

THE NEW BOOKS

Fiction

LEGACY. By Charles Bonner. Knopf. 1940. 372 pp. \$2.50.

This novel deserves that cool, whistling admiration which is always called forth by a perfectly integrated mechanism, a slick assembly job. Everything is here which has been proven a sure-fire fiction device, and if you should miss the powerful, irregular pulse of life Mr. Bonner would probably be the first to say that he never meant to include it. It is not that he avoids pain or adversity. His Stoddard family is a clan of stout fellows with a strong sense of family tradition, and they shoulder their way through every mishap that could possibly befall them, from the operation that fails to the Great War, taking everything with courage and fortitude and Stoddard nobility. The material is all familiar and universal, and beyond argument as good now as it ever was. In this story it adds up to an enchanting fable that offers all the sentiments of life without its astringency. We read, for example, of Mrs. Stoddard's cancer and how she dies, beautifully, and we remember old Oliver Gant. His disease and death was something ripped out of epic human experience; beside it Mrs. Stoddard is revealed as an abstraction, a professional tug at the heart-strings. Such a comparison with Wolfe is of course unfair. It is made only to arrive at the necessary critical distinction between what "Legacy" is and what it is not. It is not a sound and serious novel. It is a smooth, attractive tale already earmarked for the screen.

N. L. R.

SHADOWS ON THE VALLEY. By Barbara Webster. Scribners. 1940. 378 pp. \$2.50.

There is an old saying one may hear in almost any American locality that has a history, particularly in one of the thirteen original states. "The best part of the potato," they often say, "is in the ground." It is with some such feeling that Miss Webster views her Chester Valley in Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia and separated by a stony ridge from Valley Forge. The valleys seem indeed to be one, and in its earth are the bones of the large and willful men, the Colbys, Crocketts, Henrixsons, who wrested a republic from a king. Perhaps it is their shadows to which the title refers; they do appear at the end, grouped about the bedside of a dying woman to give shadowy speech to the family's memories. But it may be that it is the living Colbys and Crocketts who are the shadows in the valley. They are small in spirit and purposeless in movement, confused, unhappy, even unreal. Compared with their forebears they are

the shadows of historic names, and if they appear often to be utterly uninteresting that is due to Miss Webster's fidelity to her point of view.

There are other shadows upon the Valley too, the stirring of labor problems and the rankling of a family feud. The personal and social turmoils fuse, and flare up in a climactic burst of action. Here at least one of the Crocketts finds an old dormant strength; the books closes upon this note of resurgence. It is a story soundly conceived, and particularly successful in its evocation of an atmosphere haunted by its past.

N. L. R.

Travel

ALASKA CHALLENGE. By Bill and Ruth Albee. Dodd, Mead. 1940. 366 pp. \$3.

This is a thrilling true story. It is likewise a valuable contribution to the literature of the North. Ruth and Bill Albee married during the dark days of depression, wearied of struggle against economic handicaps on the West coast, decided to "get away from it all" by penetrating the least explored area on the continent. They put their slender savings into camping equipment and supplies, and against the urgent advice of relatives and friends, started northward from Seattle, heading Alaska-wards through British Columbia. In addition to their balloon silk tent and other duff, they were equipped with stout hearts, fine imaginations, love of nature and of their fellow-men, and explorers' curiosity. Likewise, and this is important, they were both excellent craftsmen; they could utilize the materials at hand; without these skills they would not have come through. They do not say this—but it is apparent.

When they announced to the authorities of Vancouver their intention of hiking through trail-less mountain and virgin forest country to Liard Post on the boundary between British Columbia and Yukon Territory, they were told that it was impossible. But, nevertheless, they did it.

Seldom has a more sympathetic and interesting account of the Eskimo been written. For Ruth and Bill the icy bleakness of this treeless and gusty Arctic outpost melted before the kindly jollity of its inhabitants. The newcomers partook of the igloo life, of the seal oil, whale blubber and walrus hide diet, of the natives' dances and dangers. The climax for Bill was a walrus hunt amid the ice floes, for Ruth the birth of a second baby, a girl—the only white child ever born in Wales.

Altogether this is an exciting book, enhanced by excellent photographs, deserving of a high place in the season's output.

E. G.

PERSONALS

ADVERTISEMENTS will be accepted in this column for things wanted or unwanted; personal services to let or required; literary or publishing offers not easily classified elsewhere; miscellaneous items appealing to a select and intelligent clientele; jobs wanted, houses or camps for rent, tutoring, traveling companions, ideas for sale; communications of a decorous nature, expressions of opinion (limited to fifty lines). All advertisements must be consonant with the purposes and character of *The Saturday Review*. Rates: 10 cents per word including signature. Count two additional words for Box and Number. Payment in full must be received ten days in advance of publication. Address Personal Dept., *Saturday Review*, 420 Madison Avenue, New York City.

