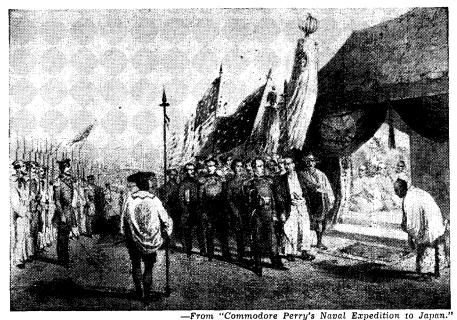
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Commodore Perry arriving in Japan-"personal and official dignity."

credible evidence for the belief that men in skin boats roamed the Atlantic before the Christian era, details the wide pre-Columbian knowledge of the New World by Europeans, and shows how beautifully Eskimo clothing, diet, and methods of travel are adapted to polar life. While he covers all the historically recognized "discoveries," some of the most intriguing parts of his book are the glimpses into societies isolated from European civilization by space, time, or our own provincialism. Here you can find, for example, what the coast of Northwestern Russia looked like in the ninth century, what became of the flourishing medieval Norse Christian community in Greenland, or how the Polynesians navigated in their great migrations across the Pacific.

## -T. E. C.

THE EXPLORER AS SCIENTIST: Parallel with the European discoveries of the New World and the Pacific islands there came a revelation of the world of nature that had lain so long under the mist of erroneous medieval geography. In "Journey Into Wonder," (Dodd, Mead, \$4), N. J. Berrill uses the resources of a naturalist and marine biologist to show how the voyages of explorers from Columbus to Amundsen have revealed the movements of air and ocean, the history of animal life, and the story of human migrations over the last half-million years. As the early adventurers penetrated unknown seas and continents, they put to work the new scientific attitudes that came out of the Renaissance. Some, like the warrior Richard Hawkins and the buccaneer Dampier, were genuine scientists, and Mr. Ber-

open-minded inquiry helped advance natural knowledge in three centuries to the point where Darwin's voyage on the Beagle could bring modern science to one of its greatest climaxes.

The narrative, stuffed with bizarre facts and curious speculations, tries to evoke the intense and inspirational effect of the learned but familiar essay. Unfortunately, it is not entirely successful in this; it is a little too discursive, its allusions are too studied, and its insistence on the attitude of awe and wonder is too naggingly explicit. These faults, however, are not great enough to spoil the reader's enjoyment of a stimulating account of how the world changed in men's minds from an allegory of divine providence to an insecure beachhead in an impersonal universe. -T. E. C.

FIRST YANK IN NIPPON: After Commodore Mathew C. Perry penetrated Japan's ancient isolation in the spring of 1854, securing a trade treaty for the United States, he returned to Washington and prepared a voluminous report on his activities and the geography and culture of that then unknown empire. An abridgment of that report, "Commodore Perry's Naval Expedition to Japan" (Coward-McCann, \$5), has been prepared by Sidney Wallach. The story of the Commodore's patient, resolute, and intelligent dealings with the justifiably suspicious Japanese proves to be absorbing reading. Perry and his aides appear to have had a clearer understanding of Japanese psychology than we did just before World War II. He placed the greatest possible emphasis on ceremony, making his own person rill demonstrates that their kind of an object of awe and reverence as the

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ambassador of the "ruler" of the United States. This proved to be the correct procedure for getting the Japanese to negotiate for a treaty that was, after all, to their advantage. It is no accident that another high American officer, equally conscious of his personal and official dignity, was successful in imposing the American will on the same defeated but proud empire in 1945.

Although much of the descriptive material has been omitted, we can see ominous notes in retrospect in the eagerness with which the Japanese admired Western machinery, arms, and military organization. But at the same time we get a vivid picture, in a faintly Swiftian narrative style, of a country whose quaint customs, dress, and unfamiliar language strongly suggested one of Gulliver's exotic lands.

-T. E. C.

JUNGLE DOCTOR: The African republic of Liberia enjoys political independence, but the jungle-dwellers of its interior are still bound to their primitive environment. Nowhere is its grip so strong as in the cruel and grotesque pathology of tropical diseases. It was to fight yaws, yellow fever, elephantiasis, dysentery, and leprosy that Dr. Werner Junge went from Germany to Liberia in 1929. His book, "Bolahun" (Putnam, \$3.75), is ostensibly an account of the eleven years he spent there as a medical missionary, but because he is a man of sympathy, curiosity, and tolerance, he has produced a portrait of savage life worthy of a professional anthropologist. Initiation practices, apparently telepathic communication between natives, and the brutal human sacrifices of the cult of leopard-men all received his open-minded attention.

Completely lacking the ethnocentrism of so many missionaries, he patiently adapted his practice of medicine to the ways of the natives, gradually winning them to European hygiene and the acceptance of drugs and surgery. With extraordinary tact and guile, and occasionally with daring, he competed with his savage medicine-man colleagues without antagonizing them, and even established an obstetrical service in spite of the mortal native taboo against men taking any part in the delivery of babies.

