

# THE NEW BOOKS

## Biography

**THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LIFE OF SOCRATES.** By Rene Kraus. Doubleday, Doran. 1940. 387 pp. \$3.

Besides the caricature in "The Clouds," we have two portraits of Socrates; and it may not be too fanciful to say that the Memorabilia of Xenophon, showing Socrates as he struck a matter of fact contemporary, represents his public life, while the witty drinking companion and sublimely speculator of the Platonic dialogues shows Socrates in his private life. But those are not the two sides that are brought together here, for this is almost entirely the Socrates of Xenophon; he is patriotic, serious, and even gloomy over the way Athens is going, ready to serve on campaign or apply the socratic method equally in the hope of helping his country; but there is here all too little of either his humor or his philosophy. The book does of course treat Socrates both as a public figure, and as the husband of Xanthippe and the lover of Alcibiades; but its name seems to have been chosen with reference to such similar titles as "The Private Life of Helen of Troy," which was plainly a comic extravaganza, or "The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex," which was plain-

ly an imaginative tragedy—it seems to have been chosen, that is, as a warning not to take the book too seriously. For the author is trying to keep two balls in the air: he is attempting a sympathetic reconstruction of the actual life of his hero, and also to write an ironic allegory of modern times in the history of Athens and Sparta, showing how a liberal democracy in conflict with fascism becomes itself a dictatorship.

To this end, all his words are chosen to imply a parallel with the New Deal; Pericles is "the President," the Areopagus is "the Supreme Court," even the Delphic Oracle is explained as "the Vatican of the time." Even a reader who knows no Greek history must suspect that no parallel can be as exact as that; while any one familiar with the background, the conquests by which the allies were forced to remain within the Delian League (what, if one were Mr. Kraus, one might call the War between the States) may object that the expenditure under Pericles was less like relief after a crash than like the easy money of the gilded age of a post-war boom. This would not matter in a book that was plainly a satiric extravaganza; but this has not the brilliant touch necessary to carry off such a

fantasia; it is earnest, right-thinking, and heavy-handed, like its Socrates.

B. D.

## Fiction

**WOLVES AGAINST THE MOON.** By Julia Cooley Altrocchi. Macmillan. 1940. 572 pp. \$2.75.

This is an exciting and colorful narrative, half history and half fiction. Parts of "Wolves against the Moon" reads like a popular history of the settling of Canada. Parts of it read like a rather hectic melodrama. Like most books which are history in the form of a novel, or a novel in the form of history, it does again and again fall between the two stools.

The story opens in Quebec on New Year's Eve of 1794. We are introduced to a languid appearing youth who is to be the hero of the piece. He is a stock figure out of Sabbatini. So also is the villain, and the proud beauty who later makes havoc in many lives.

Joseph Bailly, the hero, declines to live luxuriously and is determined to go out into the wilderness and make his way among men. Furs were the golden lure of that day. He ventures out in to the North country, makes successful trading, encounters the villain, and after various turns of fortune marries a half-breed Indian girl. She is the least credible figure in this story. She had a French father and an Indian mother. The mother disgusted with the treachery of the whites goes back to her people and takes the daughter Marie with her. Later we encounter Marie speaking "exquisite French" and holding her own in a catty encounter with a rival. This is terribly near to the old romances in which the untutored heroines put haughty dowagers and sharp-tongued rivals to rout.

Joseph Bailly lives happily enough with his half Indian wife, has charming children, prospers, takes large part in the settling of western regions, fights with Indians, becomes an American citizen after the peace between England and the States, and generally behaves in magnificent manner.

The novel is filled with bloodshed and suspense, but in these particulars

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By misinterpreting, evil ensues.

What of my dross thou findest here,  
be bold

To throw away, but yet preserve  
the gold.

What if my gold be wrapped up  
in ore?

None throws away the apple for  
the core.

the author but follows history. Maybe the thrillers were closer to history than we ever believed, or else the author felt that this bloody and thrilling history of the settling of Canada did not have sufficient interest of its own to stand without dressing up.

H. B.

## Science

**THE ROAD TO MODERN SCIENCE.**  
By H. A. Reason. Appleton-Century.  
1940. 297 pp., with index. \$3.

The learning of science by each individual student must to some extent repeat the historical sequence. Former text-books followed this path explicitly and thus included the names and ideas of the great men of each science. Today they are often omitted, partly because science now looks to application rather than to tradition, and partly because laboratory methods of instruction permit the student to make his observations directly. He may repeat classical experiments but he does not know it.

For such students Miss Reason supplies the historical point of view in brief sketches that reach back to the dawn of civilization and extend into the nineteenth century. Chemistry ends with Wohler in 1828, electricity with Maxwell in 1879, astronomy with Bunsen in the seventies, biology with Mendel in the eighties. A very short chapter covers the modern concepts and a few recent names.

Miss Reason has been a teacher of science in the secondary schools of England and her book is excellent reading as a supplement to a high school course in science. It supplies a perspective that is usually absent. It is authentic, both historically and scientifically, but so vast a field is covered in so few pages that both the men and subjects can only be sketched as if in charcoal. For the non-scientific adult it has a human touch and is a valuable footnote to history.

