

fantasy lover has been provided for with "The April Witch" and "Invisible Boy"; and the reader who is troubled by the way the world is going should turn to Mr. Bradbury's sardonic view of our mechanized civilization in "The Pedestrian" and "The Murderer." I haven't yet mentioned some of Mr. Bradbury's "straight" stories which I found the most rewarding, but I don't want to turn this into an index. The main point is that all the categories overlap and all the stories are larger than any category in which we might try to fit them. They are stories of consummate craftsmanship that will probably never make the lists of great classics but are beginning to crowd into our anthologies. —E. J. F.

HORSES, DOGS, AND A FEW PEOPLE: Walter D. Edmonds's latest work, "The Boyds of Black River" (Dodd, Mead, \$3), is not really a novel, though it looks like one. It is a collection of

six short stories centering around the same people, the Boyds of upper New York State in the early 1900's. and arranged in chronological order.

All of the stories have human figures whose problems are worked out, but the central figures are animals. In the first one Doone Boyd and the beautiful Kathie are married when the great horse Blue Dandy outruns that new-fangled thing, a motor car. In subsequent ones a boy learns about honor through a dog fight; Blue Dandy wins a trotting race despite chicanery on the side-lines; Leonidas—the fighting dog—kills off a pack of sheep-killing dogs; a romance is arranged with the aid of a colt; and a calving cow rescues Doone from the snares of a city-slicking enchantress.

Mr. Edmonds's love for his chosen country—upper New York state—comes through as always, his characters are amiably robust stereotypes, and his plotting slick enough for the mass-circulation magazine. This work is however decidedly lighter in intent and achievement than some of his earlier novels. Diverging reading, though. —E. J. F.

LOVE CONQUERS ALL: The hardships that Mary Conroy has to suffer at the hands of author Lenora Mattingly Weber are downright cruel. In the first place, she starts off with a wicked aunt who wants her, of all things, to marry the wastrel son of the town banker just because he has position and prospects. Not for Mary. She is in love with a Civil War soldier she has seen once, and when he turns up she jilts the wastrel to marry this paragon. What do you think the townspeople do? They turn on her, sneer, snub, and almost starve her out. This curious behavior is never motivated by anything but the author's need to show Mary's fortitude, but there it is. So Mary's husband goes off to Denver City to search for gold, and when Mary can endure no more she packs up her newborn baby, her younger sister and brother, a dissolute uncle and his bride, and some cows, and treks out after him. Indomitable is the word and a lucky thing, too. Because there are plenty more hardships in store. Indians and everything. But finally she lands safe in the arms of her beloved man and presumably lives hardily ever after. "My True Love Waits" (Crowell, \$2.75) is the title and presumably those of Mrs. Weber's audience who liked her previous works will like the story in this one. —E. J. F.

SWAMP RAT IDYLL: According to the mill town folk and the river boat

folk, the Coreys were swamp rats. They lived by fishing, hunting, and trapping on a swamp by the Pearl River in the Mississippi bayou country. And, in Pat Smith's "The River is Home" (Little, Brown, \$3), they lived a very pleasant—not to say idyllic—life.

Oh, there were troubles. Sometimes the river got rough, or a gar would steal their fish and wreck their traps, or the hunting would be poor. But most of the time they ate well, lived well, and were happy.

Pat Smith has created a never-never land that corresponds to most readers' romantic dreams of a simple, untrammelled life close to nature's beauty and bounty. Skeeter, his boy hero, goes fishing on the river and in the swamps, catches moccasins and other snakes with his bare hands, hunts the fox and the deer, traps alligators, and is a master of knife throwing and rifle shooting. Mr. Smith hasn't supplied Skeeter or the rest of the Corey family with much plot, concentrating rather on creation of an ideal bucolic atmosphere. One thin line of suspense has to do with a wound-crazed alligator with whom Skeeter conducts a running feud in the murky atmosphere of the swamps. The outcome is never in doubt, but the situation does provide a few moments of excitement to spice up a pleasant fantasy. —E. J. F.

