

story has achieved an amazingly popular success, riding high on the best-seller lists and reaching a large newspaper audience through serialization. Fulton Oursler has the rare gift of being able to recast familiar material into a form which newspaper and magazine readers will find interesting. He takes the stories of Adam and Eve, Abraham, Moses, David, and the rest and makes them read like the human interest stories one finds in the Sunday paper or in *The Reader's Digest*.

The Old Testament story is accepted as told. There is no attempt to apply the results of Biblical critics nor to paint in the historical and cultural background. At the same time the telling is dignified and reverent, free of ecclesiastical bias and Sunday-schoolish moralizing.

Religion, Education & Democracy

GOD IN EDUCATION. By Henry P. Van Dusen. Scribner. \$2. One might wish that Dr. Van Dusen would expand this all too slender volume on an important subject. For here we are crying to high heaven about the sapping of moral and spiritual strength in this country and at the same time complaining to the same high heaven if anyone suggests that there should be a place in our educational system for religion. It just doesn't make sense.

Dr. Van Dusen is not arguing so much for specific reforms as for a rethinking and restatement of the philosophy of education. He would reaffirm the organic unity of truth, the interrelatedness and interdependence of man and nature, of the world and God; he would acknowledge the reality and regnancy of the living God. Only thus, he declares, can religion become once again the keystone of the educational arch.

A FAITH THAT FULFILLS. By Julius Seelye Bixler. Harper. \$2. The President of Colby College is here engaged in a lively, trenchant discussion of the relation of religion and intelligence. From his observation of the intellectual and spiritual confusion on the college campus Dr. Bixler pleads for an alliance of a deep religious faith with the reasoning powers and processes. He does not think kindly of Kierkegaard and his modern followers, for he believes they would have us turn our back on reason.

CULT AND CULTURE. By Von Ogden Vogt. Macmillan. \$3. Dr. Vogt covers a vast amount of territory in this book, and it is an interesting journey following his agile mind. By culture he



Dannemora's Church of the Good Thief.

means all that contributes to the dominating ideology of a nation, a race, or an era. To discover its relation to religion he traverses with an air of familiarity such varied fields as anthropology, sociology, philosophy, psychology, economics, art, and music. The only unifying force that Dr. Vogt is able to bring back from his journey and apply to American culture is a broadly liberal religion, acceptable to intellectuals, and expressing itself on the one hand in rich and artistic liturgy and, on the other, in courageous social action. Reading this book is a broadening experience.

THE TRAVAIL OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY. By Roland H. Bainton. Westminster Press. \$4. On the face of it this is a historical study of nine personalities who were either victims or perpetrators of religious persecution during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

The character studies include Thomas of Torquemada, who was the moving spirit of the Spanish Inquisition; John Calvin, the embodiment of Protestant intolerance at its peak; Servetus, a victim of Protestant persecution; Castellio, the remonstrator against Protestant intolerance; David Joris, characterized as "the heretic as hypocrite"; Bernardino Ochino, "the heretic as exile"; John Milton, "the bard of speech unbound"; Roger Williams, the symbol of religious freedom in America; and John Locke, apologist for the British Act of Toleration.

As Professor Bainton is careful to point out in this introduction, these studies have pertinence for the problem of religious liberty today. They are object lessons in what intolerance and witch-hunting can lead to and demonstrate at what price we have bought our religious freedom.

Saints & Sinners

GATES OF DANNEMORA. By John L. Bonn. New York: Doubleday & Co. 276 pp. \$3.

By FRANK O'LEARY

THIS is a gripping book about sinful saints and saintly sinners, about a spiritually great man who believes in their salvageability, and about the "Church of the Good Thief." The scene is set within the forbidding walls of Clinton Prison at Dannemora, New York. The saints and sinners are what the cliché-minded call "hardened criminals," inmates of dreaded Dannemora. Their spiritual leader is Father Ambrose Hyland—affectionately known as "Pops"—for fifteen years Catholic chaplain at that prison. The church is named for Dismas, the convicted thief who found redemption as he died on the Cross beside Christ.

Father Hyland came to Dannemora to find about two thousand despair-ridden convicts in the prison and about one thousand demented felons in the Dannemora Hospital for the Criminally Insane. He found the memory of the bloody 1929 revolt of the convicts still vibrantly alive in the memories of the veteran employees. The "line-up, button-up, and shut-up" school of penological thought backed by heavily ferruled canes obtained. Hyland determined to be "pro-con" (a priest on the side of the convict)—a "right buck" in prison parlance. He saw seven hundred long-term prisoners lying completely idle in those prewar years when there was no employment in the prison for them. Maliciousness, the urge to destroy, the lust to maim and kill—all of the vicious by-products of hatred born of prison idleness flourished and made Dannemora the grimmest of grim havens. "Stir-bugs," cons with minds filled with delusions and eyes possessed of that mad stare characteristic of prison stupor, trudged around the treadmill going nowhere, sat around the prison yard, waiting, waiting for nothing.

