

gradually downward, our facts and observations being derived from the contents of deep-sea nets, reported on various expeditions.

Dr. Colman steers a careful course between too much detail and loose generalization and draws a vivid, balanced picture composed of the mosaic of scattered captures. He mentions the abyssal giant prawns, which are "among the most splendid in the animal kingdom; they combine beautiful shapes and graceful swimming with perfect transparency and a gorgeous deep crimson color." This color, of course, is forever non-existent until revealed by the abnormal advent of surfacing in a net. Light organs and luminous slime, fish with enormous eyes and others with none, fish aglow with parti-colored rows of lights—all appear and are left behind as we descend.

In still deeper zones the fish find their prey by "some chemical sense related to taste or smell," or by the possession of elongate, sensitive filaments. We have reviewed for us the miracle of dwarf males growing fast to their gigantic mates and the ability of other fish to capture, swallow, and digest creatures two or three times their own size. This chapter is stranger than any fiction.

"Personally, I take the sea-serpent quite seriously," writes the author, using that abused word in its logically possible concept. As he says, the ultimate resolving of the kraken into a giant squid and the discovery of a large, live *Latimera* off South Africa, a fish which rightly should have become extinct thirty millions of years ago—these pave the way for unpredictable discoveries to come.

The chapters are pleasantly illustrated by line cuts, and the oceanographic end-paper maps are excellent, but the sixteen plates bunched in mid-volume might well have been omitted. They have no cohesion or striking qualities. This volume deserves a generous scattering of color plates like that which illumined Russell and Yonge's "The Seas," the most worthy precursor, two decades ago, of the present volume.

The blood plasma in our veins represents the proportional salt strength of the sea, exactly as it was many millions of years ago when our remote marine forebears deserted salt water for fresh en route to the dry land to which we now uneasily cling. Such a fact alone should make this book absorbing to every intelligent layman. The author has done his part of the job well.

William Beebe, curator of ornithology at the New York Zoological Society, has headed many expeditions to study marine life.

## The Dream of James Smithson, Esq.

THE SMITHSONIAN: America's Treasure House. By Webster Prentiss True. New York: Sheridan House. 298 pp. \$3.50.

By ELIZABETH H. THOMSON

SINCE 1855 more than 66,711,817 persons have viewed the vast treasures of the Smithsonian Institution. But probably few who have been awed and thrilled by the thousands of interesting exhibits, such as the dinosaur "Gertie," the chair and desk used by General Eisenhower in Italy in World War II, or the very popular costumes of the Presidents' wives and Lindbergh's *Spirit of St. Louis*, are aware that the Smithsonian has grown out of the generous gift of a lonely, childless Englishman who had never visited these shores. Webster Prentiss True's fascinating account of this bequest and its far-reaching results should be welcomed by a large audience.

James Smithson, natural son of Hugh, first Duke of Northumberland, and Elizabeth, niece of the "proud Duke of Somerset," was because of his illegitimacy denied the right to his father's title. Out of this injustice was born an overwhelming desire to add luster to the name of Smithson and to make it live in the memory of man long after the family titles had been forgotten. But a lifetime of scientific endeavor, although of high quality and considerable originality, did not satisfy his ambition. Therefore on the night of October 23, 1826, he sat down to write his will—his last opportunity to insure the fulfillment of his purpose. It was a brief document ending thus: "I then bequeath the whole of my property . . . to the United States of America, to found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an Establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men." Probably no great legacy was ever transmitted in more simple and unqualified terms or with higher purpose.

Smithson died three years later and his bequest, over half a million dollars in gold sovereigns, reached this country in 1838, but it was 1846 before the United States Congress was able to settle upon the framework which would carry out the broad vision of the nation's benefactor.

Mr. True, chief of the editorial division of the Smithsonian and author of a handsomely illustrated brief history of the Institution issued in 1946 for its centenary, offers in his present, much expanded account entertainment as well as instruction about our internationally renowned Institution

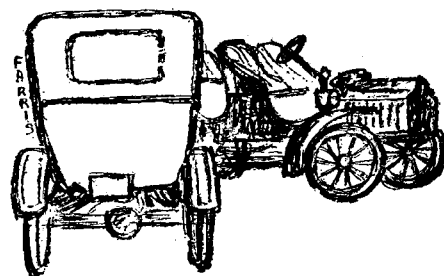
whose great work is now carried on through ten separate bureaus. Mr. True writes with such ease and simplicity, has marshaled a wealth of factual information so effectively, and has included so much of the history and drama behind the displays and activities of the Institution that it is difficult to lay his story down. There are sixty-four well-produced plates.

"Sons of Science," by Paul H. Oehser (published in 1949) told the Smithsonian story largely through its leaders, whereas Mr. True, although he does not neglect its builders, is primarily concerned with conveying an idea of the rich collections and the unseen activities of the Institution in its primary role as a research organization engaged in increasing and diffusing knowledge among men. He therefore describes the displays of the United States National Museum, the Air Museum (which does not yet have a building), the Collection of Fine Arts, the Freer Gallery of Art, and the National Gallery of Art, and also includes the living treasures of the National Zoo in Rock Creek Park.

Chapters entitled To the Ends of the Earth, Red Men and White, and The Star We Live By give highlights of the Smithsonian explorations and the activities of the Bureau of American Ethnology and the Astrophysical Observatory, whose half-century of study of solar radiation is of infinite importance—one application being possible long-range weather forecasting.