G. W.

## ANSWERS TO QUIZ No. 14

1. "Ferdinand," by Munro Leaf.
2. The Empress of Blandings, in "Fish Preferred," and other stories by P. G. Wodehouse.
3. Babe, the Blue Ox, from the Paul Bunyan legends collected by James Stevens.
4. Mehitabel, in "Archy and Mehitabel," by Don Marquis.
5. "Moby Dick," by Herman Melville.
6. "Sredni Vashtar," by Saki.
7. "Perri," by Felix Salten.
8. "Rikki-tikki-tavi," by Rudyard Kipling.
9. Zenobia, in "Zenobia's Infidelity," by H. C. Bunner.
10. Flag, in "The Yearling," by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings.

## PERSONALS

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# Double-Crostics: No. 318

By ELIZABETH S. KINGSLEY

1-P	2-Y	3-K		4-W	5-D		6-C	7-W	8-F		9-O	10-Q	11-U	12-C		13-B
14-N	15-X		16-U	17-Y	18-L	19-B	20-T	21-J	22-P	23-Q	24-R		25-X	26-V	27-U	28-M
	29-P	30-U	31-Y	32-H	33-E		34-K	35-F		36-P	37-T	38-Z	39-V		40-M	41-L
42-Z	43-C		44-Q	45-F	46-L		47-F	48-R	49-B	50-A	51-S	52-E	53-Z	54-H	55-X	56-G
57-T		58-M	59-S		60-P	61-H	62-Y	63-X	64-G	65-L	66-A	67-K	68-C	69-I	70-E	
71-C	72-J	73-N		74-S	75-F	76-B	77-X	78-C		79-D	80-Y		81-Y	82-Q	83-Z	
84-N	85-Z	86-U	87-J	88-A	89-Q	90-R	91-H	92-L	93-S	94-T	95-X	96-M	97-B		98-F	99-J
	100-H	101-X	102-V	103-Q	104-S		105-R	106-I	107-P	108-Q	109-E	110-U		111-V	112-E	113-N
	114-A	115-U	116-D	117-S	118-O	119-R	120-W	121-B	122-Q	123-X		124-F	125-K		126-K	127-N
	128-G	129-Q	130-K	131-H	132-U		133-M	134-S	135-Y	136-E	137-F	138-N	139-A		140-N	141-A
	142-Y	143-W		144-E	145-D	146-A		147-H	148-V	149-W	150-I		151-Y	152-N	153-D	
154-S	155-U	156-C	157-K	158-N	159-W	160-G	161-X	162-P	163-D		164-Y	165-A	166-T	167-J		168-L
169-D		170-J	171-Q	172-E		173-T	174-Y	175-D	176-S		177-O	178-V	179-J		180-W	181-E
	182-R	183-K	184-I	185-C												

### DIRECTIONS

To solve this puzzle you must guess twenty-six words, the definitions of which are given in the column headed DEFINITIONS. The letters in each word to be guessed are numbered. These numbers appear under the dashes in the column headed WORDS. There is a dash for each letter in the required word. The key letters in the squares are for convenience, indicating to which word in the definitions each letter in the diagram belongs. When you have guessed a word, fill it in on the dashes; then write each letter in the correspondingly numbered square on the puzzle diagram. When the squares are all filled in you will find (by reading from left to right) a quotation from a famous author. Reading up and down the letters mean nothing. The black squares indicate ends of words; therefore words do not necessarily end at the right side of the diagram.

When the column headed WORDS is filled in, the initial letters spell the name of the author and the title of the piece from which the quotation has been taken. Authority for spelling and definitions is Webster's New International Dictionary (1938 edition).

The solution of last week's Double Crostic will be found on page 20 of this issue.

### DEFINITIONS

- Cast off as an incumbrance.
- Judge of the Dead (Egypt).
- None too soon (2 wds.)
- Death or mortification.
- Danish national flag.
- Sense of well being.
- Scottish inventor (1736-1819).
- Father of the prophet Samuel.
- Hero of "The Hairy Ape."
- Rubbed or worn away.
- Strengthening; tonic.
- Character in "Othello."
- Character in "Measure for Measure."
- Posthumous poem by Clough.
- Make bland or smooth.
- Large, powerful dog.
- Native (sb.)
- Apprise.
- Lacking confidence.
- Old name for China.
- Not paid (debt).
- Layer, flake.
- Conventional pastoral character.
- Not intentional.
- Reason discursively.
- American poet and critic (1888—).

### WORDS

114	139	141	146	66	50	165	88			
19	49	121	13	76	97					
78	71	12	43	6	68	156	185			
5	153	163	175	145	169	79	116			
33	136	112	144	172	52	109	181	70		
8	137	47	45	98	35	124	75			
128	160	56	64							
147	54	131	61	32	91	100				
150	106	69	184							
99	21	87	170	72	179	167				
130	157	126	34	3	183	67	125			
46	18	168	92	41	65					
96	28	133	58	40						
113	140	84	138	127	158	152	14	73		
177	118	9								
60	22	29	107	162	1	36				
103	108	89	10	23	171	44	82	129	12	
105	48	182	90	119	24					
154	93	74	59	51	176	134	104	117		
20	37	94	173	166	57					
115	11	132	155	30	86	27	110	16		
39	111	102	26	178	148					
180	7	120	159	143	4	149				
101	15	25	95	77	161	55	63	123		
164	174	81	62	2	135	142	80	31	151	17
83	38	53	85	42						