

makes it alive and significant; we can hardly ask more.

A recurrent theme of the book is the eternal, deeply-imbedded Italian psychological compromise of the double truth. A people sectarian by tradition and tolerant (even of their own tradition) by temperamental, idealistic in aspiration and skeptical in intellect, could hardly hope to escape this indictment. Perhaps we might reply in defense that if, as has been frequently suggested, Italians have substituted compassion for justice and expediency for principle, the substitutes at least make for happy social relations. However, what will impress the reader no less than the persistence of this double standard, as the panorama of Italian accomplishment through history is unfolded before him, is the enormous industry which no adversity could suppress and the happy gift of character which has enabled Italians at all times to transmute skepticism into fruitful curiosity and pragmatism into a kind of gentleness which is still the stamp of the Italian, today as for centuries past the most civilized of men. Politically Italy's destiny is no longer in her own hands—indeed, was it ever?—but the Italian genius has transcended history before and the record so ably written down by Dr. Olschki gives us hope that it may do so again.

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## Corsican's Dossier

NAPOLEON FOR AND AGAINST.

By Pieter Geyl. New Haven: Yale University Press. 477 pp. \$5.

By GEOFFREY BRUUN

IN SEPTEMBER 1940 Professor Pieter Geyl of the University of Utrecht lectured in Rotterdam on the Napoleonic legend while Hitler's cohorts patrolled the streets. A few weeks later he had an opportunity to repeat his entertaining discourse—to fellow hostages in Buchenwald. Forty months at various internment camps provided leisure for further reading and meditation, and the present book was executed after his release. It is, the author explains mildly in the preface, "a product of our recent experiences."

The parallel between Hitler and Napoleon could hardly fail to attract a professional historian; the astonishing thing is that his rough contact with dictatorship failed to distract Pieter Geyl from his calm intention. He remained serenely constant to his original aim: to appraise the Corsican's character as five generations of French historians had interpreted it. The result is not only a valuable volume on historiography, it is a shrewd and stimulating dissection of Napoleon's admirers and detractors from Chateaubriand to Georges Lefebvre. No French chauvinist and no blind devotee of the Napoleonic cult will take much delight in these

chapters, but this still leaves a comfortable margin of readers to furnish an appreciative public.

French writers, arguing for and against, required more than a century to subjugate Napoleon to the historical rules of proportion and continuity. The fusion of the Napoleonic myth with the legend of French military prowess forged an amalgam not easy to recast. Authors who elected to glorify Napoleon, as Professor Geyl notes in a quiet aside, had a much better chance of becoming members of the French Academy than those who indulged in criticism. But the outcome of World War I, achieved by French generals who were resolutely subordinated to the civil government, weakened the argument that a "man on horseback" was indispensable to victory. By the 1930's such temperate and objective historians as Gabriel Hanotaux and Georges Lefebvre had reduced the role of Napoleon I to a sane historical synthesis.

The authoritarian tradition in France was not dead, however; it was sleeping, as the military disaster of 1940 proved in abrupt fashion. Meanwhile the interwar decades had carried Italy and Germany into plebiscitary dictatorships reminiscent of Napoleonic formulas. Professor Geyl offers no direct criticisms on these contemporary developments and he is too conscientious a historian to indulge in prophecy. Yet anyone curious to prefigure the course of Italian and German history writing for the coming years should ponder his book with close attention. It is written in the stars that Italy and Germany will produce their Vandals to dignify Mussolini's and Hitler's advent to power, Sorels to explain the logic of their wars, and Houssayes to dramatize the tragedy of their downfall. Blame for their ultimate defeat will be visited on officers who "blundered" their commands after the manner of Soult and Grouchy, or subordinates who "betrayed" the leader like Talleyrand and Marmont. The Napoleonic epic will continue to serve as a precedent for annalists unborn because history, as the author warns, is "an argument without end."

The magic of Napoleon's name is such that even dull books about him win attention. When they are written, as this one is, with insight, scholarship, and charm, a circle of readers is assured. The English translation by Olive Renier is fluent and animated. There is no bibliography but all necessary sources are given in crisp footnotes. A general index, an index of authors, and a chronological table for the main events of Napoleon's life make cross-reference easy.

