

Suffolk. According to Goodwin Watson, of Teachers College, Columbia University, who introduces the book, the success of the school which Neil operated would give considerable validity to the idea that "there seems to be something basically right about the way the Neil family theories work out in practice." Nevertheless, and while the reviewer can recognize here and there certain statements of principles which indicate acceptable, verifiable judgments, fundamentally this is the family philosophy of either a very poor theorist or a bewildered faddist. Outworn dogmas of discarded early Freudianism, mixed with certain misunderstood shibboleths of the existentialist cult, and with some other movements, combine into a philosophy which is bizarre, to say the least. We find that there are no such things as problem children—only problem parents. The medical profession is to blame for much of the wrong rearing of children. "The child who is reared without sex guilt will never want any religion." The big sin in life is the sexual one, the Oxford group is a great danger to youth, and even cancer is fundamentally a sexual disease, and so on, even worse. The bad points of the work far outweigh its few good observations.

C. C. Zimmerman, a professor of sociology at Harvard University since 1931, is chairman of the board of tutors in sociology at the university. He is the author of "Family," "The Family and Civilization," "Consumption and Standards of Living," and other volumes.

#### FRASER YOUNG'S LITERARY CRYPT: No. 306

A cryptogram is writing in cipher. Every letter is part of a code that remains constant throughout the puzzle. Answer No. 306 will be found in the next issue.

LSXAB MC GSRHNMNORA,

PTRBSSN KTZL, TRN

SQN TDO GSRHNMNORA

TDTMR.—PTZAMR H. AXYYOZ

Answer to Literary Crypt No. 305  
Nobody can give you wiser advice  
than yourself.

—CICERO.



**R**INEHART & CO. have restored to circulation two excellent biographies of two extraordinary writers: "James Joyce" (\$3.50), by Herbert Gorman, and "Israfel: The Life and Times of Edgar Allan Poe" (\$5), by Hervey Allen. Their merits differ. The one is an intimate, personal portrait, by a biographer who knew his sitter well; the other is a massive job of research, a careful reconstruction of a life that has long been marked by obscure phases, and long been the cause of heated controversy. In the one there is more art, in the other more labor, but both will continue to be read, I think, as long as there are readers interested in understanding James Joyce and Edgar Poe.

Mr. Gorman, whose book was first published ten years ago, does not dig deep into the springs of Joyce's writing, but he shows the way to those who would, and he tells Joyce's story and depicts his character so successfully that he makes us feel we knew the man. Against the backgrounds of Dublin, Zurich, Trieste, Rome, and Paris, he follows the career of an Irishman who never really left Dublin, a rebel whose weapons were "silence, exile, and cunning," an artist whose motto was an uncompromising *non serviam*, addressed to home and fatherland and church. It is a rare tale of struggle, frustration, success, moral endurance, and physical heroism. Mr. Gorman does not bring up the point, but I cannot help wondering what Joyce's literary course would have been if "Dubliners" had not met the exasperating fate it did, if his great ego had not been so cruelly goaded.

There is heroism in Poe's story, too—even if it was not sufficient to prevent a lifetime's torture and final tragedy—and there is an ego that knew no bounds. Mr. Allen's narrative is heavy with detail (we are told what Poe's shoes cost at an English school, and the fare on the steamer which carried him from West Point to New York) but the central strands of the narrative are strong enough to bear this weight. It is probable that no book will ever explain more clearly than "Israfel" Poe's crucial relations with John Allan, Mrs. Clemm, and Virginia; his important associations with Kennedy, White, Burton, and Graham; his individual brand of dipsomania, and his unfortunate sex-

ual organization. Understanding these things, we come close to understanding the isolated and doomed artist whose last words were: "Lord help my poor soul."

From Robert L. Crager, in New Orleans, come new editions of two worthy books by the late Lyle Saxon. The first, "Fabulous New Orleans" (\$7.50), is well known, although I had never read it until now; and the second, "Children from Strangers" (\$3), Mr. Saxon's lone novel, deserves to be far better known than it is. This tragic story of the mulatto Famie Vidal, her white lover and white child, her husband Numa, and the patient, inarticulate Henry Tyler, may be flawed in parts, but in the main it is a singularly moving novel by a sensitive writer who knew the value of simplicity and restraint. As for "Fabulous New Orleans," delightfully illustrated by W. H. Suydam, which introduces us—by way of Mardi Gras—to the famous city's checkered history, customs, characters, and legends, it needs no other recommendation than word that it is available.

Enjoyable as it is, however, Mr. Saxon's rather polite account of New Orleans has its limitations; so one may supplement it with Herbert Asbury's "The French Quarter" (Pocket Books, 25¢), in which an amateur of immorality describes the horrific New Orleans underworld, from the early days of the Swamp down to the declining days of Basin Street.

Among New Orleans's more remarkable products is Truman Capote, whose "Other Voices, Other Rooms" is now a Signet Book (25¢). The few superior critics who disparaged this strange yarn were, I think, wrong. It has in it the kind of "magic" which Mr. Capote insists fiction should have. But how far this quality will carry him is, of course, uncertain. . . . Another Signet volume, "A Woman in the House," is a representative collection of Erskine Caldwell's frequently tantalizing short stories. . . . Hervey Allen's "Anthony Adverse," which has known many forms, has been "adapted" for a three-volume Dell Book edition (25¢ per vol.). . . . Add Pocket Books: Haines's "Command Decision," Kay Summersby's "Eisenhower Was My Boss," Frank Yerby's "The Foxes of Harrow," and Cerf's "Try and Stop Me."