New Fiction

Limitations of space prevent us from reviewing the works described below in this issue. In many instances more extended notice will be given in forthcoming numbers.

THE ECHOING GROVE. By Rosamond Lehmann. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co. \$3.95. The first book this fine English novelist has published since her "The Ballad and the Source" in 1945. The story concerns the ancient triangle of two widowed sisters, and one of their dead husbands, and is told through flashback, confession, and stream-of-thought techniques by a writer who knows how to use them.

HEATHER MARY. By J. M. Scott. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. \$3. The title of this novel is the name of a boat, and of its owner's dead wife. The action takes place on a trip from England to Bermuda. The characters are five passengers who knew and loved Heather. The outcome: she committed suicide rather than return to her jealous, wrong-headed husband, who, by the trip's end, is penitent. The emotional storms are nicely matched by real ones of waves, wind, and water.

THE JOYFUL CONDEMNED. By Kylie Tennant. New York: St. Martin's Press. \$3. Another novel from Down Under, concerning the low life of a street in Sydney, wherein a gallery of night ladies, social workers, jailbirds, and watch-and-warders tangle in the interests of regeneration.

THE MARRIAGE OF ELIZABETH WHITACKER. By Jacobine Hichens. New York: Duell, Sloan & Pearce. \$3.50. Elizabeth Whitacker is a widow and an Anglican, and Michael is a Roman Catholic who would marry her. The novel moves around Elizabeth's finding she cannot in good conscience become a convert, and so cannot be Michael's wife. There is, however, another, less complicated man around the corner at the book's close.

STREET OF THE THREE FRIENDS. By Myron Brinig. New York: Rinehart & Co. \$3.50. Three transplanted Americans who live in the same house on the Rue des Trois Amis in Paris are the central characters of this novel of love requited and unrequited.

UNDERCURRENT. By Barbara Jefferis. New York: William Sloane Assoc. \$2.75. Miss Doxy, English, discovers on her birthday that many of her beliefs, anxieties, and prejudices about her family, her work—which is of a confidential nature—and herself, are groundless. Result: Life can be beautiful.

FRASER YOUNG'S LITERARY CRYPT No. 516

A cryptogram is writing in cipher. Every letter is part of a code that remains constant throughout the puzzle. Answer No. 516 will be found in the next issue.

NATETBM CO THEM

KBTF COD

LPTHB OCQK TRF.

T. L. STEDKO

Answer to Literary Crypt No. 515

Fanaticism consists in redoubling your effort when you have forgotten your aim.

—SANTAYANA.

Just Published



Many of the titles described below, which we do not have room to review in this issue, will be given more extended treatment in forthcoming numbers. New fiction is listed elsewhere in this issue.

THE ARMY OF TENNESSEE. By Stanley F. Horn. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. \$6. A history of the Confederate Army which operated between the Appalachians and the Mississippi River, and which was broken by Grant in '64.

BAKUNIN: The Political Philosophy of Scientific Anarchism. Edited by G. P. Maximoff. Glencoe, Ill.: The Free Press. \$6. Selections from the writings of the anarchist and nihilist published for the first time in English, together with a complete biographical sketch by Max Nettlau.

BEST SPORTS STORIES: 1953 Edition. Edited by Irving T. Marsh and Edward Ehre. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. \$3.50. The ninth annual collection of the year's best sports stories chosen by Quentin Reynolds, Bob Considine, and John Chamberlain.

BORIS GODUNOV. By Alexander Pushkin. Russian text with translation and notes by Philip L. Barbour. New York: Columbia University Press. \$3. The famous play, first published in 1825, on which Moussorgsky based his opera, in a new translation, with notes, and facing Russian and English pages.

