

kets at Christmas time, helped out when they were in trouble. All he asked was their vote.

The authors see the original sin as that of the Founding Fathers, who thought legislatures rather than the rabble would naturally choose the best man. Instead, the legislatures auctioned themselves off to the highest bidders; deadlocks lasted for months and years, leaving states without either a Senator or a legislature. One revolt led by a youngster named Franklin D. Roosevelt tied the New York Legislature into a knot, until the Tammany candidate was finally withdrawn. President Andrew Johnson had proposed popular election of Senators, but this was long coming.

The first break was "the Oregon program," a slowly spreading system of Senatorial preference primaries. New blood began to seep into the halls of privilege. But, in the end, it took a boss to beat the bosses; he could hardly have been in the Senate otherwise. "A dictator dictating democracy," he had broken the rail power and restored representative government to his own state of



Wisconsin. A crank, a showman, incorruptibly honest and unutterably fascinating, Robert La Follette was to become the most hated Senator of his time. He asked the unanswerable: why did his fellow Senators forget the nation and remember the railroads? "Why did trusts come ahead of the people?"

The galleries cheered. His fellow Senators walked out. The reporters' pencils flew. La Follette and his new breed did what all the moralists and eggheads had been unable to do: they got through to the people. The rolling eloquence of the shaggy Borah and La Follette's unyielding integrity stirred the country awake at last. The Seventeenth Amendment became law.

Of Snuff, Sin and the Senate makes fascinating a period most historians have written off as impossibly dull, dominated as it was by men whose consuming passion was money. The Rienows have even succeeded in winning sympathy for those half-forgotten Presidents of the squalid years. But, for all its color and readability, their book is curiously un-

satisfactory, almost one-dimensional. It is repetitive, jumbled in chronology, and dangling with loose ends; we never learn, for instance, whether "Pitchfork" Ben Tillman ever had that confrontation with Theodore Roosevelt. There are errors of fact: Idaho will not relish having the mighty Borah assigned to Utah! There is no real probing into how the whole structure of American democracy could have become so perverted as to cause the president of Cornell to write our system off as "the worst in Christendom." Certainly, the underlying cause

was deeper than the fact that the economy was booming, and that legislatures could choose Senators. Nor is it at all clear how the reformers finally achieved their ends.

For all its shock value, however, the book deserves reading, by scholars as well as sensation-seekers. These are grave questions that it raises and leaves unanswered, as once again millionaires dominate the Senate and the Presidency. This truly "tragic era" deserves a more thorough and penetrating treatment than it has received here.

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

Archeology

ANCIENT AFRICAN KINGDOMS. By Margaret Shinnie. St. Martin's. \$4.95.

Business, Economics

THE CREATIVE ORGANIZATION. Edited by Gary A. Steiner. Univ. of Chicago Press. \$5.

A PREFACE TO URBAN ECONOMICS. By Wilbur R. Thompson. Johns Hopkins. \$7.50.

REFORMING THE WORLD'S MONEY. By Sir Roy Harrod. St. Martin's. \$5.95.

Current Affairs

ARMS, MONEY AND POLITICS. By Julius Dusha. McKay. \$4.50.

THE BRITISH GENERAL ELECTIONS OF 1964. By D. E. Butler and Anthony King. St. Martin's. \$9.

CAMPAIGN FEVER. By Charles McDowell, Jr. Morrow. \$4.50.

THE LIBERAL ESTABLISHMENT. By M. Stanton Evans. Devin-Adair. \$5.95.

OUR DEPLETED SOCIETY. By Seymour Melman. Holt, Rinehart & Winston. \$5.95.

Fiction

THE ADAPTABLE MAN. By Janet Frame. Braziller. \$4.95.

ESAU AND JACOB. By Machado de Assis. Univ. of California Press. \$3.50.

THE GODDESS QUEEN. By Nicole Vidal. McKay. \$5.95.

THE SEAT OF POWER. By James D. Horan. Crown. \$5.95.

STARTING FROM TOMORROW. By Tony Gray. Little, Brown. \$4.

History

THE ANCIENT WORLD. By Luigi Pareti, Paolo Brezzi and Luciano Petch. Harper & Row. \$15.50.

THE DAYS OF THE UPRIGHT: A History of the Huguenots. By O.I.A. Roche. Clarkson N. Potter. \$6.95.

THE FALL OF STEIN. By Richard C. Raack. Harvard Univ. Press. \$6.50.

THE OLD REPUBLICANS: Southern Conservatism in the Age of Jefferson. By Norman K. Risjord. Columbia Univ. Press. \$7.95.

THE SECRET OF D-DAY. By Gilles Perault. Little, Brown. \$4.95.

