

Daredevil Tar

"Lincoln's Commando," by **Ralph J. Roske and Charles Van Doren** (Harper, 310 pp. \$4.50), is the first book-length biography of Commander W. B. Cushing, U.S.N., a courageous and colorful Civil War sailor. Richard S. West, Jr., our reviewer, wrote a biography of Lincoln's Secretary of the Navy.

By Richard S. West, Jr.

AT AGE three, sporting his father's high top hat, he walked off the deep end of a pier. When pulled from the water he considered his own rescue less important than the safety of the hat. At four, equipped with hammer, nails, and horseshoes, he secretly let himself into a stall to play blacksmith to an unbroken colt. The animal's kick sent the youngster flying across the floor of the barn minus his front teeth. Neither of these experiences developed in the child the slightest degree of either fear or prudence. On water, on land, or on both he was as if predestined to make his mark as a daredevil. Ralph J. Roske and Charles Van Doren in "Lincoln's Commando," the first full-length biography of William Barker Cushing, note that their hero's courage amounted to a kind of disease.

In his final year at Annapolis, owing to a feud with his Spanish professor, he was cast out of the service. The thoughtless, harebrained eighteen-year-old, now all seriousness and earnest purpose, presented himself before Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles. The fighting having just broken out at Fort Sumter, Mr. Welles gave him a commission as acting master's mate and assigned him to the U.S.S. *Minnesota*, flagship of the Atlantic Blockading Squadron. "Wherever there is fighting," Will Cushing exulted in a letter to a relative, "there will we be, and where there is danger in the battle, there will I be, for I will gain a name in this war."

Throughout the war Cushing served in the sounds and estuarial rivers of Virginia and North Carolina, and witnessed most of the important events in that relatively lively sector of the blockade coast; the Hatteras Inlet Expedition; the Monitor-Merrimack battle, the destruction of the Confederate ironclad *Albemarle*, reconnaissances in the Cape Fear River, and the Fort Fisher Campaign.

In daredevil "commando" raids against shore positions, Cushing soon became a specialist. He cooperated with General Butler in the Nanse-

mond River. Along the coast he destroyed numerous Confederate salt works. He captured an earthwork in Little River, and led daring small boat reconnaissances up the Cape Fear River below Wilmington, North Carolina, in which he almost captured Confederate General Hébert at Smithville. Hiding his men in the swamps by day and paddling upstream by night he ascended to within a few miles of Wilmington, and seized a courier with the mail from Fort Fisher. His most famous exploit was ascending the Roanoke River in a steam launch and torpedoing the *Albemarle*.

The story of "Albemarle" Cushing is one of the finest hero tales of the war, and authors Rosko and Van Doren have done an excellent job of presenting it and recreating its setting. Even with copious quotations from Cushing's home letters, however, the narrative is somewhat thin when stretched to book length. Quite commendably the authors have elected to combine history with biography. "Lincoln's Commando" contains neat surveys of general problems of the

PICK OF THE PAPERBACKS

MOBY DICK. By Herman Melville. Houghton Mifflin. 75¢. The classic story of a relentless quest for the white behemoth, with an introduction by Alfred Kazin.

THE RED LILY. By Anatole France. Lion. 35¢. The story of Thérèse, queen of Paris's *haut monde*, who ruled both husband and lover with equal determination.

THE HOOSIER SCHOOL-MASTER. By Edward Eggleston. Sagamore. 95¢. This 1871 novel about an Indiana schoolmaster who struggles for the acceptance of a backwoods community has some of the flavor of "Tom Sawyer."

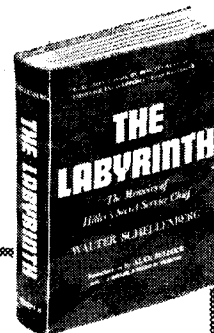
THE JOURNEY TO THE EAST. By Hermann Hesse. Translated by Hilda Rosner. Noonday. \$1.25. A young man's unusual spiritual pilgrimage is the subject of this short novel by a Nobel Prize-winning German writer still relatively unknown in this country.

HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES. By Jacob A. Riis. Sagamore. \$1.25. This ringing indictment of slum life, written in 1890 by a free-swinging journalist, is a classic social document.

CRITICS AND CRITICISM. Edited by R. S. Crane. University of Chicago Press. \$1.50. Eight essays of literary criticism that set forth the position of the controversial "Chicago Critics."

"Espionage and intrigue . . . a fiendish fascination."

—Book-of-the-Month Club News



THE Labyrinth

MEMOIRS OF

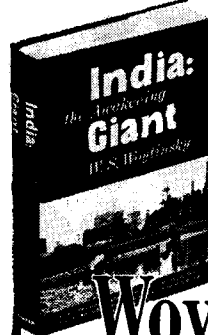
HITLER'S SECRET SERVICE CHIEF
WALTER SCHELLENBERG

Introduction by ALAN BULLOCK

"THE LABYRINTH is that rare object, an entertainment which is also a contribution to history ... This is not a Hollywood dream of the office of a master-spy. It is the real thing." — EDWARD CRANKSHAW, front page review, *N. Y. Times Book Review*

At all bookstores
Illustrated • \$4.95

HARPER & BROTHERS



By W. S.

Woytinsky INDIA:

THE AWAKENING GIANT

As an economist of world-wide reputation, Mr. Woytinsky is eminently fitted for the job of making India comprehensible to American readers. His approach to economics, at once learned and unhampered by the vocabulary of the specialist, makes his study of the Indian Five Year Plans an adventure in economic interpretation. And his eye for human detail makes his portraits of India's leaders, his scenes from village and city life vital and revealing. "An excellent contribution in this field — a field so important that no grasp of the new India is really possible without it." — SATHA RAMA RAU

16 pages of photographs
At all bookstores \$3.75

HARPER & BROTHERS

blockade and of specific problems at Cape Fear and in the North Carolina Sounds.

On the whole "Lincoln's Com-mando" is a moving, cleanly written, and deeply satisfying book.

DRAMA OF HAMPTON ROADS: The stories of the *Monitor* and the *Merrimac* touch not only the dramatic duel between the two vessels, but such interesting facets of the Civil War as the industrial potential of North and South, the ironclad building race which the Confederacy won by the narrow margin of one day, the Confederacy's near-successful effort to break the Federal blockade at Hampton Roads, the distraught Cabinet session on Black Sunday, March 9, 1862, the blowing up of the *Merrimac* when Norfolk was evacuated, and the sinking of the *Monitor* off Hatteras.

William Chapman White, the late columnist-foreign correspondent for the New York *Herald Tribune*, and his widow Ruth White have had the wit to sense the possibilities of such a subject and in "Tin Can on a Shingle" (Dutton, \$3.50) they have put together an informative and thoroughly readable little book on the life and times of the *Monitor*.

In its end papers are diagrams of Ericsson's novel vessel, but happily these technical details penetrate no further. "Tin Can on a Shingle" concentrates on the human side of the story—of Confederate Stephen R. Mallory, a naval "secretary without a navy," who sensed the necessity of offsetting the power of the Federal fleet by converting the partially destroyed U.S. sloop *Merrimac* into the rebuilt C.S. ironclad *Virginia*; of the eccentric Swedish inventor Ericsson whom fate and friendship allowed to build his "tin can on a shingle" in 120 days; of the *Virginia-Merrimac*'s historic rampage against the wooden blockaders at Hampton Roads—told graphically from the point of view of the men serving her guns; of the nervous fright of Secretary of War Stanton and other Cabinet members, and the extraordinary measures taken to defend Washington and the coast.

Despite a few technical slips the lay reader can read with pleasure a human story which attempts to assess impartially the heroism of both sides.

—R. S. W., Jr.

Good Mysteries for Summer

THE LATE MISS TRIMMING. By Carol Carnac. Crime Club. \$2.95.

THE PUB CRAWLER. By Maurice Procter. Harper. \$2.95.

