

deal of bewilderment if she had not been so scornful of commas, semicolons, and quotation marks. Yet the characters become surprisingly clear as the novel develops, and the situation, as the reader reconstructs it for himself, is not without drama. Whatever else is true, Miss Quin has a feeling for words, and there are memorable passages.

Miss Quin is an Englishwoman living in America, whereas Janet Burroway, author of *Eyes* (Little, Brown, \$4.95) is an American living in England. *Eyes*, which is Miss Burroway's third novel, is well constructed in a conventional way and pleasantly readable. It is set in a Southern city, and the action, of which there is plenty, takes place in twenty-four hours. Dr. Rugg, an eye surgeon, learns that he has a serious heart condition, but he continues to meet his responsibilities in his customary fashion. He has a grown son, Hilary; and now his wife, after more than twenty years, is again pregnant. Hilary, who works on the local newspaper, also has problems, and so has his fiancée, Jadeen, a schoolteacher. In the end, Dr. Rugg's outspokenness precipitates a crisis that affects the lives of all the other characters.

Miss Burroway handles the complicated plot with considerable skill, moving gracefully from situation to situation. She has a nice feeling for the character of urban life today: Mrs. Rugg, for example, shopping in a supermarket, remembers how as the child of a poor family in Ireland she would go to the local store, repeating to herself, "a quarter pound of bacon, two cabbages, a stoneweight of spuds and a half-ounce McKay's Cut Plug." Now, moving through the "careless glorious pyramids" of citrus fruits, she comes to "pineapples and coconuts, mangos, avocados, figs, plantains, breadfruit, passion fruit and pomegranates." The problem of race prejudice is treated with a light touch, but Jadeen does learn from Dr. Rugg's example that compromise is not always a virtue.

I have commented on *Eyes* not because I think it is an important book, but because it is a good example of the kind of competent, intelligent novel that is so frequently overlooked. There are, I am sure, a good many people who would enjoy reading it if they were aware of its existence. —GRANVILLE HICKS.



For Anglophiles

LONDON, FLOWER OF CITIES ALL. Text by Richard Church. Drawings and paintings by Imre Hoffbauer. John Day. 208 pp. \$15.

LONDON A LA MODE. Drawings and captions by Paul Hogarth. Text by Malcolm Muggeridge. Hill & Wang. 144 pp. \$6.95.

LONDON ON THE THAMES. By Blake Ehrlich. Little, Brown. 435 pp. \$8.95. Illustrated with black-and-white engravings.

LETTERS TO THE Book Review Editor



Narrowed Credibility Gap

ONE THING SEEMS PRETTY CERTAIN from all the controversy over the Warren Commission's Report [SR, Oct. 22]. If the President had appointed, along with the Republicans, Democrats *et al.* a thoroughgoing newspaperman, some first-class muckraker who would ask pointed questions, embarrassing questions, all sorts of inconvenient questions, and who would demand answers for the record; a man who would care little if anything about votes, future appointments, or calming "public unrest"—or sleeping dogs or sacred cows—the end results could quite possibly have been the same as they now are but the "credibility gap" if any would have been much narrower.

DONALD C. SKONE-PALMER.
Van Nuys, Calif.

THE WARREN REPORT shows rather conclusively that Oswald alone, and with private motivation, killed the President. It does not, however, prove that he killed officer Tippit. It appears to me that by weird coincidence the President's killer was captured under the mistaken notion that he was Tippit's killer.

The time of the Presidential shooting and the time of the report of the police killing are established facts. Under optimum conditions Oswald may have been able to cover the ground, but he would not have been able to do any of the things in between, such as obtain a soft drink, pay the cab driver, put on his jacket, and talk to officer Tippit. It simply adds up to too much. . . .

The same timing which makes it impossible for Oswald to have shot Tippit makes it very possible for him to have gone to the Texas Theater after stopping off at his rooming house. It is much more likely that Tippit was shot by a known criminal that he had accosted. By ignoring reason and refusing to believe the unbelievable the Warren Commission opened itself for accusations of conspiracy and cover-up. It will look very odd one of these days when the Tippit killer shows up.

THOMAS T. HAMILTON.
Virginia Beach, Va.

IT WOULD REQUIRE A BOOK the size of the Report to pin down the injudicious way in which Judge Fein castigates those who have dared to question the Commission.

S. S. SCHINDLER.
Hewlett, N.Y.

A People Maligned

WE WHO LIVE IN HAWAII were deeply chagrined at the appearance of the book *Hawaii*, with its shameful misrepresentation of the Hawaiian people as ignorant savages and the missionaries as self-serving bigots. Soon after its publication, author James

Michener left Hawaii rather than face the scorn of the people he had maligned.

The Hawaiian people were one of the most intelligent, tolerant, and happy races on this earth. They have been cheated, corrupted, infected, and misled, but not by the missionaries. Their literature was impressive, though unwritten, characterized by a sensitivity of feeling and precision of expression which are rare today. Many examples of that early culture were destroyed, not by the missionaries but by overzealous converts and by the Hawaiian kahuna (priests) who wished to avoid desecration of their relics.

Now the long-awaited movie version of *Hawaii* is here, and is found to be tedious and boring despite beautiful scenery and excellent acting. We wish that all of the four million people who bought the book and all those who will see the movie could be made to understand that it is wholly fictional.