CONFEDERATE GEORGIA. By T. Conn Bryan. Athens: University of Georgia Press. \$4.50. Here is a history of the then sovereign Confederate state of Georgia during its years of secession from the Union. Professor Bryan, a Southerner, examines the political, military, economic, and social levels of the state's life in the days before Sherman came stomping through on his way to the sea.

THE CONSERVATIVE MIND. By Russell Kirk. Chicago: Henry Regnery Co. \$6.50. A long essay that traces the thinking of the great conservatives from 1790 to the present, and argues that it is tradition, not rebellion, that has kept the world afloat and all of a piece. Burke, Coleridge, Macaulay, Tocqueville, Babbitt, and More are a few of the thinkers Mr. Kirk has used to buttress his thesis.

DODGER DAZE AND KNIGHTS. By Tommy Holmes. New York: David McKay. \$3. A book about "the Bums" that tells their history from their invention through to their endless present, complete with inside anecdotes on such as Dessen, Leo the Lip, McPhail, Branch Rickey, and Jackie Robinson. Not for those of a different or Giant-like persuasion.

DOWN IN THE HOLLER: A Gallery of Ozark Folk Speech. By Vance Randolph & George P. Wilson. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. \$5. This is a kind of left-handed Fowler's "Modern English Usage," based on the speech, grammar, pronunciation, and dialects of the Ozark mountain people—written by the man who gave us the book with the title of its year: "Who Blowed Up the Church House?"

EARLY CHRISTIAN FATHERS. Edited by Cyril C. Richardson. Philadelphia: Westminster Press. \$5. Volume One in this press's "Library of Christian Classics," which goes back to "Clement's First Letter" (96 A.D.), in new translations and with clarifying notes on this earliest and murkiest part of Christian history.

THE ENIGMA OF THOMAS WOLFE. Edited by Richard Walser. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press. 4.75. A collection of pieces by various hands about the intriguing Gargantua of Asheville that attempts to puzzle out the whys and wherefores of a writer who would have

gobbled up America whole if it were humanly possible.

FOREIGN POLICY WITHOUT FEAR. By Vera Micheles Dean. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co. \$3.75. A follow-up of Mrs. Dean's "Europe and the United States," by a foreign policy expert who believes the world's ills are not the result of clear-cut good and evil, that we had better understand the forces of poverty, and that, if we are to help Asia and Europe, we had better realign our living of democracy at home and our generous promises to those abroad.

HORSES AND MEN. Edited by Jack Creamer. New York: Coward McCann. \$4. Mr. Creamer has brought together 22 short pieces by various known and little-known American writers that tell of the mess and glory—in fact and fiction—the horse has gotten into on racetracks and elsewhere since he began consorting with man.

THE LANGUAGE OF MUSIC. By Klaus Liepmann. New York: The Ronald Press. \$5. A guide to the understanding of harmony, rhythm, melody, and tonality, complete with discussions and explanations of selected works of the great composers.

MAKING A POEM: An Inquiry Into the Creative Process. By Melville Cane. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co. \$2.95. One of America's better practising poets makes here an investigation into a process that won't be fathomed until we have stopped using it—the creative process. He uses several of his own poems as working examples.

MAN OF FIRE: OROZCO. By MacKinley Helm. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co. \$7.50. A full biography of the great Mexican painter famed for his huge, vibrant murals. Sixty-odd reproductions of his work, together with a bibliography round out the book.

MISS DOUGLAS OF NEW YORK. By Angus Davidson. New York: Viking Press. \$3.75. A biography of an early eighteenth-century American woman who loved money and social éclat better than simple workaday Virtue. She became, in her ceaseless travels, the friend of such as Southey, Coleridge, Lafayette, and Mme. Recamier, finally married one Henry Cruger, who had courted her up and down the seven seas, and destroyed him, and herself, after a long, long life.

OUR ANIMAL NEIGHBORS. By Alan and Mary Devoe. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co. \$3.50. A leisurely report of the animal doings (muskrat, raccoon, rabbit, fox, etc.) on the authors' 125-acre place in the Berkshires. Flavored with dashes of Thoreau, Disney, and other great observers of the natural, or non-urban, world.