Setting forth all this against a richly detailed background of jungle travel, elephant hunts, army ants, and the outrageous vagaries of Liberian politics, this modest narrative reveals that, like another great German doctor in Africa, the author is a scientist, a philosopher, and a Christian.

## In Paper Covers

The Saturday Review's Guide to the Best New Reprints

| Title and Author   | Subject  | Critics' Consensus  |
|--|--|---|
| AMERICAN<br>DIPLOMACY<br>1900-1950<br>George F. Kennan<br>(Mentor: 35¢)      | Our recent ambassador to Russia an-<br>alyzes the diplomacy used by the<br>U.S. during the past half century<br>and urges that we again regard in-<br>ternational relations as a problem in<br>power.  | Lucid, scholarly, should<br>be read by everyone seri-<br>ously concerned about<br>our foreign policy.   |
| CANDIDE<br>Voltaire<br>(Lion: 25¢)   | Through an account of the misad-<br>ventures of young Candide, Voltaire<br>satigizes the notion that "all is for<br>the best in this best of all possible<br>worlds."  | A provocative eighteenth-<br>century classic packaged<br>in an unnecessarily pro-<br>vocative cover.  |
| FAMOUSE<br>CHINESE SHORT<br>STORIES<br>Retold by Lin Yutang<br>(Pocket: 35¢) | Twenty old Chinese tales translated<br>and retold freely. Love, the super-<br>natural, adventure, and crime are the<br>dominating themes.  | Sophistication and nai-<br>vete charmingly blended<br>in a fascinating anthol-<br>ogy.  |
| THE 42ND<br>PARALLEL<br>John Dos Passos<br>(Pocket: 35¢)                     | The story of three men and two<br>women whose lives cross at the time<br>the U.S. is preparing for World<br>War I. The first panel in Dos Pas-<br>sos's "U.S.A." trilogy.  | One of the great Ameri-<br>can novels of the 1920's.  |
| THE GRASS IS<br>SINGING<br>Doris Lessing<br>(Bantam: 25¢)                    | Enough of the life of Mary Turner,<br>wife of an unsuccessful South Afri-<br>can farmer, to explain why she was<br>murdered by a Kaffir houseboy.  | Despite its tone of hor-<br>ror and despair, this fine<br>first novel is a compas-<br>sionate and piercing anal-<br>ysis of the moral disin-<br>tegration of a woman.   |
| HARPER'S<br>MAGAZINE<br>READER<br>(Bantam: 35¢)                              | Nineteen articles and essays (Fred-<br>erick Lewis Allen, Katherine Anne<br>Porter, Henry L. Stimson, Bernard<br>DeVoto, et. al.) on many topics, four<br>short stories (J. D. Salinger, Joyce<br>Cary, et. al.), two poems (W. H.<br>Auden, Peter Viereck).                           | A fine variety package<br>for literates.  |
| THE LAST<br>ENGLISHMAN<br>Hebe Weenolsen<br>(Bantam: 35¢)                    | Hereward the Wake, returning to<br>Britain from the wars against the<br>Saracens, finds his land confiscated<br>by followers of William the Con-<br>queror. His gallant leadership of the<br>remaining English against the invad-<br>ers ends in tragedy.                              | A superior historical<br>novel with many of the<br>qualities of the ballad:<br>colorful, episodic, swift-<br>paced, and little subtlety<br>in character portrayal.  |
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| MY SIX CONVICTS<br>Donald Powell<br>Wilson<br>(Pocket: 35¢)                  | A psychologist reports on the study<br>into the relationship of dope addic-<br>tion to criminality which he con-<br>ducted at Fort Leavenworth largely<br>through the stories of his six con-<br>vict assistants.  | Although the authen-<br>ticity of numerous epi-<br>sodes and details has<br>been questioned, prison<br>experts grant the basic<br>validity of the book's in-<br>sights and literary critics<br>give it high marks as a<br>rattling good yarn. |
| SHADOWS MOVE<br>AMONG THEM<br>Edgar Mittelbolzer<br>(Pocket: 25¢)            | The effect of the dense, insect-<br>infested river forest of British Gui-<br>ana and its moss-covered ruins of<br>Dutch settlements on a British pas-<br>tor's family and a young man who<br>came to live with them hoping to<br>cure himself of a neurosis about his<br>wife's death. | An exotic, vastly enter-<br>taining story told with<br>urbanity and wit.  |
| THE SKY IS RED<br>Guiseppe Berto<br>(Signet: 35¢)                            | Four teen-aged children and the<br>ways (black-marketeering, prostitu-<br>tion, etc.) they followed to eke out a<br>living in a bombed-out Italian city<br>during World War II.  | Ugly, tragic material<br>presented tenderly, even<br>a bit sentimentally. Well<br>translated by Angus<br>Davidson.  |

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