

much redder than his photographs show. Although he listened intermittently and applauded, he spent most of his time making notes. Occasionally, as when he shook hands with M. Bidault, his face relaxed into a charming smile.

Mr. Vishinsky was in the fourth row on the right center aisle. His massive white head and pink face were easy to locate from the press gallery. For the most part, he faced the dais, a stolid, inscrutable force. He too listened, but without any outward reaction. Once in a while he would turn and whisper to his no less poker-faced neighbor, Mr. Gromyko, who, in his black suit, was the embodiment of a negative. For his briefcase Mr. Vishinsky displayed a lawyer's fondness. He set it on its end and rested his arms on it, when

he was not crossing them aggressively on his chest. He never applauded and left early, a powerful man who, when speaking to an acquaintance at the door, showed unsuspected geniality.

The delegates and the physical plant are not the only interesting exhibits to be seen at Flushing Meadow. True to its World's Fair background, the General Assembly Building still points to the "World of Tomorrow." In one of its rooms can be found a model of the proposed United Nations capital that is to be built in Manhattan. As yet this capital is as much of a dream city as true peace itself remains a dream. One thing is tragically clear. More—much more—than the skill of architects will be required to make these buildings complete.

JOHN MASON BROWN.

THE WAR

(Continued from page 33)

moral policy. Richardson's reply was that "the presence of the fleet in Hawaii might influence a civilian political government, but that Japan had a military government." Next month, at a conference with the Secretary of the Navy, Richardson persisted along the same line; and still later he went to see the State Department's head man on Far Eastern problems. Finally, Richardson was sacked. He was replaced by—Admiral Kimmel.

Here is the crucial case, in all the smoke and dust surrounding Pearl Harbor, by which to determine whether there was then, and if not whether there should now be devised, a more efficient relationship than in the past between the civil and military executive, for it is upon this relationship the defense of this country in any future war rests. And what does Mr. Millis do with it? Let us quote in full.

Admiral Richardson, who did not believe that the Fleet in its unprepared state had much restraining value at best, wanted to withdraw to the lost comforts and conveniences of California.

It seems to this reviewer that Admiral Richardson, rather, may have a case there.

Pavlov's Men

AND BLOW NOT THE TRUMPET.
By Stanley D. Porteus. Palo Alto:
Pacific Books. 1947. 304 pp. \$3.50.

Reviewed by BRADFORD SMITH

INEVITABLY any book about the Pearl Harbor disaster has an aura of post mortem about it. Since most people tend to shy away from post mortems—apparently on the theory that men are entitled to go on making the same mistakes—it may be difficult to attract a large number of readers to this book by a psychologist who has turned to popular writing. Yet Dr. Porteus supplies a footnote to history that, in justice, needed to be told. He does so in a style often sharp and amusing, light in manner yet well weighted with facts.

The book takes its title from Ezekiel: "If the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet . . . if the sword come and take any person from among them . . . his blood will I require at the watchman's hand." Dr. Porteus does not

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To the Editor
The Saturday Review of Literature

Dear Sir:

That article about the Port of New York Authority by Bennett Cerf was very interesting and must have aroused a great deal of interest in the Port Authority itself.

THEY BUILT BETTER THAN THEY KNEW by Julius Henry Cohen contains in detail the story of how the Port Authority came into existence. It presents portraits of all of the people who participated in its inception and its progress. In the chapter on Alexander Shenberg there will be found a full account of the fight to preserve the tax immunity of Port Authority bonds, as well as of state and municipal bonds — on the basis of which the recent Chicago Transit Authority was able to market One Hundred Thirty million dollars of bonds. Everyone who buys a state or municipal bond should know this history. Everyone who is interested in the development of the Port of New York should get this background.

On the basis of your interesting article, I think many of your readers will be encouraged to buy the book. The price, incidentally, is \$3.75, and it's available at all bookstores. It is full of interesting vignettes of such personalities as Alfred E. Smith, Theodore Roosevelt, Louis D. Brandeis, Belle Moskowitz and Franklin D. Roosevelt. There is also the account of the early days of struggle to secure the present collective bargaining arrangements between the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and the Manufacturers. The book is being used in the Cornell School, dealing with problems of labor and management. J. C. Rich, editor of *The Hat Worker*, the official organ of the United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers International Union says:

"For a rounded picture of the growth and development of the major industries in New York in the past fifty years, 'They Built Better Than They Knew' supplies the color and perspective that only an observer stationed on the other side of the fence can give if he is honest with himself and devoted to the subject. Mr. Cohen is both."

Sincerely yours,

Julian Messner

spare the lash in exposing the military blunder which resulted in Pearl Harbor. He brings to the foreground the fact that the military command itself had in 1941 prepared an estimate predicting the attack which occurred a few months later—even to the number of carriers, the hour of attack, and the distance at which the planes would be launched.

As a psychologist he advances a theory having some merit—since no other theory, excuse, or explanation has held up—to explain why the military could warn themselves of the very danger which materialized and yet be asleep when it happened. Everyone knows the Pavlov experiment with dogs whereby saliva was caused to flow when a bell rang. The

sequel is not as widely known—that when withholding the food for sixty seconds instead of ten after ringing the bell, the hungriest dogs went to sleep. A similar lassitude appears to have overcome admirals and generals at Pearl Harbor who had been on the alert for several years. Maybe the Japanese had read Pavlov. Or maybe they merely read Aesop, and applied the old “wolf, wolf” cry in reverse.

