

A Code for Social Order

THE BASIS OF LASTING PEACE.
By Herbert Hoover and Hugh Gibson. New York: D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc. 1945. 44 pp. \$1.

Reviewed by GEORGE N. SHUSTER

CRITICISM of the Dumbarton Oaks proposals has stressed the dangers latent in the grant of veto power to members of the Security Council and the absence of a clearly formulated bill of rights. The distinguished authors of the present little book do not ignore these important matters. They present for consideration, however, a number of other suggestions, for some of which they make an excellent case. In particular they argue that adequate provision should be made for the periodic review, and if necessary revision, of peace treaties, and hold that "none of the interested powers" should assent to the structure of a new international organization "until they can clearly see the nature of the peace settlement" which they are to enforce.

If diplomatic history possesses any value, these observations are of the greatest pertinence. Every major war has been followed by attempts to insure permanent peace. But what inevitably happened was that the terms of the peace treaty were considered sacrosanct by the victors and their allies, while the vanquished chafed and sought ways and means of changing those terms of force. That was the story of France after the War of 1870 and of Germany after the Treaty of Versailles. Similarly the support which any free people will accord its government rests in the final analysis upon its conviction that the action taken is in accord with its interests and its principles. It would therefore be an error to commit this or any great nation to an international organization pledged to enforce a peace of which it did not approve.

These contentions will be opposed by those who maintain that the task of organizing the peace is so vital that any sacrifice must be made for it, and by those who feel that the victory should be used to serve the cause of revolution. Mr. Hoover and Mr. Gibson are conservatives. They desire a social order which will rest upon a code of clearly defined and generally accepted international law. Such a code, they insist, can alone prevent the conduct of dominant powers from becoming arbitrary and tyrannical. "The principles and ideals" which might well be given expression in it are already to be found in such documents as the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of Soviet



—Fitzpatrick in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Weak Spot

Russia, and the Atlantic Charter. But there is no reference to them in the Dumbarton Oaks proposals. This omission is, of course, due to the fact that important ideological differences exist between the United Nations. That in spite of these some commitment to principle might be obtained seems not too much to hope.

The authors list a number of "principles" which in their view would add to the "moral authority" of the international organization. These include: repudiation of all territorial and other aggrandizement; reduction of arma-

ments to the lowest level compatible with the preservation of the peace; and the recognition of the sovereign rights of the individual. These "rights" have been discussed upon numerous occasions, and they have been recommended to the San Francisco Conference by some of the principal American organizations concerned with the peace. Whether an agreement giving validity to these great freedoms, perhaps the most cherished values of Anglo-Saxon civilization, can be reached at the present time is doubtful. But that they must eventually become an integral part of any international order which is to endure seems clear.

More original is the contention that "a much more definite regional organization" of the peace structure is necessary. This suggestion has been made frequently, but has of late received little public attention. It is, however, obvious, as Mr. Hoover and Mr. Gibson say, that such an organization would relieve the major Security Council of responsibility for minor problems and at the same time endow the lesser powers with a larger measure of significance.

Many pages could be devoted to each of these proposals. This book has reduced the argument to the barest essentials and has thereby stressed the more forcefully the role of the average citizen. We all want peace. But it is clear that we can have it only if we create the conditions upon which a sound international order depends.

The Veteran Comes Home

PSYCHOLOGY FOR THE RETURNING SERVICEMAN. Prepared by a Committee of the National Research Council. Edited by Irvin L. Child and Marjorie van de Water. Washington and New York: The Infantry Journal and Penguin Books. 1945. 234 pp. Index. 25 cents.

Reviewed by BERTRAM D. LEWIN, M.D.

THE best of advice can be distorted or abused, but granted a capacity for using it properly, the serviceman, his family and friends should find much profitable reading in this remarkably informative book. Seventy-four experts in the mental and social sciences are listed as critics and collaborators. Although this in itself is no guarantee of a good end product, in this case the sound judgment and literary ability of the editors has utilized the experts' knowledge in a most satisfactory way. The returning service man is given an extraordinary amount of sound information on a variety of topics, ranging from the general problems of emo-

tional readjustment to civilian economic and emotional life to such specific matters as how to train one's hearing after becoming blind.

The first half of the book deals with more or less "normal" adjustments to the job and to the family. It is entirely honest and frank about sex and includes a little sketch of baby psychology for the benefit of men who have become fathers. It contains pertinent facts about marriage and wives, and about love and ambivalence. It discusses ordinary difficulties of learning in relation to new jobs, and has a few words to say about civic and economic social matters. The second half of the book takes up the special conditions that confront the convalescent, the ex-prisoners of war, the psychoneurotic, the victim of "combat nerves," and the physically injured. Though some parts are better than others, and the style is somewhat uneven and a little artificially man-to-man in the first part, the book is a great credit to its editors and contributors.

The Naming of a Land

NAMES ON THE LAND. By George R. Stewart. New York: Random House. 1945. 418 pp. \$3.

