

A R T

(Continued from page 36)

tions of student work at the Art Students League—the only specific group of American abstractionists mentioned. A case can undoubtedly be made against a “peculiarly American pseudo-modern art,” but if it's to be a fair trial of the “peculiarly American,” the “authentic-modern” artists should be examined too. These get no attention. Nine pages would have been enough for an infinitely more conscientious study—whether sympathetic or not—of the American scene. The contemporary abstract artist, who has enough irrelevant suspicion to contend with as it is, will be confronted with a little more by the readers of this book if they believe everything they read.

Art Book Notes

ANTE-BELLUM MANSIONS OF ALABAMA. By Ralph Hammond. Architectural Book Publishing Co. New York: \$10. According to Ralph Hammond, the architecture of ante-bellum Alabama “had for its goal unadorned beauty, lasting dignity, boldness toned with grandeur, quality of line and form and grace, magnificence of conception, and a profound goodness and permanence of construction.” What's more, Mr. Hammond is sure that the promise was performed. You might guess from all this that the author is

a loyal Alabamian, and indeed he is. Camera in hand he has trudged from one end of his native state to the other collecting odd bits of information concerning the builders of the fifty houses he singles out as the noblest of the noble.

This was a job worth doing, and every tourist this spring to Natchez and New Orleans will be wise if he slips this book in the glove compartment of his car, next to the road maps and the latest issues of Duncan Hines. For it would be a mistake to pass up “Gaineswood,” the Whitefield mansion at Demopolis, as well as the other houses which happened to be within reach.

These tourists are bound to be impressed by the homes Mr. Hammond admires even if they can't agree that the architecture of Alabama deserves each and every superlative which the author bestows. On a hot afternoon it is hard to believe that the next house is sure to be even more magnificent than the last. For that matter, it isn't quite clear in this reviewer's mind why the Alabama Great Southern is hailed as “one of the South's greatest railroads of today.” With all due respect to the AGS, it is, so “Poor's Manual” reports, wholly owned by the Southern Railway.

THE CITY OF LONDON: A Record of Destruction and Survival. By W. G. Holford. British Book Centre. \$5.50. The piteous sigh you overheard last night may have been the last gasp of a conscientious city planner, and no wonder, for urging the powers that

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Title and Author	Crime, Place, and Sleuth	Summing Up	Verdict
DATE WITH DANGER Maysie Greig (Random House: \$2.50)	Beautician on French luxury liner gets involved with gem-lifting set; ensuing murder wrapped up by Sureté agent.	Switcheroo of look-alike sisters hams up plot; characters in general on wooden side.	Corny
EVIL BECAME THEM Pat Root (S&S: \$2.50)	Decadent family on West Indies isle loathes step-mother, who quits breathing.	Dialogues too extended and on ingenuous order; personnel as mechanical as unpleasant.	Too long
TO THE TUNE OF MURDER Helen Mabry Ballard (Mill-Morrow: \$2.50)	Rich meanie (female) in NY suburb bashed in head; cops and youthful DA, friends of family, take over.	Easy-on-the-pulse yarn, slow-paced but nicely put together.	Placid but pleasant
TRIPLE JEOPARDY Rex Stout (Viking: \$2.50)	Trio of novelettes involving Communists, barbers, and comic-strippers; Nero Wolfe takes whole thing in stride.	Archie Goodwin, exec. officer, has usual tiffs with chief; Inspector Cramer testy as ever; handling machine-tooled.	Three square meals

—SERGEANT CUFF.

be to save a breathing space in our cities calls for more tact and perseverance than were ever demonstrated by a radiator salesman in Darkest Africa. Perhaps no American was more aware of the obstacles confronting our planners than the late Thomas Hastings, the architect of the New York Public Library. Hoping against hope that skyscrapers would never dwarf the Library, he launched a committee to limit the height of Manhattan's buildings to five stories, only to discover that one of his committee members was the lucky holder of a contract to build one of the biggest skyscrapers yet. So he gave up in disgust before he had the chance to argue the lawmakers into his point of view.

City planners who have no idea of abandoning the struggle can't afford to miss these proposals for rebuilding the City of London. Written without a trace of vehemence, they are so subtle a contribution to the art of persuasion that they may be read and re-read with profit by all Americans who are as eager as these Englishmen for the decent enjoyment of daylight, the preservation of buildings of historic and artistic interest, the elimination of traffic jams, and all the other aims of the profession.

But city planners aren't the only ones who will enjoy this book. Americans who cherish the memory of London before the war will be thankful for the detailed, richly illustrated account of the buildings that were blasted. Though twenty of the forty-seven churches in the City were damaged, though one-third of this, the financial center of London and the Empire, was destroyed, the authors have risen above the temptation to be indignant. —WAYNE ANDREWS.