But if the military were asleep, Hawaii's citizens were not. It is the record of their preparedness that occupies most of Dr. Porteus's book, and it is a record worth preserving. Dr. Porteus might have quoted Robert Shivers, Federal Bureau of Investigation head in Honolulu, who told a Congressional committee:

It was not the civilian population who was confused. Nowhere under the sun could there have been a more intelligent response to the needs of the hour than was given by the population of these islands. . . . It is high time that the people of the United States should be told of Hawaii's contribution to this war, which is unequaled in the annals of our country.

Dr. Porteus does that, quite thoroughly—perhaps with more geography and more statistics than the average reader would care to follow. Yet why and how civilian Hawaii was prepared for war when the armed services were not is a thing worth knowing. In these times, when we lean more and more upon men of military experience, it may be a matter of vital importance.

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The World. Robert Payne makes it refreshingly clear that a poet need not be tied down to verse-making. In his "Forever China," and now in his "The Revolt of Asia," he has brought the instinctive imagination and the vigorous affirmation of his poetry (see SRL's review of his "The Rose Tree" in the Oct. 4 issue) to bear on the problems of his beloved Asia. Prolific Payne's six books this year about Asia, including his forthcoming journal "China Awake," should stimulate interest in the Orient already aroused by such books as Edmond Taylor's "Richer by Asia" and Harold Isaacs's "No Peace for Asia." . . . "The Von Hassell Diaries," reviewed below, add one more to the recent studies of the German underground, which include Dulles's "Germany's Underground," and Gisevius's "To the Bitter End."

Asia, One or Divisible?

THE REVOLT OF ASIA. By Robert Payne. New York: The John Day Co. 1947. 299 pp. \$3.50.

Reviewed by ROBERT OKIN

This book is about the greatest single event in human history—the revolt of Asia . . . A billion peasants from the Asiatic heartlands are determined that they will never again suffer the humiliation of colonization, and they are hammering out for themselves a way of life that is neither capitalist nor communist, but adopts the benefits of both. The Asiatic revolt is in full tide, and its potential power and resources are incalculable. Asia is one, and from now on must be regarded as one; there are connecting links between the new revolutionary states that give a grave unity to the whole . . .

SO begins Mr. Payne who, although an Englishman, eschews understatement. From this thesis, flung down without hint of qualification, Mr. Payne proceeds, ". . . The World is now divided cleanly into two—Asia and the West; it is significant that Russian influence has played almost no part in the revolts of recent years . . . Democracy, decaying in the West, is being revived in the East. . . . The world center of gravity is shifting from the Atlantic to the Pacific . . ."

Mr. Payne might be described as a moderate Leftist with a passionate belief in the Asiatic masses and the certainty that with industrialization, the development of power resources, radio, irrigation, sanitation, and the cooperative movement they will take the lead in the world. There is no complaint about his viewpoint, his humanity, or his faith. Nor can anyone deny that something is happening in Asia. It has long been predicted and the newspapers make it plain for all to see. But what about Mr. Payne's interpretation?

What is certainly true is that the old days of European economic im-

perialism have gone. There are important political and economic changes going on swiftly before our eyes. Yet "the greatest single event in human history"? Are a "billion peasants" really "hammering out for themselves a way of life"? Or are political changes taking place at the top of which the peasant is barely aware and which will make no fundamental difference to him for generations to come? Is Asia really one? The new India is not one—it is at the very least three and between Hindus and Moslems blood is being shed today in proof. China is not one—it is at least two and there is active civil war as proof. Nor in Indonesia, which Mr. Payne calls the most successful of all Asiatic revolts, is there oneness. The Indonesian revolt currently affects only the islands of Java, Sumatra, and Madura. Borneo and the Celebes did not revolt. These are obvious enough differences to cause qualifications.

Carry the argument a little further: because the day of the West is done

in the Orient does that mean that the Orient is one? The most elementary common sense indicates that it is not. India and China and the Philippines are no more a unit than France, Germany, and Britain. And if you want to argue as Mr. Payne does you might just as well say this: When India, China, and the Philippines do reach modern industrial strength they are as likely to fight among themselves as not. One may snatch readers' attention with broad, sweeping statements and arbitrary long views—but so does a Hearst editorial.

It is too bad that Mr. Payne irritates by his brash certainties for there is much in this book that repays a reader. There are individual studies of the countries of Asia written with considerable ability. There are sketches of Asiatic political leaders which are fresh, politically mature, and—allowing for Mr. Payne's opinions—informative. The author knows the Orient from a career that includes jobs as Armament Officer at the Singapore Naval Base, British Ministry of Information representative in Chungking, Professor of English Poetry at Fuhtan University, Professor of English Poetry and Lecturer in Naval Architecture at Lienta University in Kunming. He has visited most of the countries he discusses and has met many of the leaders he portrays. He has also collected Chinese verse and written six other books.

The best parts of the "Revolt of Asia" are not the political diagnoses; they are the sensitive appreciations of Oriental peoples and their way of life. In writing of Indonesia he says:

An Indonesian kampong has none of the ordered beauty of a Chinese village; there are no sculptured marble memorials to dead virgins, no camel-back bridges, no decorated temples with gold leaf on the flared roofs. The Mohammedan temple is bare of ornament; the Moham-



—"Women Building Airfields," by Lih Fu, from "China in Black & White."

"A billion peasants from the Asiatic heartlands are hammering out . . . a way of life that is neither capitalist nor communist, but adopts the benefits of both."