—BEN RAY REDMAN.

**The World.** Numbered among the American products that have won the esteem of judicious persons in all parts of the world are fountain pens, motor cars, nylon stockings, and journalists. If it were not for the work of such intelligent and enterprising correspondents as Edgar Ansel Mowrer, Leland Stowe, Dorothy Thompson, Walter Duranty, John Gunther, and others of their stature, our knowledge of the world between the wars might have been far more hazy and our decisions even less enlightened than they were. Mr. Stowe's new book, *"Target: You,"* which Mr. Mowrer reviews below, is the effort of one journalist to apply his knowledge and experience to the problems now confronting Western civilization. Another book of the week that is for the most part the product of journalists is Lester Markel's symposium, *"Public Opinion and Foreign Policy,"* reviewed also in this issue on page 15 under "U. S. A."

## *"John Between" in Air-and-Atomic Age*

**TARGET: YOU.** By Leland Stowe. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. 1949. 288 pp. \$3.

Reviewed by EDGAR ANSEL MOWRER

**L**ELAND STOWE'S latest book is an attempt to help the American citizen (whom he playfully baptizes "John Between") to do what he must do if civilization and our type of life are to survive. In my judgment, this book is remarkably successful.

Stowe was one of the most brilliant American foreign correspondents of the inter-war period. Had these men's advice been heeded, World War II would have been at least postponed, Hitler would have been eliminated without war, and Stalin would not today be threatening world peace and world democracy.

Mr. Stowe begins by analyzing the present predicament of Americans who emerged victorious from World War II only to find themselves haunted by fears of a sort which they had never before experienced. He believes that America is essentially "middle class" and that its position is half-way between Communism and monopoly capitalism. Stowe knows that capitalism is not Fascism. But he notes that some capitalists seem always ready to support Fascist champions if they feel threatened by militant labor or Communism.

Now instead of behaving in a "big" way, the American John Betweens are haunted by fears of Communism and of economic instability. For the first time in our history, young men are emigrating to foreign parts (notably, to Australia). But Communism, Stowe believes, is impotent except where resistance to needed economic reforms (boom and bust, more justice, etc.) gives it power. Americans "fail

to understand that capitalism is in acute crisis everywhere." In Europe the prewar Fascism of the possessing classes discredited capitalism.

Since capitalism in Europe is discredited, Americans wishing to save democracy must take the allies they find. They can expect no quarter from Communists. They can only lose by use of Fascists. Therefore they must cooperate with the European Social Democrats and leftish Catholics or face disaster. Unfortunately, Stowe feels, the U. S. policymakers to date have not been interested in "liberating European peasants from their economic chains." Hence the Communists have found listeners.

Moreover, here at home, stabilizing a capitalist society demands from all classes sacrifices Americans have not been willing to make. We should, Mr. Stowe believes, have followed Bernard



—Carola Gregor.

Leland Stowe—"We should have followed Bernard Baruch's recommendations."

Baruch's recommendations after the war and "stabilized for peace." Our basic liberties are being threatened by the search for international security amid the new terrors of the air-and-atom age. Intolerance is rising here with shameful "witch hunts" and increased police powers.

Actually—and here Stowe is at his best—John Between must realize that he has entered a new age where he can no longer obtain permanent security by any amount of armament. In the first place, new armament is so costly that only two countries—the USA and the USSR—can provide it. Rich as these two are, if they persist in an armament race, it is bound to bankrupt both of them.

Separate sovereign nations cannot create security or permanent peace. Therefore, if we want peace we must recognize that "the will for peace is the will for a common Supreme Law." This means a readiness to accept the responsibility and restraints of membership in a world government.

"Target: You" is so full of interesting descriptions of what happened and stimulating explanations of why it happened that no summary comes anywhere near to doing it justice. It is clearly written, popular in tone, easy to understand, and sound in thought. There are in Leland Stowe two characters—a magnificent reporter of fact and a "liberal" thinker. He will forgive me if I dare suggest that he re-examine some of his "liberal" beliefs.

Is he quite sure that state Socialism constitutes "progress?" Could it not betoken reversion to medievalism? And is the United States certain to follow the "European pattern" in this respect?

Again—I for one do not believe that the U. S. "blundered into an atomic armament race." In my judgment, Russia made such a race inevitable—short of world government—when it insisted on upsetting the balance of power in Europe and Asia to our detriment.

Finally, it is demonstrably not true that in Eastern Europe "land feudalism remained unaltered until 1945." "Land feudalism" went from Yugoslavia and Bulgaria with the Turks, never existed in Czechoslovakia, and by 1939 had been largely eliminated from Poland and Roumania.

These are but fly specks on a piece of fine work.

Edgar Ansel Mowrer, European correspondent for nearly two decades, won a Pulitzer Prize for his book *"Germany Turns Back the Clock."* His latest volume, *"The Nightmare of American Foreign Policy,"* was published last autumn.