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The Saturday Review of Literature 25 West 45th Street, New York, N.Y. Fletcher Pratt, is one of the most informed and informative analyses of America's war in the Pacific to have appeared. . . . The late Stephen Vincent Benét left completed at his death the manuscript of an excellent brief history of the United States, intended for use as a "bullet" for our own and other lands, which is now issued under the title "America" (Farrar & Rinehart).

"Lincoln's Daughters of Mercy" (Putnams), by Marjorie Barstow Greenbie. "No Mortal Fire" (Simon & Schuster), by Elsa Valentine. "Lieutenant Bertram" (Simon & Schuster), by Bodo Uhse. "When Johnny Comes Marching Home" (Houghton Mifflin), by Dixon Wecter (an exceedingly interesting and timely consideration of the problem of demobilization as manifested after the Revolution, the Civil War, and the First World War). "And Pass the Ammunition" (Appleton-Century), by Chaplain Howell M. Forgy.

#### June 5

The second in the series of the Lakes series which Bobbs-Merrill is bringing out makes its appearance in Grace Lee Nute's "Lake Superior." . . . Readers of The New Yorker and lovers of a wry sort of humor in general will welcome S. J. Perelman's "Crazy Like a Fox" (Random). . . . Captain Edgar J. Wynn, who has served in both the Canadian and American air forces, and in several oceans, writes of the

Ferry Command and its gruelling service with modesty and knowledge in "Bombers Across" (Dutton).

#### June 7

"Trumpet to Arms" (Little, Brown), by Bruce Lancaster, is a tale of the Revolution with the plot moving from Lexington and Concord to Ticonderoga, Long Island, Westchester, and New Jersey.

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Gunnar Pihl, a Swedish correspondent who, since his country was technically at peace with Germany, was permitted to remain in that country after our own correspondents left, sets down an account of conditions and people in the Reich during the past two years in "Germany: The Last Phase" (Knopf).

#### June 14

"The Miracle of America" (Harpers) proves André Maurois as skilful in writing of the history of our country as he is in dealing with more literary matters.

### ?

"They Lived There" (Putnams), by Kurt Riess. "The Six Weeks' War" (Viking), by Theodore Draper. "Faith. Reason and Civilization (Viking), by Harold J. Laski. "Presidential Agent" (Viking), by Upton Sinclair (another Lanny Budd story).

# American Nurse in Africa

HELMETS AND LIPSTICKS. By Lt. Ruth G. Haskell. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1944. 207 pp. \$2.75.