## Your Literary I.Q.

By Howard Collins

WOMEN AND WOMEN

Margery E. Gulbransen, of Pittsburgh, invites you to pair up these twenty heroines with the authoresses who created them. Allowing five points for each correct match, a score of sixty is par, seventy is very good, and eighty or better is excellent. Answers are on page 28.

- |                      |                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Alison Stanhope   | ( ) Alice Hegan Rice        |
| 2. Countess Zattiany | ( ) Betty Smith             |
| 3. Diony Hall        | ( ) Edith Wharton           |
| 4. Dorinda Oakley    | ( ) Edna Ferber             |
| 5. Elsie Dinsmore    | ( ) Elizabeth Madox Roberts |
| 6. Emma McChesney    | ( ) Ellen Glasgow           |
| 7. Francie Nolan     | ( ) Gertrude Atherton       |
| 8. Hitty             | ( ) Harriet Beecher Stowe   |
| 9. Little Eva        | ( ) Helen Hunt Jackson      |
| 10. Lucy Gayhart     | ( ) Kate Douglas Wiggin     |
| 11. Lulu Bett        | ( ) Lillian Smith           |
| 12. Mattie Silver    | ( ) Louisa M. Alcott        |
| 13. "Marmee"         | ( ) Margaret Mitchell       |
| 14. Mother Carey     | ( ) Margaret Sidney         |
| 15. Mrs. Wiggs       | ( ) Martha Finley           |
| 16. Nonnie Anderson  | ( ) Mary Roberts Rinehart   |
| 17. Polly Pepper     | ( ) Rachel Field            |
| 18. Ramona           | ( ) Susan Glaspell          |
| 19. Scarlett O'Hara  | ( ) Willa Cather            |
| 20. Tish             | ( ) Zona Gale               |

## Land of Tumult

PARAGUAY: AN INFORMAL HISTORY. By Harris Gaylord Warren. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. 393 pp. \$5.

By J. FRED RIPPY

**E**NTHUSIASM for Latin-American studies in the United States in recent years has resulted in the production of good histories of several of the countries to the south, but some of them have been neglected. Paraguay, in particular, has not been given adequate attention. Now Professor Warren has filled the gap.

This is an excellent summary of Paraguay's history from the days of the Spanish Conquest down to next to the last revolution in this little republic. The facts are reliable, the interpretations are sound, and the style is better than most historians can command.

It is a tragic story of bitter quarrels, oppression, and exploitation during the 300 years of the colonial epoch, and of military despotism, anarchy, and international wars during the century of Paraguay's independence. Between 1500 and 1800 the sedentary, semicivilized Indians dwelling in the region were conquered, reduced to serfdom, and partially Christianized by Spanish soldiers, bureaucrats, missionaries, and priests and a hybrid race was produced. The population at the end of the period was probably no larger than at the beginning, but in 1800 it was composed of Spaniards, Negroes, and mix-bloods as well as Indians, with the hybrids far outnumbering the rest. A population of some three hundred thousand at the beginning of the national epoch increased to nearly twice that number by 1864, but was almost exterminated by five years of war with a triple alliance of the neighboring countries, Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil. Recovery was very slow and barely well under way before another long war was fought with Bolivia over boundaries. The country's inhabitants at the present time num-

ber hardly more than a million and their independence is threatened by domestic disorders and the rivalries of Argentina and Brazil.

Three tyrants, one after the other, ruled the nation during the first sixty years of its independent existence, two of them as brutal monsters as the human race ever produced. The first and the second exterminated most of the whites; the third completed the extirpation by getting involved in the war with Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay and by executing for alleged conspiracy those not killed in battle. The heavy task of rebuilding the ravaged country was left to the Indians and mix-bloods after the war was over. A few immigrants and some foreign capital flowed in, but the objective of these seems to have been monopoly and exploitation rather than development. Natives unable to eke out a frugal existence on their little farms were compelled to work for the miserable wages paid by alien enterprises engaged in exploiting the forests and raising livestock. Few railways, roads, or other public services were provided, and the masses suffered severely from poverty, ignorance, and disease. Although the Paraguayans won their war against Bolivia, victory was achieved at tremendous cost in life and capital, and the war caused a revival of militarism, which had abated somewhat during the opening decades of the twentieth century.