THE CASE FOR RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS

(Continued from page 14)

their creed, have had to receive an education. I hope that sometime a speaker at an NEA convention will find it in his heart to refer to this kind of work when he is talking about "democracy" and "American principle." Perhaps, too, some sense of chivalry will prompt him, before he announces that the State must monopolize all education, to recall something of what independent, private, and religious schools tried to do before the modern State developed its desire to educate all children without exception and without reference to other than secular values.

President Conant tells us that "the greater the proportion of our young who attend independent schools, the greater the threat to our democratic unity." He tells us that private high schools operated along economic or religious lines endanger "the American principle of a single public school system for all youth." One wonders why a principle allegedly so basic only holds good with respect to primary and secondary schools. Can it be that President Conant intends to recommend that his own university and like universities be turned over to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or to the Federal Government so that they become "citizens' colleges," to be operated in accordance with this newly-found "American principle of a single public school system for all youth"? Should those colleges and universities which are now independent become State colleges and universities, turning over their holdings to the State coffers and

surrendering to State commissions the appointment of their faculties, the control of their curricula, the direction of their research, and the establishment alike of their standards and their spirit? By such a procedure "divisive attitudes" might be eliminated from American society and the so-called "dualism" in the field of education would certainly give way to a strictly monolithic educational system under State monopoly—but much more would also be lost which scholarship, civilization, and "democracy" prefer to keep.

I DO not believe that Dr. Conant would make such a proposal. I think he would decide, upon reflection, that there are *some* grounds for maintaining one's own schools, even if he does not admit grounds of conscience. He would probably protest that such regimentation, when applied to a university, is Fascism—and in this he would be quite right. It is strict totalitarianism—"everything in the State, nothing outside the State"—which is why Fascism of every stripe opposes private and parochial schools and always demands a single State school system without independent competition, challenge, or rival of any kind.

But just as the things which constituted "Americanism" in the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries are also somewhat "American" in the twentieth, so Fascism in the twelfth grade is Fascism in the eighth, and what would be Fascism on the university level is Fascism if required down through the rest of the school system. Perhaps the most important political contribution that the private school, operated for religious or other reasons, makes here in America at the moment is the witness it bears to the independence of the mind and soul of a person in the face of the omnipotent modern state.

We build our schools out of the desire to include the knowledge of God in the minds of our children together with their knowledge of all things else. We declare war on no one's schools. On the contrary, to the extent that any school provides that sound education which is a prerequisite of political freedom and of spiritual growth, we wish it well. But, we reserve the right, both as Christians and as Americans, to promote the common good and to seek the salvation of our children through our own schools whenever and wherever these may be needed.



"George, do we have \$1,250 in the bank?"

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SUMMER COMES TO MUSIC INN—lilacs and young leaves, and a special program for Memorial Day week-end. Open June, too. Write for Berkshire Almanac, Music Inn, Lenox R, Mass.

BERKSHIRES, SUN-INSIDE, MONTEREY: where food has the French flavor of deep contentment.

KANADAHAR LODGE, MANCHESTER, VT. Elevation, 2,000 feet. Excellent accommodations. Private swimming. Sports. Restful. Friendly informality. Delicious meals. Folder.

CORNWALL GUEST HOUSE, VT. 2 miles out of Middlebury. Permanent or transient guests. Virginia Graham.

THE WESTTOWN FARM HOUSE, 21 miles west of Philadelphia. Route 926. Why not visit Pennsylvania's beautiful countryside at Easter time or during the spring or summer. Excellent meals. Pleasant rooms. In the cultural atmosphere of Quaker School Campus. Reservations by the week, month, or the year. Marion Weller, Manager, Westtown, Pa.

LATITUDE 43°-46' N., LONGITUDE 69°-19' W. On famous Monhegan Island. The Island Inn, Monhegan Plantation, Maine. Booklet.

BLUESPRUCE LANDING, West Brooksville, Maine. Peaceful, seaside vacation. Yankee cooking.

NAIDNI ON DUNMORE, Brandon, Vt. "Home-ly," comfortable house, good food. Spring-time in Vermont—worth seeing. No planned entertainment.

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Reg. U. S. Patent Office
By Elizabeth S. Kingsley

WORDS

96	42	149	143
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22	79	32	156	48	23	100	104
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111	164	105	74
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2 12 119 173 16 138 43 63

166	33	40	14
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9	72	183	93	114
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165 158 110 65 124 99

<u>97</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>106</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>182</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>51</u>
									<u>6</u>

126	184	38	108	60	86	131	50	90	148
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53 24 121 27 135 177 91

87 83 78 59 159 15 152

62	178	70	129	82	49	169
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133 58 120 69 81 115

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