

Just Published



MANY of the books described below, which cannot be reviewed in this issue because of limitations of space, will be given more extended treatment in forthcoming numbers.

AFRICA, LAND OF MY FATHERS. By Era Bell Thompson. Doubleday & Co. \$3.75. The written results of a determined junket through all of Africa by the editor of *Ebony* magazine, all done in an effort to understand the roots of the American Negro.

THE AGE OF MOUNTAINEERING. By James Ramsey Ullman. J. B. Lippincott Co. \$6. The author of "The White Tower" writes a history of the techniques and achievements in mountain climbing, going as far back as Saussure in 1776, the first climber to conquer Mt. Blanc.

AN AMERICAN IN INDIA. By J. Saunders Redding. The Bobbs-Merrill Co. \$3.50. The experiences and opinions of an American Negro's mission to India under State Department auspices and of the peculiar opportunities he had to ferret out from Indian leaders their political opinions.

BLACK POWER. By Richard Wright. Harper & Bros. \$4. An intensely personal look at the troubles of Africa's Gold Coast and the author's fascinations, revulsions, doubts, and convictions, all brought back by Mr. Wright after a trip he took there.

BRIDE OF THE CONQUEROR. By Hartzell Spence. Random House. \$3.95. The conquest of Peru fictionalized through the eyes of a Spanish lady who leads the women of Peru in civil revolt against the cruelties of the Pizarro regime.

THE CHEERFUL CAPTIVE. By Louise Field Cooper. Harcourt, Brace & Co. \$3.75. A comedy of cutups on the part of a mature Connecticut housewife who, finding life dull, flees to Long Island, disrupts lives, flees home, disrupts lives.

CONTRARY PLEASURE. By John D. MacDonald. Appleton-Century-Crofts. \$3.50. The lives and loves of four conventional, suburbanized Midwesterners—three brothers and a sister, who might live halfway up the next block from you or me. A novel, by the author of "Cancel All Our Vows. (1953).

THE CUP OF FURY. By Henry Gregor Felsen. Random House. \$3. A cautionary little tale about love and its woes in Delville, Iowa, among the jukebox and hot-rod set.

THE DANCING BEAR. By Frances Faviell. W. W. Norton & Co. \$3.50. Memoirs of a ruined city and some ruined characters, pretty much bearing out the opinion of one of their number who says, "We Germans are not democrats . . . Just because we are defeated and occupied it does not mean that our whole natures can be changed."

THE FAMILY NOBODY WANTED. By Helen Doss. Little, Brown & Co. \$3.75. The foster mother of twelve adopted children—all of different nationalities—tells how it all happened and how she and her husband managed to keep the roof on the house.

FEDERIGO, OR THE POWER OF LOVE. By Howard Nemerov. Little, Brown & Co. \$3.75. A novel whose plot, operatic like its title, deals with the troubles of a man who writes two letters to himself and signs the name of his wife's supposed lover, Federigo, to them.

THE GHOST VOYAGE: OUT OF ESKIMO LAND. By Gontran de Poncins. Translated by Bernard Frechtman. Doubleday & Co. \$3.50. The man who explored the emotions and sensitivities of the Eskimos in "Kabloona" has here put down the strangeness he himself felt on his return to life among white men in the persons of two trappers who bring him back to civilization.

HATCHET IN THE SKY. By Margaret Cooper Gay. Simon & Schuster. \$4.50. A whopping historical novel in which

David Bruce Alexander Caithris, instigated by Bonnie Prince Charlie, covers most of the map in the New World in 1742 with a new adventure on almost every square mile of it.

HESTER LILLY AND TWELVE SHORT STORIES. By Elizabeth Taylor. Viking Press. \$3. Some wicked and wistful stories about a girl too old for her school uniform and too young for her dead mother's clothes, about an old coddler who suffers from charity in a home for the blind, and about others.

HIGH WATER. By Richard Bissell. Little, Brown & Co. \$3.75. All about the race between two Mississippi barge crews, including a sinking, a drowning, a rescue, and quite a little laconic dialogue—as told by the author who turned "7½ Cents" into a Broadway hit.

HIGHER THAN THE SKY. By Frances Cranmer Greenman. Harper & Bros. \$4. An, oh, how good it is to be alive book, about the personal experiences of a portrait painter who met a lot of major and minor names and relished each one.

HOME ON THE BEAR'S DOMAIN. By Martha Martin. The Macmillan Co. \$3.50. All the woody challenges of living are set down in another rugged personal experience by the rugged author of "O Rugged Land of Gold" from the land of gold (and bears), Alaska.

IDEAS AND OPINIONS. By Albert Einstein. Crown Publishers. \$4. Great thoughts of a great man, assembled for the first time into one volume. The volume includes "The World as I See It" (1934), "Out of My Later Years" (1950), and "Mein Weltbild" (1953), all arranged sectionally by subject matter.

