

Johns Hopkins. He has been there ever since, much of the time as professor of gynecology. In 1913 he came forward with a plan for cancer publicity which, at the time, was viewed in some medical quarters with as high horror as if he had suggested that doctors hire sandwich men. Bok of *The Ladies' Home Journal* was persuaded to take up the idea, and the campaign of education was on—how many thousands of lives has it saved? Dr. Cullen once took an eighty-nine-pound tumor from a woman who weighed, tumor and all, 174 pounds. She did all right. His published writings include a treatise on the umbilicus—"a book of 700 pages concerning an area not more than two centimetres in diameter," reports his lively and understandably enthusiastic biographer. (Dr. Cullen denies this—says the book has only 680 pages.) As if surgery and teaching were not enough, he later became president of the board of the Enoch Pratt Free Library. When patients about to be operated on asked him, as patients will, just what he was going to do, he would answer: "As little as possible and as much as necessary." That ought to make the quotation books.

—JOHN T. WINTERICH.

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, by Max Miller. Dutton. \$3. Modesty is said to be a refreshing virtue in anyone. In a writer it is startling and perhaps unhealthy, too, for it cannot help him very much with his work. In this book of random reminiscences modesty shows up everywhere, as a kind of deterrent; it mutes Mr. Miller's tones, it laughs away his big moments and deprecates his writing. Max Miller has never thought of himself as a Writer, but rather as a writer, lower case, a man who has come by a series of amusing accidents to making his living with a typewriter. He was a crazy kid who sold papers in Everett, Washington. He caddied, he did a turn in the Navy, he went to college and ran the paper there, he covered the Dempsey-Gibbons fight at Shelby, and he went off to Melbourne on a definitely non-expense-paid tour in search of newspaper stuff. He had to live on what he could get printed, and there in Australia began his career as a practical writer. This is the twentieth of the books that came of it. The most notable was "I Cover the Waterfront," which earned Mr. Miller a brief stay in the spotlight. For the rest, as he happily admits, he is an honest working journalist, telling what he sees in the most palatable manner possible to a competent writer of good will and earnest intentions.

—NATHAN L. ROTHMAN.

U.S.A. With newspaper headlines heralding strikes, actual or potential, in such basic industries as coal, steel, railroads, and automobiles, the first of the books reviewed below is particularly apropos. In "Unions and Capitalism" Charles E. Lindblom maintains that labor unions have become so powerful that they threaten the long-term welfare not only of the capitalistic system and the public, but of the workers themselves. More friendly views of two large unions are given in books which will be reviewed here shortly: Howe's and Widick's "The UAW and Walter Reuther" and Saul Alinsky's "John L. Lewis." . . . The monumental balance sheet of "America's Needs and Resources" which the Twentieth Century Fund drew up two years ago has been reduced to a form in which it can be appreciated by the average busy citizen in "U. S. A.: Measure of a Nation" (reviewed on the next page).

More & More & No Competition

UNIONS AND CAPITALISM. By Charles E. Lindblom. New Haven: Yale University Press. 267 pp. \$3.75.

By WELLINGTON ROE

PROFESSOR LINDBLOM has put his finger squarely into a pie which those labor-union officers who are conscious of the disruptive effect of modern unionism on the established economic system would prefer to leave untouched, hidden at the back of the cupboard for family use one day when no company is around. By doing so he has brought into the open a problem which demands careful exploration by all concerned with or interested in the end-product of the power drive of American trade unionism. This, in fine, means all of us.

Basically the book explains the incompatibility of strong trade unions and competitive price-profit economy. Unions, says Lindblom, are anti-com-

petitive by nature and anti-progressive by design. He assembles a considerable volume of documentation to support his argument. He has also loaded his presentation with static concepts of professional economists. This weakness in the book will provide a field day for labor-minded observers of economic phenomena and will give union economists the happy chore of proving just how unsound the work is. But in this book the student and the union economists will be ignoring the essential value of the work, which is the statement that the growing power of unionism will eventually prevent the capitalist system from functioning. It may be that such an event will be no particular cause for regret when and under the circumstances in which it will occur. Nevertheless, it is good that Professor Lindblom has given us the warning of things to come unless union functionaries become more responsible to their duties as citizens and less determined to promote the short-term interests of a special group. As he makes clear also, the politics of unions tend to work against the best interests even of the wage-earning group for which union officers claim endlessly to toil.

The wage or perhaps the wages-as-social-implement policy of unions has come to reflect the desires of the controlling group within the union (which is frequently a minority) instead of over-all benefit to workers in an industry or majority membership in the union itself.

This fact is best illustrated by an examination of union wage policies based upon the traditional insistence of trade-body leaders that members of their organization get "more and more and more—and now" for their



—Burck in Chicago Sun-Times.