Hyland fought against almost impossible odds armed with nothing but courage and an idea to lead hundreds of idle cons in the construction of their intramural church—the first such edifice in penological history. Officialdom was excessively afraid of convict hands weakened with disuses, thinking they would use their construction tools to escape, to settle old scores, or merely to express the viciousness with

Frank O'Leary served time in Dannemora during his twenty-two years in various prisons.

which their keepers were sure they were all inoculated. The cons must have thought of Mark Benny's words in "Angels in Undress": "My guardians say that I am a bad man; I say in my defense that they are bad guardians." The power of a valid idea implemented by this clerical pioneer triumphed. The church was built, no escapes occurred, old scores remained unsettled, and the only blood spilled flowed from fingers unused to hard work coming in contact with the rough stones handled. The morale of the institution rose to an unprecedented high, fewer minds snapped, and the dangers of idleness in prison were negated.

One of the most moving scenes in the book takes place when Hyland exhorts his con laborers to demolish the old prison wall to clear the ground for the church: "They tell you there is no escape from Dannemora. Then I tell you to build an escape for yourselves inside the walls of Dannemora. Men! Tear down the wall!"

At the close of the dedication ceremonies, as the chanting, candle-bearing choir and acolytes filed from the church, hoots and jeers from the insane convicts gathered on the caged-in roof of the hospital mingled with the hymn. Hyland was at that moment ministering to a suicide who had gulped metal filings from his bed-springs in his final, successful bid to escape.

Fascinating case histories, episodic gems, and flashes of grim humor should hold the reader enthralled.

Something much more than the biography of Father Hyland, and the story of the "Church of the Good Thief," this is no less than an arresting saga of Dannemora. Bonn has painted the cons too much in the "Big House" tradition, but his book will be widely read and discussed.

LITERARY I.Q. ANSWERS.

1. T Timon of Athens (V, iv)
2. H Hamlet's father (I, v)
3. E Emilia (Othello, V, ii)
4. I Iras (Antony & Cleopatra, V, ii)
5. D Duncan (Macbeth, II, iii)
6. E Edward (Richard III, V, iii)
7. S Suffolk (Henry V, IV, vi)
8. O Ophelia (Hamlet, V, i)
9. F Falstaff (Henry V, II, iii)
10. M Mamillius (Winter's Tale, III, ii)
11. A Antony (Antony & Cleopatra, IV, xv)
12. R Romeo (Romeo & Juliet, V, iii)
13. C Cawdor (Macbeth, I, iv)
14. H Hamlet (Hamlet, V, ii)

THE LONG LONELINESS

The Autobiography of
DOROTHY DAY

The story of an amazing woman and the Catholic Worker movement she helped found. Miss Day writes of her adventures from social protest to God with extraordinary frankness and humility.

"One of the really great religious and autobiographical books of our times."—CHAD WALSH

"It is undoubtedly one of the important biographies of this generation."—MARGARET CULKIN BANNING

With illustrations by Fritz Eichenberg.

\$3.50

A CATHOLIC SPEAKS HIS MIND

On America's Religious Conflict
By **THOMAS SUGRUE**

This is a personal memo on a public subject, addressed to all who have a stake in religious freedom in America. As a practicing Roman Catholic, Mr. Sugrue is dismayed by the growth in religious intolerance and hospitality in this country. Boldly and frankly, he ventilates the whole problem, illuminating such questions as:

- A proposed ambassador to the Vatican
- State support for church enterprises
- The role of the church in a political democracy
- Censorship by pressure groups

No one can read this book without re-appraising the situation. It is bound to stimulate much private thought and public discussion.

Ready March 19. \$1.00

QUESTIONS PEOPLE ASK

by **Robert J. McCracken**. The first book by the minister of the famed Riverside Church, New York. \$2.50

CREATE AND MAKE NEW

by **Austin Pardue**. The Harper Book for Lent 1952. \$1.50

THE LIFE OF THE SOUL

by **Samuel H. Miller**. A modern devotional "classic." \$2.00

FAITH MUST BE LIVED

by **Harry M. Taylor**. Prescriptions in Christian psychology. \$2.50

GO INQUIRE OF THE LORD

by **Gerald Kennedy**. In answer to six searching questions. \$1.50

THE CHURCH MILITANT

by **Harold A. Bosley**. Ten messages on the church today. \$2.00

THE WAY OF MYSTICISM

edited by **Joseph James**. Selections from writers of all faiths. \$3.00

THE BLACK FOX

by **Gerald Heard**. A novel of the supernatural. \$3.00

At your bookseller

HARPER & BROTHERS, N. Y. 16