ness, and the great drive for gold are vividly presented.

-RALPH ADAMS BROWN.

BOOKS IN THE WHITE HOUSE: What sort of books do Presidents of the United States read? Three authorities on general reading and specific readers answered that question in the latest Windsor Lectures in Librarianship at the University of Illinois. Arthur E. Bestor of the Illinois faculty discussed "Thomas Jefferson and the Freedom of Books," David C. Mearns of the Library of Congress "Mr. Lincoln and the Books He Read." and Jonathan Daniels of the Raleigh News and Observer "Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Books." Packaged as "Three Presidents and Their Books" (University of Illinois Press, \$2.50), these papers provide an amiable, accurate, and much more than footnote-ish contribution to the study of the interplay of the printed page and the human mind. And they have high entertainment value. Examples: Jefferson nodded heavily when he recommended John Baxter's "New and Impartial History of England," which Mr. Bestor describes as "a sorry combination of plagiarism, expurgation, and clandestine emendation." Lincoln "once commenced 'Ivanhoe,' but never finished it." FDR was shocked to learn that Katharine Hepburn "had never heard of 'The Brushwood Boy'.'

-J. T. W.

PRESIDENT WITHOUT A PARTY: The "Tyler, Too" whom the Whigs elected in 1840 as a sop to the Southern conservatives in their party became, by the accident of Harrison's death, the man who all but did Whiggery in. He was so vilified in the course of his almost four years in the White House that his true character remains blighted to this day. His positive accomplishments, however, were impressive in accenting the prerogatives of the Presidency, as Robert J. Morgan emphasizes in "A Whig **Embattled: The Presidency Under John** Tyler" (University of Nebraska Press, \$3.50).

The Whigs wanted a President who would be under the control of party leaders, especially those in Congress like Clay and Fillmore. Tyler, a cultured and tactful Virginian, a conservative, and a strict constructionist of the Constitution, declined, however, to fit the entire Whig mold. He insisted on asserting, first, his claim to the title of President (he was the first Vice President to take office by reason of a President's death and there was much controversy over his right to be more than Acting President); second, he asserted his right to veto the bank bill and a number of other pet Clay measures; third, he



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The University of North Carolina Press succeeded in naming his own Cabinet, and lastly he supported and won his prerogatives in the conduct of foreign policy.

For all of Tyler's limitations in social and economic outlook he was a man of courage and principle. Writing with scholarship and perception, Dr. Morgan sheds some much-wanted light on Tyler's vigorous conduct of the Presidency. His thesis-that "the Whig counterrevolution [to Jackson's rugged concept of the Presidency] foundered on the rocks of executive independence, for John Tyler proved to be a Jacksonian Whig"-is cogently worked out, and it pretty much explains why Tyler wound up as a President without a party and the Whigs ended up a party without a -A. W. President.

PIONEER NURSERYMAN: Born in Leominster, Massachusetts, in 1774, John Chapman was twenty-three years old when he first appeared on the Allegheny Plateau in northern Pennsylvania. Hunger, Indians, wild animals held no fear for John as he moved along the frontier planting trees, selling them or giving them away to the settlers entering the new territories.

In his tattered clothes and strange hat he could be seen in all kinds of weather, dispensing his seeds and his Biblical interpretations. Even before his death "Johnny Appleseed" had become a part of the frontier folklore. Robert Price in his "Johnny Appleseed, Man and Myth" (Indiana University Press, \$5) has related many a strange tale, but his presentation is more than a collection of folklore for he has traced carefully the records and facts and has presented a flesh-and-blood Johnny who, while eccentric, is a kindly, intelligent, and deeply religious man. -R. A. B.

THE AGE OF NORMALCY: The U.S. Senate's role in shaping the foreign policy of the Harding Administration has in the last twenty years been roundly denounced for its isolationism. But the closer scrutiny provided by John C. Vinson in "Parchment Peace: The United States Senate and the Washington Conference, 1921-22" (University of Georgia Press, \$4.50) discloses that the lawmakers only reflected public opinion. This, he asserts, was based on the belief that "the United States must keep its sovereignty unimpaired; international problems should be met by conferences; international law could be upheld by moral law; world order could be maintained by public opinion; and peace could best be preserved by disarmament.'

In telling the little-known story of how the Senate shaped policy and how the Washington Conference fitted into the then prevailing view that a treaty could be a force for, rather than an expression of, peace Mr. Vinson has done a thorough job. Echoes from the era—Senator Borah, Henry Cabot Lodge, Charles Evans Hughes, Johnson of California—resound throughout the book, and what they had to say makes strange reading indeed three decades and one world war later.

Mr. Vinson puts them all together and comes to the conclusion that a foreign policy unsupported by military force and a world organization was insufficient for America as a great power. Not exactly an inspired conclusion.

—A. W.

FDR AS GOVERNOR: Franklin D. Roosevelt's long and controversial Presidency has tended to eclipse the fact that for four critical years he was Governor of New York. The dimensions of the pre-White House Roosevelt were, however, considerable, as Bernard Bellush makes clear in his "Franklin D. Roosevelt as Governor of New York" (Columbia University Press, \$5).

Dr. Bellush, professor of history at City College of New York, has done a massive job of research, covering almost every aspect of Roosevelt's tenure at Albany. For sharpness of focus the story is arranged as much by topic as possible, with accounts of the Governor's farm policy, his handling of prison problems, his bank policy, his economic attitudes, and his relations with Tammany Hall, each getting special and revealing attention

From this account Roosevelt emerges as less of an innovator than popular myth gives him credit for. "In housing, education, budgeting, welfare legislation, parks, and water power Roosevelt carried on the work initiated" by his predecessor, Alfred E. Smith, who is credited by Dr. Bellush with planting the seeds of the New Deal. But, if Roosevelt was not an originator of policy, he certainly took the palm for his pragmatic approach to specific situations. He was openminded and willing to experiment in times of crisis, and he appealed directly to the public for support. These characteristics undoubtedly explain the force of his leadership; in the long run they are more important than the question of assigning credit for the origins of the New Deal.

Although the specialist will especially welcome this book, the general reader, if he can forgive its academic cliches, will get an excellent picture of the formative years of our only four-term President.

—A. W.