Paraguay has been a garrison state since 1936. Early in 1949, after Professor Warren's book went to press, another revolution occurred. The latest regime promises a new order of civilian rule, but Paraguay's history is filled with illusions and broken promises. Paraguay needs roads, schools, agrarian reforms, and efficient health services.

The major defect in Professor Warren's volume is its failure to present a well-rounded view of foreign investment in Paraguay since 1870, when the British tried to promote a "boom" after making an extortionate government loan. A useful bibliography is included.

## Middle East Cauldron

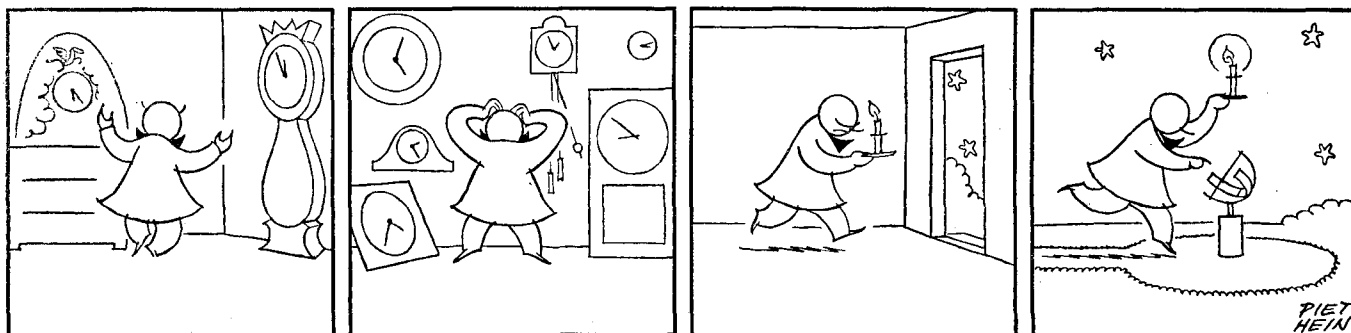
ARABS, OIL, AND HISTORY. By Kermit Roosevelt. New York: Harper & Bros. 271 pp. \$3.50.

By PAUL L. HANNA

**T**HERE are Arabs and oil aplenty in Kermit Roosevelt's book but as history it is somewhat fragmentary and elusive unless, of course, one interprets history as current events.

Those who have read Mr. Roosevelt's articles on the Middle East in *Harper's* and *The Saturday Evening Post* during the two years since the author last visited that area in the spring of 1947 will be familiar with the viewpoint, the style, and indeed in part with the contents of this book. The viewpoint is that of a friendly and sympathetic, but not a blindly admiring, observer of the peoples and institutions of the contemporary Middle East. The style is informal, anecdotal, and a bit repetitive. The contents are a brief and often rather sketchy survey of the entire region from Egypt to Afghanistan and from Turkey to Aden, first through a series of generalizations about the land and the people, then through nine short chapters devoted to the ten major countries of the area, and finally through a limited but suggestive consideration of the roles of the Great Powers, Russia, Britain, and the United States, in the Middle East.

In dealing with the rulers of the Arab states (which receive a major share of the author's attention), Mr. Roosevelt reveals his respect and liking for sturdy old Ibn Saud while he discounts, possibly too greatly, the strength and ability of the Hashemites. Abdullah of Jordan, that charming but pliant and devious adventurer, he particularly dislikes and distrusts. Over and over he shows in narrative and in exposition the lack of democracy in the Middle East and the insecurity of the ruling cliques in most of the states in the face of mass poverty and misery. Mr. Roosevelt apparently once felt some hope that the Western-educated intellectuals, the



"Subjectivity."