Reviewed by HORACE REYNOLDS

THIS is the story of the naming of a land, and Mr. Stewart begins it with a sentence which I confess gave me a thrill, hardened reviewer that I am. "Once, from eastern ocean to western ocean," he writes, "this land stretched away without names." When one stops to think that in the last four hundred years millions of place-names have been put upon that land by men of all races, all languages, and all conditions, one gets a sense of the spaciousness of Mr. Stewart's subject. Never was there another such a naming. Never will there be another such here on this earth. One is grateful that the subject has fallen to a man who has both the scholarship and the imagination to do it justice. Through the keyhole of the place-name Mr. Stewart has looked at the course of American history with the eye of a scholar poet.

Like an artist planning a large canvas, Mr. Stewart begins by sketching in the outlines. First the Spanish put names on Florida and California; Coronado and Oñate thrust up from Mexico to give us such names as El Paso and Colorado. The French sailed up the St. Lawrence to name the Great Lakes, from which they later carried the name of Mississippi down the length of the river which has been called everything from the rolling Spanish *El Rio del Espiritu Santo* to the shantyboat people's Old Al. Then the English brought Virginia and Jamestown to our map, and Captain John Smith sailed up the coast to return with such names as Potomac and Susquehanna. The English struck rock in the north to dot New England with such Eastern England names as Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex. The Dutch and the Swedes put their mark on the Middle Atlantic States. Because of them we have Sandy Hook, Hell Gate, and Schuylkill. Then when the Revolution had made the names our own, the trans-Allegheny pioneers carried them across the mountains and down the inland rivers. Later still these names were to ferry across the Mississippi and roll across the Great Plains in covered wagons.

The canvas is large and the points of interest are many. One early highlight is the expedition of Joliet and Marquette down the Fox-Wisconsin route to the Mississippi, which brought back more great names than any other single voyage. Mr. Stewart strings them on a cord for us to wonder at—Wisconsin, Peoria, Des Moines,



George R. Stewart shows us "our history from a new angle of vision."

Missouri, Osage, Omaha, Kansas, Iowa, Wabash, and Arkansas. The last were to become two of the most association-heavy of our place-names. If Mississippi and Kentucky are our greatest superstitions among names, Arkansas is our loudest laugh and Wabash one of our singin'est names. Remember "Wabash Cannonball" and "Wabash Blues," to say nothing of "the moonlight's fair tonight along the Wabash."

To look with Mr. Stewart at this great pageant of the naming of our land is to see our history from a new angle of vision. The singularity of New England, its isolation from the rest of the land, is recorded in place-name as well as in word. Names speak the greater individuality of the South (where the names sprang from the people not the government) in place-naming as well as in song. Vincennes plants the French on the Wabash; Vevay, Indiana, proves the Swiss grew grapes on the Ohio; the Great Revival left its mark on Connecticut in Goshen and Canaan (Land o' Goshen!). The names of the classical belt record our post-Revolution interest in the Roman republic. Names like Louisville and Lafayette repay our debt to the French for their help at Yorktown. English money talks in such Great Northern Railway names as Leeds, York, and Rugby. The hell-for-leather high jinks of the Forty-Niners throw their hats in the air in Mugfuzzle Flat and Shirttail Canyon. There's grandeur in such names as Missouri and the Golden Gate, but I confess I am fonder of the little names, the names the mountain men put on their creeks and hollers, the urban Negroes on their

alleys, the river folk on their landings.

Certain conclusions emerge from Mr. Stewart's study. The Indians were not given to naming the mountains. The makeshift *United States* is the worst misfortune in our naming-history. Although our addiction to such names as Washington, Jefferson, Jackson, and Lincoln reveals us as a hero-loving people, only our first President has a state named after him. We borrowed more names from the Bible than from any other one book. The words *beautiful*, *fine*, and *pretty* do not occur in our place-names: we bury our embarrassment in the presence of beauty in such foreign words as *belle* and *buena*. The Negro for all his influence on our song has had little on our map.

Mr. Stewart never forgets that he is telling a story, not compiling the dictionary of American place-names which some day somebody will compile. The result is a book which should do a lot to awaken popular interest in the fruitful subject of our place-names. Although his eye is always on the process of naming, not on its detailed results, I believe every section of the country will find some of its important names here discussed. Whether or not one believes with Robert Louis Stevenson that our place-names are richer, more poetical, more humorous, more picturesque than those of any other part of the world, every one must agree with Mr. Stewart that more often than is the case in Europe our names can be linked with actual men and events. We know the Major McCulloch who made McCulloch's Leap; we know the Robert Harper of Harper's Ferry.

FRASER YOUNG'S LITERARY CRYPT: No. 98

A cryptogram is writing in cipher. Every letter is part of a code that remains constant throughout the puzzle. Answer to No. 98 will be found in the next issue.

LFBPKDD, NMZAOVRGH,

LVGNMZC NMKL, OVRGH VM

BJFGKZC, EMFXO VM CAL, VM

EVEPFKC PASZ VM PMRGHCZ-

PFKC. —SKGN CZFM.

Answer to Literary Crypt No. 97

LONDON, JUST BEFORE DAWN
—IMMENSE AND DARK—SMELL
OF WET EARTH AND GROWTH
FROM THE PARK.

—ALICE DUER MILLER

—THE WHITE CLIFFS.