UNITED STATES POLICY AND THE PARTITION OF TURKEY, 1919-1924. By Laurence Evans. Johns Hopkins. \$7.95.

Literary Criticism

DICKENS: The Dreamer's Stance. By Taylor Stoehr. Cornell Univ. Press. \$5.75.

TLS 3: Essays and Reviews from *The Times Literary Supplement* 1964. Oxford Univ. Press. \$7.

WILLIAM BLAKE AND THE AGE OF REVOLUTION. By J. Bronowski. Harper & Row. \$5.

Miscellaneous

BALSAM FIR: A Monographic Review. By Egolf V. Bakuzis and Henry L. Hansen. Univ. of Minnesota Press. \$9.50.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE BOOK, Series #92. By Margaret Farrar. Simon & Schuster. \$1.95.

DECORATIVE ART IN MODERN INTERIORS #55. Edited by Ella Moody. Viking. \$12.50.

THE MANAGEMENT OF ARCHIVES. By T. R. Schellenberg. Columbia Univ. Press. \$12.

PRACTICAL MOSAICS. By Hans Unger. Viking. \$6.95.

Personal History

LADY OF THE HOUSE. By Sally Stanford. Putnam. \$4.95.

YESTERDAY IS TOMORROW. By Malvina Hoffman. Crown. \$7.50.

Poetry

THE GREEN FIG TREE. By Michael Parr. St. Martin's. \$3.95.

LODGERS: Poems. By Tony Connor. Oxford Univ. Press. \$4.25.

Psychology

SEX OFFENDERS. By Dr. Paul Gebhard, John Gagnon, Dr. Wardell Pomeroy and Cornelia Christenson. Harper & Row. \$12.50.

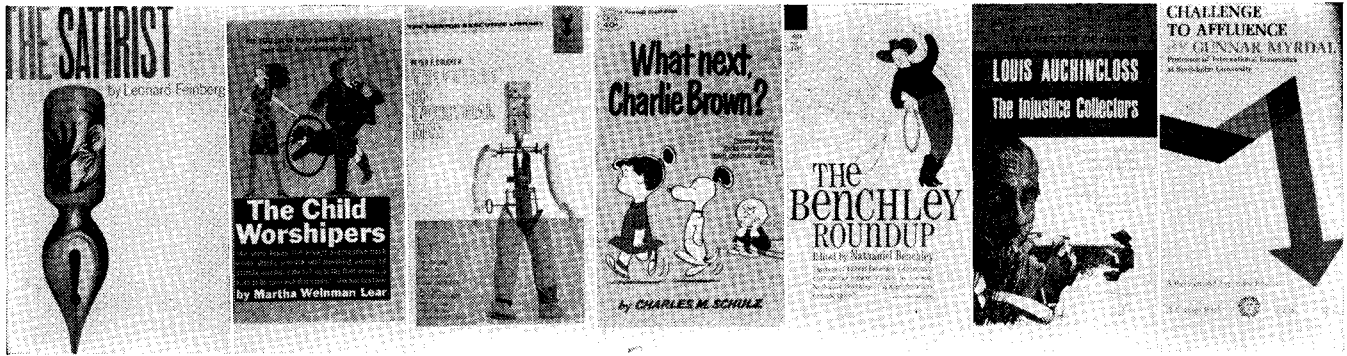
Travel

BETWEEN NIGER AND NILE. By Arnold J. Toynbee. Oxford Univ. Press. \$3.75.

CAVIAR FOR BREAKFAST: An American Woman's Adventures in Russia. By Ray Pierre Corsini. Bobbs-Merrill. \$5.95.

ITALY: A Journey Through Time. By John A. Crow. Harper & Row. \$5.95.

—Compiled by MIMI FRANKLIN.



PICK OF THE PAPERBACKS

Art, yes; but packaged nostalgia, too, that's what it is. Remember Irwin Shaw's "The Girls in Their Summer Dresses," that jeweled exercise in girl-watching? Remember James Thurber's "The Catbird Seat"? And what about J. D. Salinger's astonishing "A Perfect Day for Bananafish"? All first appeared, of course, in *The New Yorker*. And one of the fanciest, most inviting boxes of goodies around is the new three-volume, gift-packed set of *Stories from the New Yorker* (Essandess, \$7.95 per set; Vols. I and II, \$2.50 each, Vol. III, \$2.95). Spanning the years from 1925 to 1960, the collection skims 170 of the creamiest stories from the top. Who would remember as *New Yorker* writers Thomas Wolfe ("Only the Dead Know Brooklyn") and Sherwood Anderson ("Nice Girl")? There are names that came and went, and some that have stayed: Sally Benson, E. B. White, John Cheever, Dorothy Parker, John O'Hara, Kay Boyle, and on and on. Reading their stories is like peeking back into their primes—and ours.

