

# THE LITERARY SAMPLER

## EXCERPTS FROM NEW AND FORTHCOMING BOOKS

### How to See a Satellite

SEEING a satellite in flight will not be an experience restricted to trained observers. Anyone with patience and sharp vision or optical aids will be able to glimpse the orbiting vehicle. We can expect that when it is announced that the first satellite is flying children's telescopes will be hastily dusted off for use, and opera glasses that have never seen an opera will be quickly rescued from attics all over the world. Charts and graphs describing the probable orbit of the satellite will be studied avidly, and the world will have a corps of ground observers operating that will be the envy of even the most conscientious civil defense organization.

What most of us want to know is the best time for viewing a satellite, and what type of optical aid would give us the best results for the least money. . . . Probably the best compromise, if a single stock instrument is to be used, is the Navy shipboard binocular, which is a standard 7 x 50 binocular with a field of seven degrees.

Viewing conditions are best when the satellite, while reflecting the Sun's light, is passing directly overhead in a darkened sky. This is the time just before sunrise or just after sunset. A team of observers would be needed to cover the region of the sky through which the satellite is to pass. . . . The optimum viewing time is limited to about forty-five minutes for a 200-mile satellite. . . . There probably will be several stars in the field of view of about the same brightness, and possibly some that are brighter. The presence of these stars will provide helpful reference points that are practically stationary, and that will aid in keeping the observer's eyes in proper focus.

—From "Satellite: The First Step Into the Last Frontier," by Erik Rolf Bergaust and William Stern Beller (to be published Aug. 13 by Hanover House).

### Howling Arctic

WE CLIMBED out of the plane and stood quietly for a few minutes, trying to adjust from the tense

drama of our landing to the misty silent world around us. We were enveloped in deepest winter. Soft snow was falling, making no sound as it blended into the soft snow underfoot. About a mile away was Pond Inlet, a row of white frame houses, green-trimmed and red-roofed, and a smaller line of white tents to one side. Bylot Island towered across frozen Eclipse Sound, immensely bigger than we had expected, with wide, seamed glaciers leading back into the grim, frowning mountains. The white world lay in utter stillness, as if it had just been created.

Then in the distance began a strange, high, musical howling. At first there was one voice alone, rising and falling, the very soul of loneliness. Others joined until there must have been 100 voices interweaving in a wailing, eerie harmony. Dogs, we supposed—but not like any dogs we had ever heard. They sounded like the

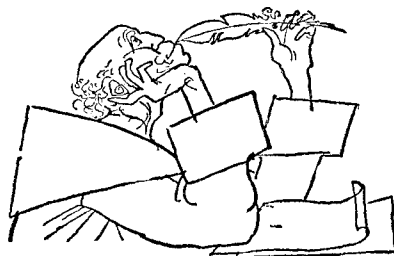
dead souls of dogs. At the edge of Pond Inlet something dark was moving on the snow. Slowly we began to distinguish outlines of peaked hoods, dozens of them.

The moonlight scenery, the weird howling of dog spirits, the little white-hooded figures approaching us slowly across the snow did not belong in any real world. We had been whisked without ceremony into the middle of an ancient legend.

From "Spring on an Arctic Island," by Katherine Scherman (to be published August 2 by Little, Brown).

### Space-Maker Par Excellence

WHAT a person knows serves him, we might say, as a lens through which to look at this world and see beyond its surface appearances. Knowledge turns the opaque into the translucent or transparent, and gives



—From "Art Fakes & Forgeries" (Philosophical Library).



—From "A Treasury of Great Prints" (Thomas Yoseloff, Inc.).

"The Cry," by Edvard Munch.

the individual new materials for his response to life. To be sure, it does not automatically do this; for he may carry within himself emotional resistances to what he learns. Or he may be using his knowledge as a compensation for failure in areas of human relationship, and may make it a wall between himself and his world, rather than a lens through which to see more deeply into the subtleties of life. Yet because knowledge does, in general, give new dimensions to our consciousness it is one of the greatest of space-makers.

—From *"The Mind Goes Forth: The Drama of Understanding,"* by Harry and Bonaro Overstreet (to be published July 16 by Norton).

### Fragile Commodity

ONE reason for the high value of humor is its fragility. It does not travel well from one part of the world

to another and it does not keep well in any one climate for a very long time.

I have a large collection of books by the classic humorists and also a plentiful number of books containing collections of humor of particular periods in our national history. I regret to say that most of the books aren't very funny today. Even when you're spading up such rich earth as one of the old Abe Martin Almanacs you'll consider yourself lucky if you find ten jokes worth repeating. I am particularly fond of Artemus Ward, but even the old redhead has to be gone over with a magnifying glass before you come up with a flash of wit that seems truly timeless. Will Rogers was a great humorist, but if you read one of his newspaper columns or listen to one of his radio monologues at this late date it's a somewhat disillusioning experience.