A SHADOW IN THE WILD. By Whit Masterson. Dodd, Mead. \$2.95.

THREE FOR THE CHAIR. By Rex Stout. Viking. \$2.95.

MURDER MAKES ME MAD. By Ferguson Findley. Popular. 25¢.

—SERGEANT CUFF.

Summer Poll

Continued from page 23

men and deeds. (Babcock, Beatty, Bradley, Cady, Cross, Hass, Herzberg, Hogan, Little, McManis, Molyneux, Nichols, Perkin)

NINE VOTES

LETTERS OF JAMES JOYCE. Edited by Stuart Gilbert. Viking. \$7.50.

The publication of these letters, sixteen years after the author's death, is an important literary event, helping to round out the portrait of Joyce as man and artist. Reviewed on page 31. (Beatty, Bradley, Cross, Kogan, Nichols, Nordell, Perkin, J. K. Sherman, Yeiser)

SEVEN VOTES

MIGHTY STONEWALL. By Frank Vandiver. McGraw-Hill. \$6.

For the Civil War bookshelf, a sturdy biography of Thomas Jonathan Jackson, heroic leader of the Army of the Shenandoah. (Cady, de Morinni, Hutchens, McAdory, J. K. Sherman, Smith, Tinkle)

YOU CAN'T GET THERE FROM HERE. By Ogden Nash. Little, Brown. \$3.50.

This new collection of quotable verse by America's king of the ringing rhyme is delightfully illustrated by Maurice Sendak. (Barkham, Flowers, Hogan, Nordell, O'Neill, Perkin, Wyllie)

FOUR VOTES

THE INNOCENT AMBASSADORS. By Philip Wylie. Rinehart. \$4.

A report on a round-the-world journey by the discoverer of Momism, with special emphasis upon America's need to wage a stronger battle in the war of the minds. (Bradley, Flowers, Kogan, Smith)

THREE VOTES

THE HIDDEN PERSUADERS. By Vance Packard. McKay. \$3.75.

An introduction to Madison Avenue's latest gambit, Motivational Research, which professes to explain why you buy what you buy. (de Morinni, Hass, Hogan)

JESTING APOSTLE. By Stephen Winsten. Dutton. \$5.

George Bernard Shaw's neighbor and friend at Ayot St. Lawrence has painted an intimate and human portrait of the great dramatist. (Flowers, Herzberg, Kogan)

LIFE AT HAPPY KNOLL. By John P. Marquand. Little, Brown. \$3.75.

Sketches about life at a suburban country club that may well amuse literate golfers. (Herzberg, Little, Tinkle)

THIS HILL, THIS VALLEY. By Hal Borland. Simon & Schuster. \$5.

A prose ode to nature and a toast to life by a man who rediscovered living. (Hass, McAdory, Perkin)

TIDES OF CRISIS. By A. A. Berle, Jr. Reynal. \$3.75.

An economic and political study of foreign relations delves into the complex problems of world leadership in the twentieth century. (de Morinni, Nordell, O'Neill)

TWO VOTES

THE DAY CHRIST DIED. By Jim Bishop. Harper. \$4.

Jesus's final hours subjected to a "you-are-there" technique. (de Morinni, McManis)

THE DECLINE AND FALL OF SEX. By Robert Elliot Fitch. Harcourt, Brace. \$3.

A Congregational minister and theologian sets forth some provocative views on sex, with side-swipes at the American life that makes such goings-on possible. (Cady, Smith)

THE FINE ART OF READING. By Lord David Cecil. Bobbs-Merrill. \$3.75.

Reflections on literature from Shakespeare to Conrad by a distinguished English biographer. (T. B. Sherman, Yeiser)

OPERATION SEA LION. By Peter Fleming. Simon & Schuster. \$3.95.

An account of Hitler's proposed invasion of Britain and why the plan didn't succeed. (Babcock, Barkham)

POTTER ON AMERICA. By Stephen Potter. Random House. \$3.