"After you, my dear Gaston."

labor. What happens when this attitude is elevated to a policy is seen through Lindblom's scrutiny of the operations of the United Mine Workers during the Twenties. As a result of the UMW's wage policy high rates of mining coal forced production from union to non-union fields. Union employers in desperation broke their contracts. This resulted in widespread unemployment among union miners. Dissension within the union because of this grew so general that its membership dropped from about 400,000 in 1924 to less than 150,000 in 1932. Had it not been for the New Deal labor legislation of the early 1930's, particularly the impact in 1932 of Section 7 (a) and (b) of NRA on union matters, the Mine Workers probably would have expired within a few years.

Here is a classic comment upon the union leader's lack of knowledge of economics or his interest in using whatever such knowledge he may have. Again, as Lindblom remarks: "A union may . . . deliberately and rationally choose to destroy itself through high rates, particularly if the decline in employment opportunities is less rapid than the decline in union membership. . . ."

FRASER YOUNG'S LITERARY CRYPT: No. 328

A cryptogram is writing in cipher. Every letter is part of a code that remains constant throughout the puzzle. Answer No. 328 will be found in the next issue.

G MXKGZ SKSUXE

JUKY TUZ SGQK G

VNOUYUVNKX, GTE SUXK

ZNGT G JOIZOUTGXE

IGT HK IGRRKJ G

MXGSSGX.

—PUNT NKTXE.

Answer to Literary Crypt No. 327
When one has been threatened with a great injustice one accepts a smaller as a favour.

—JANE WELSH CARLYLE.

What is meant here, of course, is not that the union will expire, but that its membership will decline to a point where only the controlling clique (of whatever size) because of seniority and other factors will retain their employment. Meanwhile the industry's capital is depleted by the union's high-wage policy. Clearly, in such an event the union has failed in its stated purpose to bring comfort and security to its members.

Unions will tolerate no competition in the wage market, and as the Government is politically committed to a high-wage policy the employer, caught in the machinery of a competitive price system, is forced to maintain rates totally unreasonable in the light of economic conditions.

Lindblom devotes a great deal of space to a discussion of the effect of wages-as-cost and the rejection of goods by the consumer at the price imposed by the unions' wage scale.

When such consumer refusal to buy becomes widespread a depression results. Depressions force the government to bail out the impaired economy. The long-range result of this will be likely to create a large group of non-industrial workers who have been forced out of private employment by union tactics and have become permanently dependent upon public works for their livelihood.

The question now posed is how much of this sort of thing the economy can endure before it collapses. According to Professor Lindblom, it can take a terrific pounding; but the end product will be that either the monopoly power of unions will be broken or a new economy will be developed which will ignore the consumer and allow the government to control production and prices. If the unions continue to grow in political importance it is logical that in fixing prices the government will do little about wages. At that point profits will disappear and the competitive price system will end. Lindblom states that union monopoly of labor is actually only in proportion to union ability to coerce the employer through strikes, slowdowns, etc. This is in part true, but a more precise statement, I think, would be to the effect that the unions' monopoly is based upon the power of the government to force employers to grant union demands.

This is far from an anti-union book, but it has little in its pages to cause joy among those unionists and intellectuals who contend that the presence of gargantuan labor organizations is an unqualified blessing to the nation or that the new power of labor unions has been, is, or will be used beneficently for society as a whole.

Our Budget Billions

U.S.A.: MEASURE OF A NATION. By Thomas R. Caskadon and Rudolf Modley. New York: The Macmillan Co. 101 pp. \$1.

By DAVID CUSHMAN COYLE

TWO years ago the Twentieth Century Fund published a massive volume, "America's Needs and Resources," the main purpose of which was to show in considerable detail the size of the United States. For those who could pay five dollars this was a useful book—especially for those businessmen who had once ridiculed President Roosevelt's demand for 50,000 planes, and who faced the postwar and the national debt with a feeling that it all must be a dream.

"U.S.A.: Measure of a Nation" is a popular summary of the earlier volume, aimed at a wider market, and copiously decorated with Rudolf Modley's little men. This revival is welcome, for there are still plenty of Americans who have trouble adjusting their ideas to the scale of modern times. Some of the figures have been more or less brought up to date, and the 1947 dollar is used instead of the 1944 one; but Mr. Modley's diagrams add a note of confusion by showing everything after 1940 as a prediction, and the text does not make clear to what extent the postwar history has been taken into account. The main argument of the book, however, is all the more impressive because the figures on which it was based have already been proved to be more than conservative.

For example, the total output of the United States for 1960 is forecast as worth 239 billion dollars at the prices of 1947. Actually we have already outrun the 1960 figure, even in 1949, with a total output, or "Gross National Product," running at the rate of 240 billions; and the present forecast by the Council of Economic Advisors is that full employment in 1960 will yield over 330 billion dollars' worth, all measured in 1947 prices. So when Mr. Caskadon tells us that with less than 10-per-cent extra production beyond his forecasts we could easily carry all the "liberal" programs of conservation, slum clearance, and other proposed national improvements, he is not dreaming the impossible.

The reader who has once grasped the idea of the scale of American productive power will be freed from the usual fears that hamper American policy at home and in the cold war. Then he can boldly face the facts of