

SR's Check List of the Week's New Books

Anthologies

NEW WRITINGS BY SWINBURNE: A Medley of Poems, Critical Essays, Hoaxes and Burlesques. Edited by Cecil Y. Lang. Syracuse Univ. Press. \$6.50.

Crime, Suspense

THE GENTLE ASSASSIN. By Clay Richards. Bobbs-Merrill. \$3.50.

Current Affairs

THE FOURTH DIMENSION OF FOREIGN POLICY. By Philip H. Coombs. Harper & Row, for the Council on Foreign Relations. Hardbound, \$3.50. Paperback, \$1.95.

History

THE KNIGHTED SKIES: A Pictorial History of World War I in the Air. By Edward Jablonski. Putnam. \$7.95.

THE SANTO TOMAS STORY. By A. V. H. Hartendorp. McGraw-Hill. \$8.50.

THE THOUSAND DAYS: John Fitzgerald Kennedy as President. Text by Paul Ballot. Citadel. \$4.95 to Dec. 26; \$5.95 thereafter.

Literary History, Criticism

GOETHE: A Critical Introduction. By Henry C. Hatfield. Harvard Univ. Press. \$4.50.

NATHANAEL WEST: The Ironic Prophet. By Victor Comerchero. Syracuse Univ. Press. \$5.95.

ON ACT AND SCENE DIVISION IN THE SHAKESPEARE FIRST FOLIO. By T. W. Baldwin. Southern Illinois University Press. \$5.50.

Miscellany

A NEW DICTIONARY OF BIRDS. By Landborough Thomson. McGraw-Hill. \$17.50.

A NEW LOOK AT ARITHMETIC. By Irving Adler. John Day. \$6.95.

WINES OF ITALY. By Luigi Veronelli. McGraw-Hill. \$20.

Personal History

CHARLES NODIER: Pilot of Romanticism. By A. Richard Oliver. Syracuse Univ. Press. \$5.95.

JOHN GOWER. By John Fisher. New York Univ. Press. \$10.

WITH GOD IN RUSSIA. By Walter Ciszek, S.J., and Daniel L. Flaherty, S.J. McGraw-Hill. \$5.95.

Psychology

EDUCATIONAL TESTING FOR MILLIONS. By Gene R. Hawes. McGraw-Hill. \$6.50.

Reference

LANGENSCHIEDT'S CONCISE GERMAN DICTIONARY (German - English/English - German). By Heinz Messinger and Werner Rudenberg. Barnes & Noble. Thumb-indexed. \$8.50.

Religion, Philosophy

HOBBS STUDIES. Edited by K. C. Brown. Harvard Univ. Press. \$7.50.

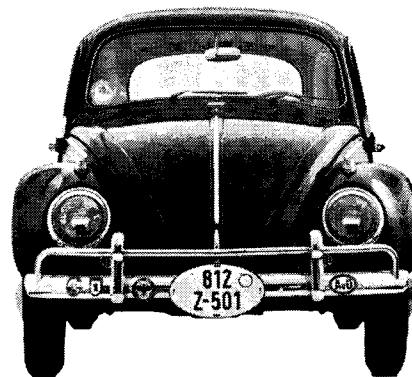
A THOUSAND LIVES AWAY: Buddhism in Contemporary Burma. By Winston L. King. Harvard Univ. Press. \$5.25.

Sociology

SOCIAL WELFARE FORUM, 1964. By the National Conference on Social Welfare. Columbia Univ. Press. \$6.

SOCIAL WELFARE PRACTICE, 1964. By the National Conference on Social Welfare. Columbia Univ. Press. \$6.

SCIENCE AS A CULTURAL FORCE. Edited by Harry Woolf and others. Johns Hopkins. \$3.95. —Compiled by RUTH BROWN.



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"Don't be uncharitable. It's the symbolism of the thing."



ARE CITIES OBSOLETE?

—D. Jordan Wilson (Pix).

By BERNARD WEISSBOURD

FROM 55,000,000 to 60,000,000 more people will be living in metropolitan areas in 1980 than were living there in 1960. How will we manage? Already our cities are decaying faster than they can be rebuilt. Parking is a universal problem. The tax base of the city is eroding as industry moves to the suburbs. A significant part of the white population is also moving to the suburbs, while the cores of our cities are filling with Negroes as the migration from the South steadily rises. The cost to the cities of trying to adjust the migrants to a new kind of existence imposes additional burdens upon the city's tax base.

Taxes are also rising in the suburbs to pay for the high cost of municipal services spread out over areas of low

The author of the article is president of Metropolitan Structures, Inc., which specializes in the construction of apartments, hotels, and offices in Eastern and Midwestern cities. The article appears here by special arrangement with the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, which is publishing it separately under the title *Segregation, Subsidies, and Megalopolis*. A single copy is available without charge by writing to the Center, Box 4068, Santa Barbara, California.

population density. Open space is being consumed at a terrifying rate, so that suburbs once in open country are now surrounded. Travel time to the city has multiplied as the expressways get clogged during rush hours.

Some experts do not find these problems of city decay and suburban sprawl unduly alarming. They maintain that the continuing dispersal that present trends indicate for the future is inevitable, and not necessarily undesirable. I believe the opposite.

Suburban sprawl and urban decay have not come about solely because people have made a free choice in a free enterprise market. That choice has been influenced by federal housing subsidies, which, purporting to be neutral, have in fact subsidized low-density middle-income living in the suburbs and have thereby financed the flight of white population from the city. Another factor affecting this dispersal has been our segregation practices within the city.

The lack of public discussion about the influence of housing segregation and federal housing subsidies upon urban growth patterns has been a barrier to understanding the problems of the city and suburbs and has created a feeling of hopelessness about the future of America's cities. It is my purpose here to show that it is possible to deal con-

structively with the problems of the metropolitan region if these important factors are not ignored.

Compared to the time span of Western civilization the modern urban complex, sometimes called megalopolis, is a new, young phenomenon. Some people are confident that a new technology of communication and transportation will solve many of the most intractable problems of the metropolitan region and that, in time, the region of the future will emerge. One author envisions "continuous low-density urban belts stretching from Maine to Virginia, from Toronto and Pittsburgh to Milwaukee, and from Amsterdam to Frankfurt and Mannheim. . . . However, there seems to be no reason why, properly organized and interlaced with greenbelts, freeways, natural reservations, and sites of historic interest, and accented vertically by occasional high-rise elements, these low-density urban regions of tomorrow should not be more livable and effective in satisfying the totality of human values than the transitional urban forms of today."

While no businessman whose offices must be located in the central business district, and no dweller in the city slums, can accept the decline of the city with equanimity, it is quite likely that if we do nothing to alter present trends the