. Clark did not think so at the time nor does he think so now. With engaging honesty he inscribes his book's own epitaph:

"Humor played but a small part in those 18 months. Money. Money. Money. Going. Going. Gone."

John W. Vandercook is the author of "Black Majesty."

The Criminal Record

The Saturday Review's Guide to Detective Fiction

Title and Author	Crime, Place, Sleuth	Summing Up	Verdict
MURDER ON SAFARI Elspeth Huxley (Harpers: \$2)	Peeress on African big-game hunt first loses jewels, then life. Another Britisher bites dust whilst Vachell, C.I.D., hurts slayer.	Brilliantly plotted puzzle: liberal education in hunting elephants; 57 stunning varieties of action, humor, scenery, and sleuthing.	Grand!
HASTY WEDDING Mignon G. Eberhart (Doubleday, Doran: \$2.)	Chicago heiress forcibly led to altar by man who believes she murdered former suitor. Detective Wait takes a hand in honeymoon.	Love, mystery, and detection woven into ingenious tale whose tension remains on high level to the end.	Capital
GILT-EDGED GUILT Carolyn Wells (Lippincott: \$2.)	Devoted butler and uxorious millionaire both dangerously polished off. Fleming Stone ascertains usages of piece of string and elucidates all.	Despite terminal chest-heavings, reason for crimes quite unbelievable, but goes-on up to that point are handled zestfully.	Sprightly
THIRTEEN GUESTS Jefferson Farjeon (Bobbs-Merrill: \$2.)	11 nice people—varying degrees—and 2 bad hats gather at English house party, 3 deaths cleared up by Insp. Kendall.	Very slick article done with ultra-smart Farjeon finesse and boasting two endings—one for the sleuth, and one for you.	Dexterous

Travelers in Africa

KINGS AND KNAVES IN THE CAMEROONS. By Andre Lvoff Mikhelson. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1938. \$3.

THE GOLD MISSUS. By Katherine Fowler-Lunn. New York: W. W. Norton & Co. 1938. \$3.

Reviewed by PATRICK T. L. PUTNAM

MR. MIKHELSON'S book tells how he was chosen, because he knew nothing about mining, to go to the Cameroons with a man called Dekker, for the purpose of exposing the fraud of a third party who pretended to have discovered tungsten ore. In one of the episodes the third party almost succeeded in poisoning Dekker and the author-hero.

Mr. Mikhelson's description of the mutually disparaging conversations of the different European groups he encountered on his trip draws amusingly from life. But when he takes us among his Negroes and his Negresses, they prove to be vocal and mobile figures, more or less draped, armed, respectively, with a spear, which always just misses its mark (the author), and with sex-appeal, which also just misses its mark (also the author). As fiction, the story would be hardly second-rate. But it should be read, even carefully studied, by those who wish to know what not to believe about the Cameroons today.

Katherine Fowler was a girl from Boston who grew up to be a mining geologist. Her Ph.D. thesis was based on work in the Laramie Mountains of Wyoming, "far more difficult," she says, "than my job in Africa." In 1929, at a Geological Congress in South Africa, she met an Englishman called Lunn. They were married in London a few months later. But he signed a contract for work in Africa, and one of the clauses specified that he was not to be accompanied by his wife. "So," she writes, "I made up my mind. I would go to Sierra Leone, which was also in West Africa, and do geology on my own. It was only a thousand miles away from the Gold Coast—and we could go out on the same boat. I chose Sierra Leone because it had barely been scratched, geologically speaking."

Mr. Mikhelson was searching for wolfram in a figment of his imagination, which he labels "the Cameroons." The Gold Missus was prospecting for gold and iron in a very real Sierra Leone, and found them both, as well as the first

molybdenum deposits discovered in Africa. Her first trip was on her own, and it proved her professional ability so well that the last two were made in the employ of a mining company. Her geological reports went to her employers. Her *car-net de route* is offered to the public.

By car where there were roads, on foot where there were none; through the forest, through the grassland; across the streams on black backs, across the rivers in dug-outs; into the District Commissioner's mansion, into mud huts with leaky roofs; with good cooks, with bad cooks; with revolver in her belt as a

greenhorn near the coast, with revolver in the bottom of a box in the interior—in short, through Sierra Leone, her work leads her.

The account is highly interesting to those interested in mining or geology; interesting to those interested in Sierra Leone or colonial administration; and nostalgic to those who have lived the life and loved it. It is written in a clear and very readable style. No one would read far into the night to get to the end, but few would begin it and not finish it at leisure. Above all, "The Gold Missus" is a precious antidote for one suffering from an overdose of Kings and Knaves in the Cameroons.

Patrick T. L. Putnam lived for several years in Central Africa.

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