The "Gamesmanship" man makes some observations about life in these United States following a swinging visit through the country. (Hogan, Little)

RADIATION: What It Is and How It Affects You. By Ralph E. Lapp and Jack Schubert. Viking. \$3.95.

Concise and understandable is this timely explanation of radiation and its effects. (O'Neill, Snajdr)

RASCALS IN PARADISE. By James A. Michener and Grove Day. Random House. \$4.75.

A spicy ragout of high adventure tales all of which happened in the South Pacific. (J. K. Sherman, Tinkle)

THE TAXIS OF THE MARNE. By Jean Du-tourd. Translated by Harold King. Simon & Schuster. \$3.50.

The author of "A Dog's Head" turns to more serious thoughts in this discussion of France's decline from world power and prestige. (Nichols, O'Neill)

ONE VOTE

ALL ROME TREMBLED. By Melton S. Davis. Putnam. \$4.

Italy, decadent and corrupt, exposed to the roots of its social structure following the discovery in 1953 of Wilma Montesi's body on a beach in Ostia. (Dolbier)

AS FRANCE GOES. By David Schoenbrun. Harper. \$5.

A leading CBS commentator and journalist reports on what is going on inside France these days. (McAdory)

THE ASTONISHED MUSE. By Reuel Denney. University of Chicago Press. \$5.

The primrose paths of American leisure examined by a social scientist who comes up with some interesting observations about mass entertainment. (Kogan)

BATTLE FOR THE MIND. By William Sargant. Doubleday. \$4.50.

The common patterns followed by evangelists, psychiatrists, and brain-washers might well indicate hopeful news in treatment of the mentally ill, according to Dr. Sargant. (Snajdr)

BIG SUR AND THE ORANGES OF HIERONYMUS BOSCH. By Henry Miller. New Directions. \$6.50.

The near side of Paradise to the well-traveled author of "The Tropic of Capricorn" is a lonesome corner of the California coast. (Yeiser)

BIOGRAPHY OF THE BULLS. Edited by Rex Smith. Rinehart. \$7.95.

The tauromachian art in anthology with such well-known aficionados as Hemingway, Barnaby Conrad, and Blasco-Ibanez as contributors. (Tinkle)

CHARLIE. By Ben Hecht. Harper. \$4.50.

Reviewed on page 18. (Babcock)

CLOSE TO COLETTE. By Maurice Goudek. Translated by Enid McLeod. Farrar, Straus & Cudahy. \$4.

A discreet and distinguished recollection of thirty-five years of marriage to a formidable woman. (Barkham)

ARTHUR MILLER'S COLLECTED PLAYS. Viking. \$4.95.

A long and lucid essay on his own dramatic technique accompanies the texts of five plays by one of America's leading dramatists. (Kogan)

THE COMMON ENGLISH READER. By Richard D. Altick. University of Chicago Press. \$6.

The mass reading public of the nineteenth century analyzed and discussed in a valuable social history. (Herzberg)

THE CRISIS OF THE OLD ORDER. By Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. Houghton Mifflin. \$6.

This intellectual history of the years 1919-1933 encompasses the social and political thought of an era which culminated in what has come to be called "The Age of Roosevelt." (McAdory)

DAY OF INFAMY. By Walter Lord. Holt. \$3.95.

Sunday, December 7, 1941, depicted in minute and awesome detail by the author of "A Night to Remember." (Hutchens)

DEATH OF A MAN. By Lael Tucker Werten-baker. Random House. \$3.

The long, lingering illness of a talented and energetic man described by his wife in utmost and intimate detail may cheer some, depress others. (Hutchens)

DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN-ENGLISH USAGE. By Margaret Nicholson. Oxford University Press. \$5.

An Americanized version of Fowler's helpful and handy "Modern English Usage." (Barkham)

GLAD ADVENTURE. By Francis Sayre. Macmillan. \$6.

This autobiography of a diplomat, son-in-law of Woodrow Wilson, Assistant Secretary of State under Cordell Hull, and High Commissioner to the Philippines, gives a picture of government at high levels. (Snajdr)