Usually when an editor hangs up his hat the news is of little interest to those outside the book publishing world. But we couldn't let Victor Weybright exchange his seat as editor-in-chief for that of chairman of the board of The New American Library without some proper notice. During Mr. Weybright's twenty years as NAL editor, he has pioneered in every aspect of paperback publishing. The Signet Classics series now numbers more than 250 books, while other volumes range from translations of obscure Latin works to the million-plus printings of Ian Fleming and Erskine Caldwell. If Mr. Weybright took the lead in trail-blazing variety and content of paperbacks, he also opened the door to higher prices. "Today's prices must make many readers nostalgic for the old days of the 25¢ paperback," he recalled in his New York office recently. "But remember, the inflexible 25¢ price restricted mass paperbacks to a comparatively limited range of length, illustration, and content." Then he added philosophically, as befits the new chairman of the board, "No one wants to go back to the Model T book."

—ROLLENE W. SAAL.

Fiction

To some critics, Bernard Malamud has never written a better novel than his 1952 *The Natural* (Dell, 75¢). Setting the prototype of the baseball hero against the background of the famous Chicago Black Sox scandal, Malamud satirizes the American national pastime, and a good part of the USA as well. Say it ain't so, Joe.

Louis Auchincloss, that chronicler of upper-class modes and manners, is well represented in this month's paperbacks. *Venus in Sparta* is about extramarital shenanigans, while *The Great World and Timothy Colt* (Crest, 60¢ each) takes a look at the machinations that go on in even the sleekest of Manhattan law firms. *The Injustice Collectors* (Signet, 60¢) tells tales on those hypertense personalities who amass grievances the way other people gather rosebuds. If Auchincloss's novels are smooth, ur-

bane, and often similar in subject and tone, Gore Vidal's are startlingly different, as witness *Messiah* (Ballantine, 60¢), a weird offering with such characters as the 2,200-year-old woman: "You have been malingering in the garden," Clarissa said, offering me her face like a painted plate to kiss." A bold and blessed improvement is *Julian* (Signet, 95¢), about the elegant emperor who tried in vain to keep alive the flame of Hellenism before Christianity triumphed. It was a fascinating moment in history, and Vidal's ornate prose strikes the perfect chime.

Members of a still younger generation of American writers are Reynolds Price and William Goldman. Price's *A Long and Happy Life* (Avon, 60¢) was received gloriously by literary critics, who compared the prose and setting with those of Faulkner. Among its other attributes, this first novel boasts a heroine with the improbable but memorable name of Rosacoke Mustian. William

Goldman's *Boys and Girls Together* (Bantam, 95¢), a complicated story of several young men and women in search of love and maturity, boasts a vigorous style.

Duly noted: *Three Novels by Samuel Beckett* (Evergreen, \$1.45), not novels at all in the conventional beginning-middle-and-end sense, comprising the trilogy "Molloy," "Malone Dies," and "The Unnamable"; Balzac's *Cousin Bette* (Penguin, \$1.45), in which a nasty poor relative gets her own back from her aristocratic family; *To Love and Be Wise* (Dell, 50¢), another of Josephine Tey's perfectly sculptured mysteries.

Humor

Robert Benchley is a man for all seasons, but in the summertime his wry and ceaselessly clever essays are practically a necessity. *The Benchley Roundup* (Dell, 75¢), edited by his son Nathaniel, offers such solace as "The Tortures of Week-End Visiting"; "Summer Shirtings," in which he muses upon such tiresome burdens as sports clothes, hay fever, and daylight saving; the delicious "Kiddie-Kar Travel" ("traveling with children corresponds roughly with traveling third class in Bulgaria"). A delightful book.

Will Cuppy was another such humorist. He philosophizes about a whole zoo of animals from sea serpents to emus ("getting kicked by an emu isn't worse than a lot of things") in *How to Attract the Wombat* (Dover, \$1). Better known are the funny pieces in *How to Become Extinct* (Dover, \$1), illustrated by William Steig, which offers such products of Mr. Cuppy's imagination as learned discussions of the pterodactyl and the woolly mammoth, "Reptiles I'm Always Meeting," and the pensive "Do Fish Think, Really?"

Some, like, for instance, Charlie Chaplin, see humor as merely beneficial. "I look upon humor," he said, "as a kind of gentle and benevolent custodian of the mind which prevents one from being overwhelmed by the apparent seriousness of life." Leonard Feinberg analyzes