IN THE NAME OF SANITY. By Lewis Mumford. Harcourt, Brace & Co. \$3.75. Mr. Mumford implores the world to come to its senses and to make use of the techniques of creativity instead of those of disintegration. And he comes up with some plain-spoken ideas for achieving his purpose.

IRREGULARS, PARTISANS, GUERRILLAS. Edited by Irwin R. Blacker. Simon & Schuster. \$5. A roundup of just about all there is to say about guerilla warfare, its tactics, brutalities, and loyalties—and its place in history.

LAUNCELOT MY BROTHER. By Dorothy James Roberts. Appleton-Century-Crofts. \$3.95. Last year Miss Roberts overlapped a little in "The Enchanted Cup" into the story of Lancelot and Guinevere. Now she has expanded that story into a full novel.

LORD GRIZZLY. By Frederick F. Manfred. McGraw-Hill Book Co. \$3.75. A novel about a nineteenth-century hunting scout who had a great deal of animal vitality and a great many chances to make use of it as he wandered over most of the map of North and South Dakota and other places.

MADAMI. By Anne E. Putnam with Allan Keller. Prentice-Hall. \$3.95. Or "My Eight Years of Adventure with the Congo Pygmies"—plus personal experience with a houseful of ants, the intrusions of a jungleful of Hollywood photographers down for a picture, and more.

MORALS AND MEDICINE. By John Fletcher. Princeton University Press. \$4.50. A leading Protestant theologian discusses such matters of medical morals as contraception, artificial insemination, sterilization, and euthanasia, all of which, take or give a little, he believes are inalienable rights. The chapters were presented at the Lowell Lectures at Harvard in 1949.

MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED. By John Dos Passos. Prentice-Hall. \$3.50. The Twenties' Mr. Dos Passos writes a novel about the people who drifted into Communism in the 1930s. It centers around a boy and a girl who meet on a ship coming to the U. S. and soon get into the thick of things.

NORTH OF WELFARE. By William Krasner. Harper & Bros. \$3.50. A prowling

through pinched lives of some Spanish Harlemites. A novel by the author of "The Gambler" and "Walk the Dark Streets."

POEMS OF FIVE DECADES. By Max Eastman. Harper & Bros. \$3.50. The versatile Mr. Eastman has saved up his poems from five decades and published them with several little prose apologies scattered in among them.

A POINT OF BALANCE. By Barbara Colard. Funk & Wagnalls. \$3.50. The disorderly experiences of one Catherine Acton, a British Land Army recruit, lead her (1) into bed with an actor-critic, (2) into the same compromising position with his son, and (3) into that aimless, drifting life in a big city, London.

THE RAINBOW BRIDGE. By Mary Watkins Cushing. G.P. Putnam's Sons. \$4. A portrait, done in affection, of the great opera singer Olive Fremstad, who sang at the Met and was, besides being a house-sized prima donna, the figure on whom Willa Cather based her heroine in "Song of the Lark." Mrs. Cushing served as Madame Fremstad's right-hand woman for nearly half a singing century.

THE REMARKABLE MR. JEROME. By Anita Leslie. Henry Holt & Co. \$4. All about the remarkable Mr. Jerome and the remarkable Mrs. Jerome, who were the American grandparents of Winston Churchill, and how they managed (with the help of charm and a bank balance) to make their way into European society and assure their daughters of spectacular marriages and themselves of at least one famous grandson—whose first cousin (once removed) tells the story.

THE SILVER SPADE. By Whitney Bolton. Farrar, Straus & Young. \$3.75. Some biographical insight into the silvered touch of hotel millionaire Conrad Hilton, including his pragmatic faith in prayer—he roused his staff at 6:45 one morning to pray for the purchase of the Waldorf—and transient other glimpses into himself and his family.

THE SORCERESS. By Nathaniel Norses Weinreb. Doubleday & Co. \$3.95. A new stitching of the slender thread of the Biblical story of Deborah, sorceress and lady judge. By the author of "The Babylonians."

STONY LONESOME. By Scott Hart. Coward-McCann. \$3. The time: 1865. The place: Eastern Virginia. The situation: a feud between two female cousins who live in opposite sides of the same old house, Stony Lonesome, and who both become involved with young Captain Peter Owenfield.

SUNK. By Mochitsura Hashimoto. Translated by Commander E.H.M. Colegrave, R.N. Henry Holt & Co. \$3.95. A Japanese Navy commander records the blow-by-blow face-saving activities of his country's submarine fleet during the sometime past conflagration. With an introduction by the author of "Submarine," Commander Edward L. Beach, USN.

TWO BY TWO. By Mary Stolz. Houghton Mifflin Co. \$3.50. A mothering tale about two youngsters on the edge of innocence which ends happily even if Harry did become involved in the death of a man and even if Nan was ambiguous, ambivalent, and too much attached to her parents.

