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box keep the Cuban beat until all hours. After that a pair of outdoor cafes called La Taberna Panchito and the Bar Pullman, across the street, serve sandwiches and rum until time for breakfast. —HORACE SUTTON.

Traveler's Tales

THE U.N. TRAVEL EFFORT: Two recent publications of the United Nations and of its various specialized agencies reflect the concerted efforts being made to remove barriers to international travel. The first one is a study called "Retail Price Comparisons for International Salary Determination" (Statistical Papers, Series M No. 14, November 1952, 40¢). Originally designed for employers with staffs in many countries, this report contains data about more than 100 important commodities and services. If you want to compare living costs in New York with those of other big cities, if you want to know how much a round steak will cost you in London, Paris, or Rome, in Mexico City, Cairo, Manila, or Bangkok, or how much you will have to pay for shoes and clothing, bread and butter, cigarettes and tooth paste, newspapers, movies, streetcars, or buses, here you will find the answer.

World trade and travel call for far-reaching health measures to prevent the international spread of human, animal, and plant disease.

To help health services everywhere, and to help the traveler, the World Health Organization has published the "International Sanitary Regulations," as adopted by the World Health Assembly in 1951 (Geneva, January 1953, 65¢). Part IV contains specific information on sanitary measures on departure and arrival, those applicable between ports or airports, and the provisions concerning the international transport of goods, baggage, and mail. United Nations publications are distributed in the United States by the International Documents Service, Columbia University Press, 2960 Broadway, New York 27, N. Y.

—ARNO G. HUTH.

Writers and Writing

Continued from page 19

one has better illustrated the difference between fact and fiction in the "Portrait of the Artist" than Mr. Byrne, who shows, for example, that the long discussion there between Stephen and the director of studies, over the art of lighting a fire, did not happen to Joyce at all, but to Byrne himself.

Mr. Byrne is also very helpful with "Ulysses." He points out a number of minor errors in the book, and these are of interest because Joyce prided himself so highly upon his accuracy. That the underground river called the Poddle issues into the Liffey at Wellington Quay rather than Wood Quay is the kind of correction that Joyce would have honored. But he goes further in explaining how Joyce happened to use the address of 7 Eccles Street for Mr. Bloom's house in "Ulysses." The reason was not, as has been suggested, that seven was a mystic number; but that the house had special associations for Joyce. In 1909 he came from Trieste to Dublin for a few weeks, and visited Mr. Byrne, who was living at that address. The episode of returning home without a key, and of letting himself down to the area, opening a window, and then coming round to the front door to admit his companion, actually occurred to Byrne one night when he and his friend returned from a long walk. And both the height and weight of Mr. Bloom, which Joyce gives in the same chapter, are actually those of Mr. Byrne, remembered by Joyce for years with perfect accuracy.

Mr. Byrne is a chess player, and his book, which often appears circuitous and disconnected, has something of the character of a fine but unconventional approach in which the game is won by an unexpected mixture of heavy battling and finesse. His attitude of asking for neither admiration nor indulgence seems at first a little stand-offish, but in the end his strength comes to include warmth, and the two combine to form a very attractive picture of an uncommon life.

Notes

RAKISH POET: Charles Churchill is a poet of the 1760's whose fame today comes from Dr. Johnson's opinion that his verse if not first rate was at least plentiful. No poetry dies quicker than topical satire, the only kind that Churchill wrote. Yet to a scholar who devotes many years to excavating it,

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the poetic molehill may seem mountainous. Wallace Cable Brown in "Charles Churchill: Poet, Rake, and Rebel" (University of Kansas Press, \$4) calls his subject a "major English poet"—which would make the really major ones at least four-star generals.

But it is true that Churchill, who died at the age of thirty-two, led a sensational life, and threw off during his last four years a spate of vigorous and historically interesting poems. In general Mr. Brown deals with the life and works with thoroughness. In one instance, though, he accepts a sentimental platitude without sufficient skepticism, as when he repeats an untrustworthy source that Churchill's sister died of a broken heart in 1764; the records show that she died four years later. And his own frequent attempts to justify Churchill's lapses seem gratuitous. He analyzes the poetry with such exhaustive detail that one recalls his previous book, called by the *Times Literary Supplement* a veritable Kinsey report on the behavior of the heroic couplet. With the same thoroughness, if with nothing else, he has now treated Churchill to a first complete and documented biography. —ROBERT HALSBAND.

ANTIOCH HARVEST: In physical makeup serious magazines are an ephemeral kind of publication. Except for those pieces which are excerpts from books completed or in progress, most of the contents are doomed to dusty library shelves. With a magazine of character, of distinctive value, the loss is real. One method of salvage lies in the anthology; and the newest, a welcome one, is "The Antioch Review Anthology," edited by Paul Bixler (World, \$6). That magazine, founded in 1941, publishes serious essays that are stimulating and readable. In general they are concerned with social problems (including politics) in the widest sense; and in recent years short stories, poetry, and book reviews have been added, though these as yet have not added much.