—From *"The Funny Men,"* by Steve Allen (Simon & Schuster)

### Fresh New World

CONSIDERING my words carefully I will say that no sight anywhere in our world can give you such a feeling of being removed from your usual surroundings, and nothing can appear fresher and newer to a too-sophisticated eye (as the underwater world). Not the mountains or the sea, not the desert or the ice, not any terrestrial space or the heavens themselves can provide such a dreamlike spectacle. And I hardly think that even another planet can show us anything as strange to our own world as those underwater swimmers, moving with a dreamlike quality below the surface of the sea, flying over green depths, gliding over the face of steep precipices and always leaving silver clouds behind them, bouquets of living flowers expanding as they rise, dancing and turning and finally bursting into spray on the surface.

—From *"Man and the Underwater World,"* by Pierre de Latil and Jean Rivoire (translated by Edward Fitzgerald G. P. Putnam's Sons)

### God's Africa

IT WAS the childhood she'd never really had, lived among treetops as children dream of living, with an elegant small monkey as companion and bright green crickets for him to eat. It was the time of her most perfect purity and innocence with everything coming to her through her feelings, including her awareness of God. He was the restle of lizards in her thatched roof, the scent of mimosa through the window screens, and the slap of banana leaves when the wind blew.

He gave her signs of Himself each day in grace notes and when darkness fell, He gave her the sonorous symphony of His African night in great roars and rumbles of creation and extinction which made each Old Testament prophecy come true.—From *"The Nun's Story,"* by Kathryn Hulme (to be published September 6 by Little, Brown).

### Life on the Way

THERE is an old Spanish proverb which reads: "The road is always better than the Inn."

A person who can enjoy the road and not have his mind concentrated entirely upon the "Inn," or goal, is really enjoying mental health.

—From *"The Democratic Man: Selected Writings of Eduard C. Lindeman,"* edited by Robert Gessner (Beacon Press).

# Seven Authors Coming Up

**B**OOKMEN who have been watching book seasons come and go for more years than they like to remember are averring that the approaching summer promises to be the quietest in their memory. In an effort to show that the weeks between now and Labor Day will have their matters of interest *SR*'s editors have scanned the horizon and jotted down notes on five books that raise particular anticipation. Three other books that will have strong attraction for readers of varied tastes will come along during September. "The Nun's Story," by Kathryn Hulme (Little, Brown), a story of the spiritual and medical trials of a Belgian girl who enters a nursing order in the Belgian Congo; "Bernard Shaw: His Life, His Works and Friends," by the distinguished drama critic St. John Ervine (Morrow); and "The Heart Has Its Reasons," by the Duchess of Windsor (McKay), the subject of which is known to every newspaper reader. Whether all these will live up to hopes only time—and the reviewers—can say.



—Chase.

**HARRY AND BONARO OVERSTREET**, a husband-and-wife team well known to *SR* readers for their articles and reviews and for such best-sellers as "The Mature Mind" and "The Mind Alive," have a new book scheduled by Norton for July 16. "The Mind Goes Forth" comes to grips with one of the central problems of our times—that of overcoming the hostilities, conscious or otherwise, that separate man from man.



—Leonard.

**NORAH LOFTS**, the English storyteller who delighted thousands of Americans several years ago with "Bless This House," returns to the East Anglian locale in "Afternoon of an Autoer" but the time and mood are different. Now it's the late eighteenth century with flashbacks to the era of Roman Britain. There are the society of

manor and village, an abortive love affair, and an interweaving of devil worship and black magic rites to make an entertaining romance. Doubleday has it down for July 5.



—Phyllis Cerf

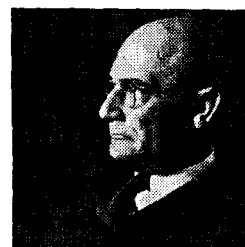
**WILLIAM BRINKLEY**, World War II naval veteran and presently a *Life* editor, has waited until 1956 to offer "Don't Go Near the Water," an amusing book about the escapades of a crew of public-relations officers in the South Pacific while handling VIP's and doing their best to keep far away from the shooting war. It's already been tapped by the Book-of-the-Month Club and the movies. Random House will publish it July 16.



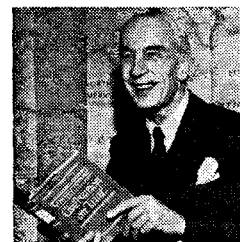
—Tom Palumbo.

**FRANÇOISE SAGAN**, who became an international literary celebrity last year with her first novel, "Bonjour Tris-

tesse," promises to kick up even more dust with "A Certain Smile," due from Dutton on August 20. The new story, which has already sold 250,000 copies in France, deals with a typically Saganesque theme: the love of a young girl for the (older and married) uncle of her boy friend.



**C. S. FORESTER**, who has been writing novels about Horatio Hornblower for decades, essays popular history with "The Age of the Fighting Sail," an account of the naval war of 1812. The engagements in which the *Constitution* participated, the British blockade of American ports, and the battles on the Great Lakes are given their dramatic due in this new volume in Doubleday's Mainstream of America Series, scheduled for July 4.



**ARNOLD TOYNBEE**, the British historian who has always devoted more than a little attention to the religious aspect of the past, has picked a logical topic for his next book, called "An Historian's Approach to Religion." His publishers, Oxford University Press, tell us that the conclusions he reaches about the importance of religion in the progress of human affairs complement many of the ideas he developed in his widely discussed "A Study of History," one of the largest of histories. September 6 has been set as the publication date for Doctor Toynbee's new book.