NEW YORK BOUND? Nor sound of Juggernaut nor flickering electric day, to trouble your slumber at this hostelry. Literary people will appreciate the quiet, pleasant and convenient location of the Hotel Standish Hall in New York City. It is just off Central Park West, and it faces the Hayden Planetarium and the American Museum of Natural History. Direct transportation to the New York Public Library. The Metropolitan Museum of Art is just across the Park. Flexible accommodations. One room, \$62.50 per month, for a year. Two rooms, \$100 per month. Furnished suites—parlor, bedroom, bath and pantry or kitchenette—from \$125 to \$150 a month. Kitchenettes have breakfast nooks, refrigerators and gas stoves for those who wish to practice their local cookery in New York. But there is a spacious dining room. Please identify yourself as an SRL reader when writing to Mr. Walter J. Weaver, resident manager, for reservations. Hotel Standish Hall, 45 W. 81st St., New York City.

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DO YOU INSIST on simple wholesome cooking? Is one of your "musts" extra comfortable beds? Do you enjoy grand mountain scenery . . . badminton . . . fishing . . . large concrete swimming pool . . . tennis, etc? Then come to Ferncroft, "a mountain Inn where nature and hospitality are richly bountiful." Booklet "L" will tell you all about this famous 700-acre resort in the heart of the Sandwich range of mountains. Only \$26 to \$38 weekly. FERN-CROFT, WONALANCET, NEW HAMPSHIRE.

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WOODBOUND INN, EAST JAFFREY, N. H.—a vacation resort on scenic lake, featuring recreational and dining room attractions and WOODBOUND SUMMER THEATRE distractions—\$21-\$33 weekly. Ed Brummer.

INN-BY-THE-SEA, Matumuck, Rhode Island. Private ocean beach; charming lounge and rooms with or without bath; good cuisine and bar; rate, \$4 a day up. Theatre by the sea on grounds.

PERSONALS

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PERSONALS

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Limited to the exchange of goods or services. Rate 10c a word. Remittance with order.

The SRL's first four barter advertisements, involving a dress, "Magic Mountain," a cast-iron skillet, and a golf set, resulted in swaps. The barterers are still friends.

WOULD LIKE TO BARTER a set of midget dishes for something full-sized. Box 123-A.

WHO AMONG Saturday Review readers has and will exchange a second-hand, but pretty fair, surf casting outfit for a selection of good books? Can also use rubber hip boots—size 11 or thereabouts. Box 124-B.

EXCHANGE delightful home near Fair (Flushing) for a vacation spot, 1-2 weeks (August). Box 916-B.

CLASSIFIED

ADVERTISING RATES for this Department are: For twenty-six insertions, 7c a word; for thirteen insertions, 8c a word; for six insertions, 9c a word; fewer insertions, 10c a word. Forms close Friday, eight days before publication date. The Saturday Review of Literature, 420 Madison Avenue, New York City.

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MATHILDE WEIL, Literary Agent, Books, short stories, articles and verse criticized and marketed. 535 Geary Street, San Francisco, Calif.

CATHERINE WILSON—RESEARCH SERVICE. Manuscripts typed—corrected. References, 1142—4th Avenue, Los Angeles, California, Republic 8644.

EXPERT REVISION often secures acceptance. Booth Tarkington, William Allen White endorse my work, as did Jack London. I revised Looney Lee Gary's "Bridge of Eternity," recently published. ALEXANDER JESSUP, 50 MORNINGSIDE DRIVE, NEW YORK CITY.

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Double-Crostics: No. 327

By ELIZABETH S. KINGSLEY



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

DIRECTIONS

To solve this puzzle you must guess twenty-five 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 letter spells 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).

DEFINITIONS

- A. Antarctic Sea.
- B. Henry VI's wife (Shaks.)
- C. Melancholy, sad.
- D. Residence of Apollo and the Muses.
- E. Foretaste.
- F. Bargaining.
- G. Hindu Cupid.
- H. Deduced.
- I. Shining.
- J. Dissuasive.
- K. Belgian lace city.
- L. Totalitarian psychological weapon.
- M. Dog picture by Landseer (2 wds.)
- N. Attempt (noun).
- O. Character in "Much Ado About Nothing."
- P. Pertaining to the setting sun.
- Q. That which produces an effect.
- R. Grandfather of Moses.
- S. Odds and ends.
- T. Warded off.
- U. German philosopher (1772-1825).
- V. Deceived by petty tricks.
- W. Like a simpleton.
- X. Amelioration.
- Y. Civil War battle (April 1862).

WORDS

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

The solution of last week's *Double Crostic* will be found on page 19 of this issue.