familiar tale or a new one, more than once before you have finished these pages. Scholars will welcome this book. Hard-worked teachers, to whom it brings between a single pair of covers much that they have had to seek before through many volumes. will find it invaluable. But it is not just a book for scholars and teachers. To any armchair traveler it offers a Baedeker of enchanted seas.

## Notes

making of a man: In these effete days of maritime unions, an eight-hour-day at sea, and three-hundred-dollar-a-month seamen, it is hard to believe that anyone, much less a consumptive fourteen-year-old, could have survived the hardships that A. H. Rasmussen describes in "Sea Fever" (Crowell, \$3). The author, a gently raised middle-class Norwegian, was told back at the turn of the century that he had but six months to live. He decided he wanted to spend his last months as a seaman aboard the graceful sailing ships he had seen so often in the harbor of his home town. When he finally cajoled his parents into granting his wish for a kill-or-cure voyage, he discovered that these holdovers from the great days of sail were almost all grace and no substance. No underwriter would insure them; their rotting hulls required constant pumping, their tattered rigging demanded constant vigilance when a man was aloft. Drunken officers and murderous crews made life infernal for the new hand. The boy must have been pretty rugged, though, for in

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a couple of vears he had grown into a muscular sailor, equally competent in a fight or a hurricane. Despite its naïveté. this narrative conveys a genuine sense of the romance that has disappeared with the tall masts and the white canvas.
-Thomas E. Cooney.
queens of the china seas: The Yankee Clipper, so dear to our hearts, was supplanted in the China trade by exquisite new clippers built on the Thames and Clyde. As David R. MaeGregor points out in "The Tea Clippers" (British Book Centre, \$4), they owed much to the Yankees but were in no sense imitations. Their master form was established by about 1854; they were longer, leaner, more solid ships with painstaking underwater lines, flat clear decks, lighter rigging, and a third again the cargo capacity. While they never ran before the wind as fast as the best Yankees, they were eminently practical for the long beat down the China sea and the stretch around the Cape and up home. In them British skippers made their distance with a confidence and regularity our masters could never achieve. They had no genuine rivals on the China route until 1869 , when the opening of the Suez Canal and the increase of Eastern coaling stations delivered their cargo over to steamers. Even then they found plenty to do, and their iron frames and rockelm bottoms worked right on until day before yesterday.

Mr. MacGregor's shambling book celebrates these magnificent ships, and fills, however awkwardly, a real gap in maritime literature. He speaks with particular authority on hull design, but a great part of his space is given to chapters on the trade and
biographies of individual vessels. His senerous illustrations, excellent folding plans. and encyclopedic appendices give the book real reference value. Unhappily. he cannot decide whether to write for layman or specialist. More unhappily, he displays a most unseamanlike insularity; even the most cogent American and Continental developments fail to interest him. and neither Griffeths nor MacKay is so much as mentioned.
-Robert Pearsall.
sea mysteries: In the days before radio and air-sea rescue, a ship at sea was an entity with a fate all its own. Like the lonely house in so many detective stories, it provided the kind of isolation that catalyzes the elements of human personality into violent action. The result is a long and pathetic history of disappearances, mutinies, and disasters. of which thirteen are either retold or reconstructed by J. G. Lockhart in "The Mary Celeste and Other Strange Tales of the Sea" (British Book Centre, \$2.25). Some of them present complex problems of motivation. Why, for example, did a British admiral order two columns of battleships into certain collision, sinking H.M.S. Victoria with the loss of three hundred and sixty lives? Why did the crew of the Mary Celeste disappear, leaving her sailing serenely, with laundry out to dry, bunks made up, galley shipshape, and an unfinished letter on the cabin table? The author deals sensibly and gracefully with all his material, but cannot disguise the fact that most of his stories are simply tales of violence, illustrative of little more than the capricious brutality of wild men.
-T. E. C.

# The Criminal Record 

The Saturday Review's Guide to Detective Fiction

| Title and Author | Crime, Place and Sleuth | Summing UP | Verdict |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| MEN OF THE UNDERWORLD Cbarles Hamilton, editor <br> (Macmillan: \$4.50) | American crookdom from Henry Tufts (b. 1748) to right now, told in words of principals; 42 in lineup. | Self-histories largely ghosted; authors uniformly repentant, but some have exciting yarns. | Specialty |
| THE KINDEST USE OF A KNIFE Lousisa Revell (Macmillan: $\$ 2.50$ ) | Virginia horsey set stampeded as killer slashes twice; Miss Julia Tyler, sixty-eight, tells all about it. | Pleasantly chatty, with nice dashes of humor; sophisticated performance. | Leisurely but good |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { THE BAT THAT } \\ & \text { FLITS } \\ & \text { Noyman Collins } \\ & \text { (DSP-LB: } \$ 2.75 \text { ) } \end{aligned}$ | Queer things happen in British microbe lab; youthful scientist writes it all down. | First thriller by "regular'" novelist nice compound of chills and laughs. | Good |
| BRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG |  | -Sergeant | Cuff. |

## THE POLLSTERS \& THE DOPESTERS

(Continued from page 8)
dopesters, who had predicted a Republican Presidential victory in 1932, 1936, 1940, 1944, and 1948, came right in 1952. Alistair Cooke, in his last American cable to The Manchester Guardian before the election, said it all in one crisp sentence: "The correctness of any man's guess in no way vindicates his wisdom."