Also outlined are the services of the Smithsonian in spreading scientific and cultural knowledge throughout the world through the medium of the International Exchange Service. The myriad applications of the Smithsonian's store of knowledge in peace and war is most revealing. Some thirteen million copies of the Institution's 8,000 publications widely distributed, together with the physical displays in Washington, have gone far toward fulfilling James Smithson's dream.

Elizabeth H. Thomson is author of "Harvey Cushing: Surgeon, Author, Artist" and co-author of "Benjamin Silliman: Pathfinder in American Science."





—Angus McBean.

Eileen Garrett—"up and atom."

## Cross My Palm

THE SENSE AND NONSENSE OF PROPHECY. By Eileen J. Garrett. New York: Creative Age Press. 279 pp. \$2.75.

By ROLFE BOSWELL

THE late Arthur Brentano used to say, with a wry chuckle, that he had employed specially trained salesmen to preside over well-stocked shelves of books explaining cult and occult. In three decades three experts had taken care of that department. Each, the bookseller sighed, had died in a madhouse. It seems that they had taken their wares too seriously, poring over their abstruse pages and diagrams too far into the witching hours.

Eileen Garrett's book comes too late to save those witless three, but it ought to be read by all those seer-suckers who shell out their shekels to goosebone-readers, myth-peddlers, and ghost-breakers for a quick look around the corner or insight into their own muddled lives. Fortune-tellers thrive because the gullible believe whatever they want to believe. With that precept in mind modern magicians are bound to succeed.

Mrs. Garrett here is presenting verbally the same lesson Gian-Carlo Menotti produced musically and visually in his opera "The Medium." Such charlatans as Mme. Flora prey upon the ignorant, the gullible, the overwrought who wear their emotions on the sleeve, the distressed, and the bereft. Her actual counterparts, without being named, are described by Mrs. Garrett. It is a pity that she did not go on to explain how some me-

diumistic tricks are done mechanically.

Ours is a land of strange cults and wacky religions, though America cannot claim a monopoly on the freakish. It is good to learn how some of these silly sects came to pass. It would be better if this book would bring about a drop in attendance at fake seances.

So much for the nonsense. As to the sense in this field, it is much more difficult to prove than to disprove. As probably one of the best-known and most reliable psychics in the world Mrs. Garrett is in a position to give some accounting of the latest experiments in extrasensory perception. The goal in psychical research conducted scientifically is to find answers to the mysteries of life and death. To such a quest a layman can only say — up and atom.

Granting such a recondite goal to serious psychic researchers, who strive so diligently to expand human knowledge in a forbidden field, one can sympathize with their plaint that they are hampered constantly by frauds and fakes who are concerned with the money-making possibilities of prophecy rather than with proving its possibilities and probabilities.

What I want to do is to analyze and define [Mrs. Garrett explains]. I hope to separate the wheat from the chaff so definitely and thoroughly that never again will a total stranger extend a grubby palm to me and ask, "Do you see a rich marriage?" and never again will the efficient research laboratories of leading American and European universities be mistaken for the ouija-board sessions in Bloomsbury, Baltimore, or Brooklyn living rooms.

When it comes to analyzing and defining Mrs. Garrett has succeeded wittily and intelligently in taking apart the false prophets to show what makes them tick. She also does well to point out that "science is today discovering that many of man's physical illnesses start in the mind and that mental and physical health depend upon the unimpeded will power and the exercise of our intellectual faculties. It is dangerous to allow our personalities to be dominated too much by the ideas or feelings of others."

So "the fascination of the unknown," is "the fascination of a moth for the flame. The greater the field of knowledge, the greater is the responsibility of all of us." Her last words are of warning, "Don't tamper with it!"

Macbeth told his lady's doctor: "Throw physic to the dogs; I'll none of it."

And psychics to the bitches.

Rolfe Boswell is author of "Nostradamus Speaks" and "Prophets and Portents."



Karen Horney—"alienation from self."

## The Drive for Glory

NEUROSIS AND HUMAN GROWTH. The Struggle Toward Self-Realization. By Karen Horney, M.D. New York: W. W. Norton & Co. 391 pp. \$3.75.

By PATRICK MULLAHY

FOR MANY years certain philosophers, psychoanalysts, psychologists, sociologists, and anthropologists have conceived of personality as an organization of bio-social or interpersonal processes, relations, and experiences. This "orientation" has seemed to offer students of man a powerful theoretical principle which would enable them not only to reach a better understanding of personality in its manifold aspects but help toward a closer integration of widely differing approaches and techniques. In practice also this standpoint has had fruitful results and is being accepted more and more among students of man.

According to this idea experience is derived from and essentially consists of interpersonal relations, both real or fantastic ("imaginary") or a blend of both. Such experience may be public and overt or more or less private, covert, and "subjective," but it always occurs in a social context, having a discoverable reference to others. In this view experience occurs as an interaction or transaction of "inner" and "outer."

Dr. Karen Horney in "Neurosis and Human Growth," says that at one time she, like Adolph Meyer, Erich Fromm, H. S. Sullivan, and others, "first saw the core of neurosis in human relations." For some time "the focus was on the interpersonal factors." Neurosis,