A good many of the essays deal with socialism and Communism, inevitably since they have loomed so large during the last decade. "In contrast to the mishmash of demonology that they evoke today" (as a phrase from one essays puts it) they are treated here with objectivity as well as concern, particularly in essays by Bertram D. Wolfe and Louis Filler. Other notable pieces in the collection are Paul M. Gregory's on fashion as a phenomenon, Farrell's on naturalism, John P. Lewis's on our mixed economy, and David Riesman's on leisure attitudes, a very bright essay happily free from trade-jargon. —ROBERT HALSBAND.



NEW EDITIONS

Empire with Fleas

WHAT were the causes of Rome's fall? How did the medieval world emerge from the ruins of the ancient world? These questions—like what songs the Sirens sang, or what name Achilles assumed when he hid himself among women—are puzzling, but not beyond all conjecture. And conjectures have been many, diverse, contradictory. Some of the best-grounded, most persuasive, may be found in Ferdinand Lot's "The End of the Ancient World and the Beginnings of the Middle Ages" (Barnes & Noble, \$7.50), translated from the French by Philip and Mariette Leon, with a preface by Henry Berr. Supporting his arguments with vast knowledge, and shaping them with a keen intelligence, Professor Lot tells us that, despite appearances, the Roman Empire had no constitution, but rested on force alone; that the lack of a firm rule for the imperial succession was a fatal defect; that a proliferating bureaucracy became a murderous parasitical growth upon the body of the Empire; that the growth of a caste system corrupted and deadened the public spirit, and reduced the population of the later Empire to an inert mass; that there was a growing discrepancy between the ability of the Empire to produce and its need to consume; that the flight of the nobles to the country and the decay of the towns were concomitantly disastrous; that the "religious malady" of Christianity was a disintegrative force; and, finally, that the very vastness of the Empire inevitably resulted in progressive fission, ending with the annihilation of the conception of public interest, and the disappearance of the notion of a State in the period of the barbarians." For Justinian's efforts to restore the unity of the Empire, efforts which resulted in the ruin of Rome and Italy, Lot has harsh words. And he has no use for the theory that the barbarians were a regenerative force, bringing with them new and valuable political forms; on the contrary, their "monarchies were only so many German Byzantiums, a combination of senility and barbarism." The forces that brought the Middle Ages into being, the forces to which the future belonged, were Islam, the Papacy, "and lastly vassalage, the germ of the feudal system, in which was to be embodied the life of Western Europe for many centuries."

When one is reading history, maps are essential. "The End of the Ancient World" is adequately provided with them. But too many histories are now appearing without maps, because of their cost; a reader must often look for help outside the book with which he is concerned. One source of help, a standby since 1911, is "Muir's Historical Atlas, Medieval and Modern," the eighth edition of which has been issued by Barnes & Noble (\$6.50). If you are reading of France and Burgundy in the eleventh century, the Hanseatic League, twelfth-century England, medieval trade routes, Europe during the First Crusade, South America in the nineteenth century, war in the Netherlands, the Swiss Confederation, or scores of other topics, times, and countries, "Muir's" is a book to have at hand. Unfortunately, however, this eighth edition, save for a few details, is only a reproduction of the revised edition of 1927; so it lags a quarter of a century behind recent map-making events.

It is an educational, stimulating, and challenging experience to accompany Crane Brinton on his survey-journey through five centuries of Western thought, pure and applied, as he makes it in "The Shaping of the Modern Mind" (Mentor, 35¢), ending with a wise evaluation of our present predicament. Other recommended Mentor Books: Edith Hamilton's "Mythology" (50¢); "One Two Three . . . Infinity: Facts and Speculations of Science" (50¢), by George Gamow; "Growing Up in New Guinea" (35¢), by Margaret Meade; and "The Meaning of the Glorious Koran" (50¢), an explanatory translation by Mohammed Marmaduke Pickthall. Among the new Pocket Books are Monsarrat's "The Cruel Sea" (50¢), and Ferber's "Giant" (35¢). Doubleday has published its own papercover edition of Wouk's "The Caine Mutiny" (95¢).

The revised edition of S. Harrison Thomson's "Czechoslovakia in European History" (Princeton, \$7.50) should have received most favorable notice in this department long before now. Bagehot's "Economic Studies" (\$4) has been reissued by Academic Reprints; while from the same publishers come Pirenne's "The Stages in the Social History of Capitalism" (75¢), and Alfred Russel Wallace's "The Action of Natural Selection on Man" (75¢). —BEN RAY REDMAN.