The pollsters must, and do, gather a vast mass of data. And when they predict, flatly, as they did prior to 1952, they are in effect saying that this set of data is more important or more relevant or weightier than that: they are, in short, imposing their judgment on the facts. Their judgment may be, and often has been, closer to the mark than the unaided dopesters, but it is still a judgment and it is still fallible. Roper's final pre-election figures in 1952 showed 49 per cent of the public to be proEisenhower; 37 per cent pro-Stevenson, and 14 per cent still undecided. If it was assumed that the undecided vote would divide as it had in the past, the poll figures showed with remarkable accuracy how the nation would vote on November 4. But to assume this was to enter a realm of pure guesswork-it is for refusing to assume false wisdom here that analysts like Roper have been berated.
But during the course of the 1952 campaign the polls gathered and published data that had great value as information, and rose high above the level of afternoon paper "news." It was not prediction stuff, although prediction-minded dopesters could. and did, make good use of it. Here are some examples, related from a post-election perspective:

1. The polls showed that women furnished Eisenhower with a major part of his election victory. The General had enormous appeal to them as a personality, but the surveys clearly showed that women proposed to vote a protest again the stalemated Korean war and the failure of the Democratic Administration to control high prices. Women felt less emphatically that Eisenhower would be able to "solve" Korea or bring down prices than they felt that the Democrats had mishandled both. The election returns could not tell this story by themselves, for there is no way to distinguish a woman's ballot from a man's. The polls provided the only means for the discovery and measurement of this female political vector. Since the election the break-away of
women has received much attention by columnists, editors, and other political seers, but rarely have the polls been credited with being their source.
2. If Korea and high prices caused a decisive shift among women voters, it was another combination of issues that brought about a swing-over of Catholic voters. The combination of Korea and the Communists-in-Government charge cut deep among Catholics. This was not confined to Irish Catholics, but was just as evident among Germans and Poles. Among these groups the repressed isolationism of a decade ago crystalized into a deep anti-Democrat protest. The defections among these groups were so heavy that the hold of the Democratic Party on the Catholic vote in the future can no longer be taken for granted. A study of the Massachusetts and Boston vote could give the same over-all evidence as the polls on this important feature of the 1952 election, but only the polls were able to analyze the various segments of the

Catholic vote and measure systematically the causes of the shifts.
3. The polls showed that the issues of the election fell into two groupsthose that were prime movers in making up people's minds, and those that were secondary. In the midst of the claims and counter-claims over the "mandate" following any election, this is most useful to know. It is now a matter of proof, not of assertion, that Korea, Communists-inGovernment, and high prices-all adding up to a general feeling that "it's time for a change"-were primary issues. Corruption and high taxes were less persuasive, despite the attention paid them in oratory. In assessing the causes of Eisenhower's victory, setting the issues in proper perspective is most important, and the polls here performed a service impossible to render accurately without use of the sampling and interviewing method.
4. The polls showed that the whitecollar vote delivered itself to the Republicans more heavily than ever before, so heavily as to suggest the formation of a new center of political gravity. Yet the white-collar vote went to Eisenhower for reasons quite opposite to those that moved women


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or the switching Catholic volus. This group. intensely interested in foreigh: policy matters, forms the backbomof internationalist sentiment in this countiy today. It voted for Ike because its members apparently felt he represented a "new" Republican Party; in all probability Talt would not have carried it. There are indications from the polls that the whitecollars believed Eisenhower even more internationalist than Stevensonwhatever the fact may be. There is a significant economic and political dimension here. Growing in number. white-collar families are also moving out of the large cities into the suburbs. In their new communities they are encountering pressures to abandon their Democratic past. If they are indeed to constitute a new balance of power in the large metropolitan areas, Eisenhower has it within his grasp to create a new political alignment. But he will find it difficult indeed to hold support from this most internationalist group and still hold the more isolationist groups that also supported him.
5. Although the Democratic Party stood four-square for international cooperation, and the Republican Party was rather fuzzily isolationist, the voters did not split along internation-alist-isolationist lines when they went to the polls. A first-rate anomaly is visible here-Negroes and low-income groups voted Democratic in this election almost as solidly as they have in the past, but they remain the most isolationist groups in the countryeither indifferent to international affairs or hostile to what they connote. Stevenson received votes from many groups which did not react at all to the internationalist view he expressed, but remained absorbed in their own parochial problems of economic and social well-being.
6. The polls supplied a good measure, for the first time, of the political effectiveness of pressure groups and organized sub-societies. The American Legion turned out, by measurement, to be highly effective politically; so did the Farm Bureau; so did the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. These bodies are persuasive and powerful not only in their effects on their own membership, but well beyond. Contrary to popular supposition, neither the AFL nor the CIO are heavy political forces when it comes to a national election. The National Association of Manufacturers affects very few save in the hard core of its own membership, which hardly needs convincing. The polls have substituted much fact for fiction here, for they have studied the actual effects of these organizations on their member-
ships instead of mevel Rollowime theri prese retwames.