THE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO KNOW: Legal Access to Public Records and Proceedings. By Harold L. Cross. New York: Columbia University Press. \$5.50. An intensive study of the various Federal and state laws that govern the availability of public records, public doings, and so the flow of news, which, in this reign of the whisper, is being gradually throttled by a scared officialdom.

PHYSIOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF NEUROLOGY & PSYCHOLOGY. By Ernst Gellhorn. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. \$8.50. A thorough discussion of the newest findings relating to the human nervous system, and of what neurologists and psychiatrists have discovered using such bases for their experiments in shock treatment and carbon dioxide therapy.

RECOLLECTIONS OF ANDRE GIDE. By Roger Martin Du Gard. New York: Viking Press. \$2.75. A short memoir of the late

French writer by one of his closest friends, replete with literary discussions the two carried on over the years and personal remembrances of Gide's great moral struggle, as well as his many lesser activities as a musician, athlete, and nature lover.

REPORTERS FOR THE UNION. By Bernard A. Weisberger. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. \$4.50. The Civil War was a great stepping stone for journalism, which up until that time was pretty rowdy, biased stuff. Professor Weisberger bases a good deal of his history on the reportorial activities of the North's triumvirate: *The Herald*, *The Tribune*, and *The Times*, and shows how such reporters as Ogden Reid helped shape today's factual news story.

THE SCHOOLHOUSE AT PRAIRIE VIEW. By Marshall A. Barber. Lawrence: University of Kansas Press. \$2. Going back some eighty years, Mr. Barber recounts his early school days and the important place of the school in the community.

SHAKESPEARIAN PLAYERS AND PERFORMANCES. By Arthur Colby Sprague. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press. \$4.50. A history and recreation of some of the actual performances of famous Shakespearian actors in some of their most famous roles, such as Garrick's Lear, Mrs. Siddons as Lady Macbeth, Kean as Othello, Irving as Shylock, and Edwin Booth as Iago. Based on contemporary accounts.

SHANGHAI PIERCE: A Fair Likeness. By Chris Emmet. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. \$5. A life of Shanghai Pierce, who came to Texas from Rhode Island in the mid-nineteenth century with pennies in his pocket, and grew to be six-foot-five and 250 lbs., as well as one of the wealthiest and most energetic of the great cattle barons of the Old Southwest.

SOCIOLOGY AND PSYCHOLOGY OF COMMUNISM. By Jules Monnerot. Translated by Jane Degras and Richard Rees. Boston: Beacon Press. \$6. An analytical work that seeks to reduce today's working Communism, or Stalinism, or Malenkovism, into a set of comprehensible sociological and psychological causes and effects.

TALK IT OUT WITH YOUR CHILD. By Dr. Mary M. Thompson and Jean Marshall Simpson. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co. \$3.50. A book by two advocates of a child-raising technique that would have left the Victorian, or seen-and-not-heard, school with their mouths agape. Before you belt Johnny, at least talk to him about it, or better still, talk to him and don't belt him.

THIS IS OHIO. By Grace Goulder Izant. Cleveland: World Publishing Co. \$2.75. A county-by-county resume of the state, liberally sprinkled with photographs, and designed especially for the teen-age population.

THE TRUMAN ERA. By I. F. Stone. New York: Citadel Press. \$3.00. A collection of what he considers his best pieces done for the now defunct *PM*, *New York Star*, and the *Daily Compass*, by a left-wing reporter who is now putting out his own *Weekly* from Washington.

TWO LIVES: The Story of Wesley Clair Mitchell and Myself. By Lucy Sprague Mitchell. New York: Simon & Schuster. \$5. A big double-barreled biography-autobiography, by one of the nation's leading educators, about her life as an educational progressive, teacher, and author, and about her husband, a leading economist, who died in 1948, and of their 36 years of a happy, busy, jam-packed married life.

—W. B.