THE WHITE AND THE GOLD. By Thomas B. Costain. Doubleday & Co. \$5. The best-selling historical novelist begins a non-fiction series on the history of Canada, of which this book, centering on seventeenth-century French activities in New France, is Number One.

THE WILDERNESS WORLD OF JOHN MUIR. Edited by Edwin Way Teale. Houghton Mifflin Co. \$4.50. Selections of the Scotch-American naturalist's writings, full of bird and bee and grasshopper delights, plus some bridging of gaps in the author's life by the editor.

—JOHN HAVERSTICK.



NEW EDITIONS

Immortality of Evil

HARCOURT, Brace & Company has published a new edition of George Orwell's masterpiece. Am I speaking of "Nineteen Eighty-Four"? No, of "Animal Farm." The first is a large work of imaginative fiction that has its faults as well as its virtues; the second is a small work of truth, shaped by imagination, that is as nearly flawless as such things can be. When I read and reviewed the English edition of "Animal Farm"—it came from the press in the fateful month of August 1945, which saw the first atomic bombs to be used in warfare fall from American bomb-bays over Japan—when I read and reviewed it a few months after publication, I knew that I was dealing with lasting stuff, that I had probably been privileged to greet a minor classic at birth. Since then I have often picked up the thin book, badly printed on poor paper—a lasting reminder of the trials of British wartime publishing—and I have always returned to it with undiminishing pleasure and unimpaired respect. Now that I have just read the story straight through again, in the new plump and handsome edition (\$2.95) illustrated by Joy Batchelor and John Halas, I find that all my old feelings about it are renewed, all my old judgments confirmed.

Orwell labeled his tale "A Fairy Story," and I think it a pity that his subtitle has been dropped for the American trade; but by now, of course, the secret has long been out, and everyone knows that "Animal Farm" is a brilliant satirical account, in parable form, of the early years of the Russian Revolution and the swift betrayal of the ideals that were supposed to animate it. The qualities that make for classic satire are all here—simplicity, lucidity, brevity, factuality, wit, imagination, a sustained harmony of overt amusement and covert indignation, and a superficial dispassion which serves to mask gracefully, but not to conceal, strong emotional currents and firm intellectual principles. Best of all, "Animal Farm" would continue to have a vigorous life of its own even if every detail of the Russian Revolution were forgotten by its readers. Those readers would miss the pleasure of identifying the great pigs, Napoleon and Snowball, with their famous originals; they would miss the full historical significance of the Battle of the Cowshed; they would be unable to match the changing

slogans of the pigs against the changes of the protean Party Line—but they would still find "Animal Farm" a powerful political satire of enduring worth, firmly rooted in the enduring nature of man. And they would still find it a joy to read.

DOUBLEDAY has reprinted the beautifully illustrated Heritage Press edition of "Lust for Life" (\$4.95) as the Twentieth Anniversary Edition of the fascinating book which launched Irving Stone on his remarkably successful career. When he discovered the popular possibilities of Vincent Van Gogh's letters to Theo, Mr. Stone struck pay dirt—richer than any he has worked since. Mika Waltari's "The Egyptian," now reduced to \$1.98 (Putnam), is probably a better-than-average specimen of the successful mid-twentieth-century historical novel; but I can recommend it only as an excellent synthetic soporific. A jacket note on the latest edition of "Gone With the Wind" (Garden City, \$1.98) tells us that it has already been "read by over 20,000,000 people." Alberto Moravia's lively novel of opera bouffe intrigue, sex, and sudden death—"The Fancy Dress Party" (Signet, 25¢)—is moderately entertaining throughout; but it promises to be more than that, and in spots it is.

John Bryson's edition of "Matthew Arnold: Poetry and Prose," in the admirable Reynard Library (Harvard, \$4.75), should help to broaden the base of the renewed popularity of a truly eminent Victorian. And a few hours spent with G. M. Young's "Macaulay: Prose and Poetry" (\$4.75), in the same library, should suffice to convince judicious readers that Macaulay, despite the sneers of his detractors, is one of the most accomplished and effective writers who have used English.

Miguel de Unamuno's philosophical essay "Tragic Sense of Life"—the work of a man who was obsessed by a passionate desire for personal immortality—has been reprinted by Dover (\$1.90). L. Susan Stebbing refused to call her little book "Logic in Practice" (Barnes & Noble, \$1.50) an introduction to logic; but it is certainly one of the best of easy prefaces to a thorny discipline.

—BEN RAY REDMAN.



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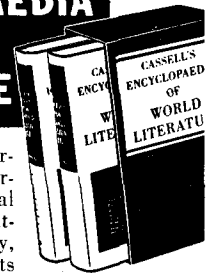
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