TTHESE insights it serons to me are valuable because statistios back them up: they are not mere cull-shooting assertions. And because statistics do bear them out. they are as full of significance as prophecy in the newspapers is empty. The relationship between the pollsters and the press has been ironic for a long time. All the pressure for prediction comes from the press-but it is the press that takes glee in telling the public that the pollsters are "wronger' than ever." I don't know of any legitimate opinion analyst who has any real relish for prediction at all; and one of them -Elmo Roper-went strongly on the record as far back as 1940 that prediction was not the proper business of the polls. But to one degree or another all of them have either been forced to it, or forced to take obloquy for refusing it. When scientific polls were still novelties an analyst who gathered his figures, suppressed them until after election in the interests of the scientific procedure, and then when they turned out to be right failed to make some remark to that effect the day after would have been superhuman. Figures released after the fact could not have been expected to draw from the American public any remark more flattering than "Oh, yeah?"-and dignified silence from a pollster the day after election would have been treated with a suspicion even more grave. That has been the dilemma so far, but the pollsters are going to have to solve it if they are to protect the importance of their work and make evident its proper value.

What is that proper value? As I see it, it is in the first place to educate, to explain the nature and forms of public opinion to the public itself: to hold the mirror up to man's public nature and let him take a long hard look at it, not as something static or simple, but as constantly changing and eternally complex. If the public can be slowly educated to what its opinions really are, it will--let us hope-want to change some of them. Similarly, the leaders of public opinion need a constant and steady education in the nature, dimensions, and shape of opinion, so that they may guide themselves accordingly.

How? This is about as difficult a question as could be asked. If collections of proverbs and aphorisms are any guide, the private opinion of public opinion is extremely unfavorable to its wisdom. The most notable expressions of this disfavor belong to thinkers of the late eighteenth andReamy Gineteenth Neenturies-and

we continue today to repeat a great many stereotyped remarks about the stupidity of public opinion. Yet we also organize our whole political society around it and assure ourselves that this course has Divine sanction. Meanwhile, in the domain of opinion we have a completely medieval ignorance of what we are discussing. We know as little of this world of intangible and impalpable stuffs as the Middle Ages knew about matter, space, and motion-and, as then, our ignorance leads us not only into vast speculation, but into uttering the purest guff as if it were solemn, measured truth. Here is where public opinion analysis must contribute.
One of the most important facts about public opinion is that it is shot through, in every pore and grain, with the wildest sort of anomaly. There can always be found a measurable percentage of Negroes who express themselves in favor of lynching, or of Jews who endorsed Hitler's basic aims. During the 1952 campaign almost every thoughtful question the pollsters asked (as distinct from questions aimed at prediction) brought forth answers that needed much deeper study before they can be understood. One survey last year asked if people thought they would be in favor of (1) fighting Russia full scale now, or (2) of "building peace. through strength," or (3) of making more concessions to Russia. Majority approval clustered around the middle course. But then these answers were put to a further test. Was the respondent still in favor of peace through strength if it meant continuing the drafting of young men for thirty years? Answer: very strongly yes. If it meant economic controls for thirty years? Again yes, but only by two to one. If it meant fighting
small wars all around the world" This time the noes had it: not by much, but they had it.

Just what do such answers mean? What do they prove about a nation that is more willing to draft its young men than to interfere with its economic enjoyments? And what about the national unwillingness to earn "peace through strength" by fighting local wars to prevent a great waras England kept the Pax Britannica throughout the nineteenth century? What does that really mean about the national temper? We ought to know, but we don't.

It was a good thing that the polls went on their noses in 1948, for until then some segments of our society were on the verge of worshiping them, just as some others were denouncing them as useless. Both these extreme attitudes are silly, but the former is downright dangerous. In 1944 two important delegations to one of the national conventions were determined to throw their strength behind the candidate who made the best showing in the evening papers carrying one of the polls, and pursued this attitude for several days. The polls' unhappy experience in 1948 has probably killed off this sort of blind adherence; let us hope so. One of the greatest problems before us as a nation, of course, is what we will propose to do about public opinion if the day ever comes when we are permitted some adequate knowledge of it. If we ever find out how really to measure public opinion we will thereby have in our possession knowledge altogether as powerful in the social sciences as the discovery of how to unlock the atom was to the physical sciences, and just as useful for good or evil.

The pollsters were indeed cautious in 1952. It became them. Those who look sympathetically on their future may hope they will be equally cautious in 1956 and 1960, and that they will give up once and for all their dangerous attempts of the past to mix sound social research with political necromancy or veiled electioneering. Their real value can then become slowly, and perhaps painfully evident.

## Solution of last week's

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## KINGSLEY DOUBLE-CROSTIC NO. 980

Reg. U.S. Patent Office
By Doris Nash Wortman


Solution of last week's Double-Crostic will be found on page 65 of this issue.