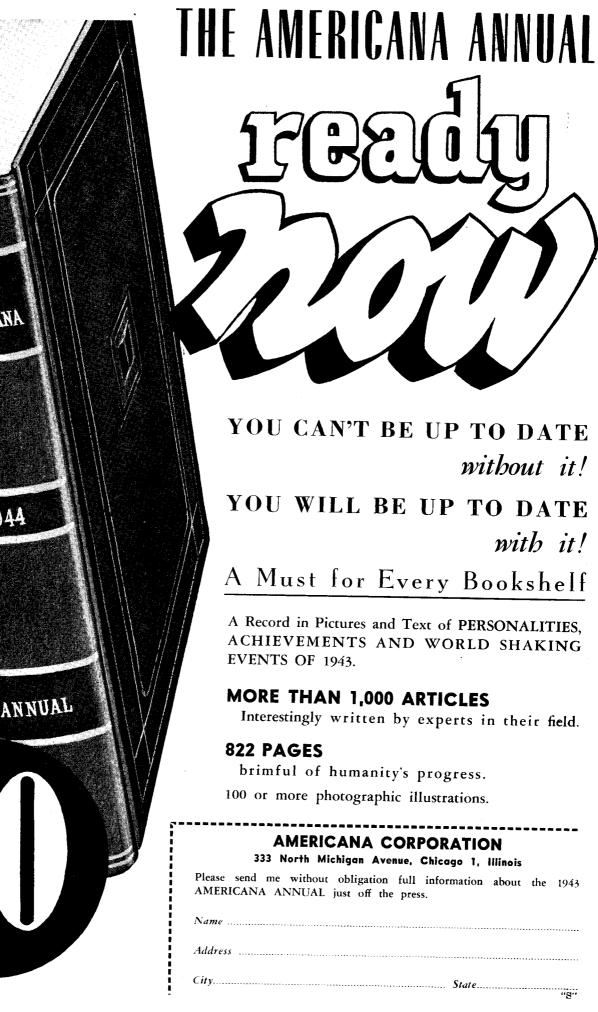
Reviewed by MABEL S. ULRICH

HIS is the first published account of a nurse in action and under fire. Ruth Haskell was one of a group of Army nurses who landed in North Africa November 7, 1942. She begins her story with the call that summoned her to New York from Camp Forrest in Tennessee, describes the embarkation and the lively crossing to Scotland, the visit to England, and the transport loaded for the African coast. With landing came danger, and the nurses were plunged at once into the novel experience of being shot at as they scampered across the beach through flying bullets to a shelter from which five dead Arabs had just been removed. But almost before they had time to realize that they were afraid the work with the wounded began. Miss Haskell cannot say too much of the splendid courage of the boys and the doctors encountered here and later in the field and tent hospitals, and in the long painful treks

across the desert sands. The nurses were kept almost constantly on the move, their equipment and sleeping arrangements were often of the sketchiest, the physical discomforts and the emotional crises must have been almost unbearable. But like the soldiers they cared for, they took it all in their stride, hiding their stoicism behind wise-cracking and not too funny jokes. At last Miss Haskell after struggling valiantly against the pain resulting from a fall on her back, surrendered and she was flown back to America. Here we leave her, completely recovered from an operation that has left her wholly cured and with a renewed eagerness to go across again.

Miss Haskell tells the story of these momentous months simply and unaffectedly. Unfortunately she has not the gift of vivid writing. She hasn't made half enough of its excitement and drama. She has overburdened her account with trivial conversations and equally trivial anecdotes, while in her desire to make it informal she has depended too largely on a sort of flip slanginess. But she is obviously a woman of courage and selfless devotion.

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# In the Right Key

THE CONCERTO. Ey Abraham Veinus. New York: Doubleday, Doran & Co. 1944. 312 pp. \$3.50.

Reviewed by PAUL HENRY LANG

THE melancholy stream of inconsequential books on music that appear with unfailing regularity makes the reviewer's life dull and dreary. How he envies his colleagues who discuss the other arts and letters! We are happy if one good book appears per annum while they have to keep on their toes to cope with the plenitude of interesting publications. Well, it is only April and the good book of the year is here. Maybe this is a good omen for they are usually held for the Christmas trade.

Mr. Veinus's "The Concerto" is refreshing indeed. It deals with one of the important and much admired types of music which for over two hundred years has attracted musicians and public alike. A vehicle both for the most intimate utterances of our greatest composers and for the fatuous display of empty pyrotechnics by long-haired virtuosi, the concerto is yet to be appreciated even by musicians as a vital principle of musical composition that well-nigh dominated the better part of the Baroque era and later, merging with the rising symphony, furnished one of the most important stylistic ingredients of the so-called classic style. Having reached its ultimate limits in Beethoven's works, the concerto ----in this instance considered as a type or "form," not only a principle-began to decline. Everyone can witness the heroic struggle waged by Brahms to perpetuate the species, but his piano concertos are in reality symphonies with obliggato piano. Recognizing the merger of concerto and symphony in Beethoven's last works of this genre Liszt staged a brilliant last stand with his two piano concertos, which Mr. Veinus rightfully calls tone poems for piano and orchestra.

On the whole, however, the romantic concerto was no longer an affair of the heart with the composer. It became customary for the latter to consult expert practitioners to deck the solo part with the appropriate display material or to check the fireworks as to their feasibility. In more recent times - Prokofieff, Berg, Bartok, to mention a few---the concerto is again coming into its own; the empty sallies of Rubinstein and Paderewski, and the plushy splendor of Saint-Saens and Rachmaninoff are giving way to organic works in which virtuosity is taken for granted but is not the sole aim.

Mr. Veinus proves to be an excel-

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