EMERSON C. SMITH,
Hawaiian Historical Society.
Honolulu, Hawaii

A Thing That Is Man's

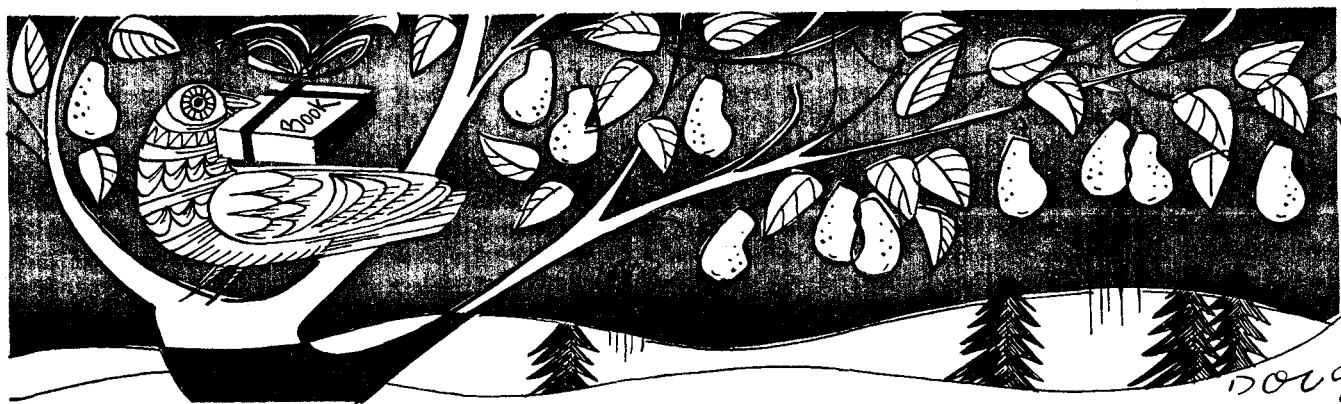
BIOLOGICAL EVOLUTION is now accepted by all but a few. In *The Territorial Imperative* [SR, Sept. 17] Robert Ardrey presents a hypothesis for social evolution which contradicts the Christian church's position, and so Father G. G. Grant [Letters to Book Review Editor, Nov. 5] is, in effect, accusing Ardrey of heresy. Shades of Galileo! But to make the argument even more ridiculous, the church does not follow the precepts of Christ which were enunciated in the Sermon on the Mount, and which is a slave morality, promising reward in the hereafter, but not now. Christ also said, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." War is a problem for men to solve in men's ways, not through the offices of the church. The church deals with the soul, with man's relation to God. Man must deal with man's relation to man.

ROLF B. REESE.
Seattle, Wash.

Ecumenical Results

AT FIRST I WAS SIDETRACKED from Father Daniel J. O'Hanlon's review of *Paul Blanshard on Vatican II* by the excellent cartoon on the same page [SR, Nov. 12]. But Father O'Hanlon's list of the areas where he agreed with Blanshard brought me very wide awake. Would it not be valid evidence in itself of the results of Vatican II in that a Jesuit theologian agrees with Paul Blanshard?

HAYDEN L. GILMORE,
Chaplain, Capt, USAF.
Aurora, Colo.



A WONDERLAND OF CHRISTMAS BOOKS

By ROCHELLE GIRSON

CHRISTMAS is a time to bask in the blessedness of giving. To keep it unmixed with the misery of what to give whom, leaf through back issues to the first of each month, when *SR* recommends the best fiction and general titles of the previous four weeks (see page 18). The books singled out in this number have been selected to compliment interests from spiritual to culinary. In addition to numerous reference works described in *SR* November 24, art books mentioned in these columns and by George Heard Hamilton on page 33 would be welcomed in a great many homes. For the world- and travel-minded—whether student or adult—there are views of foreign lands. Some are included in Photography Editor Margaret R. Weiss's annotations on page 36; others appear here. A book seemingly specialized need not be wedded to aficionados; e.g., a study of ancient coins might delight anyone fascinated by the past. The trick is to discern related bents. On page 38 Haskel Frankel's inventory of the seventy-five-cent-to-five-dollar market includes the offbeat. Christmas, however, is the season when publishers offer their most opulent wares. If they are overweight as well, there is joy nonetheless in the beautiful behemoths.

The interfaith dialogue (see page 42) has inspired innumerable works, particularly since Pope John XXIII summoned the ecumenical conclave that opened in October 1962. An imposing tribute to it is *The Council: The Second Vatican Council*, by Lothar Wolleh with the collaboration of Reverend Emil Schmitz, S.J., translated from various languages by Angus Malcolm (Viking, Unpaginated, \$38.50). Bound in simulated white kid lettered in gold, the volume tells the story of Vatican II in an

out-sized type font in keeping with the book's 13"x17½" format, while numerous color and black-and-white photographs recreate the pageantry at St. Peter's. Most endearing among the illustrations are the unguarded expressions caught in candid shots of the participants. The book has the imprimatur of Francis Cardinal Spellman.

Although it includes a history of Vatican II and the sixteen Council documents, Mario von Galli's text for *The Council and the Future* (McGraw-Hill, 299 pp. \$10.95) concentrates on the constitutions relating to the liturgy, revelation, the Church, and its stance vis-à-vis the world. As in the Wolleh book, implicit in the photographs by Bernhard Moosbrugger, as well as the intuitive drawings by Fritz Weigner at the beginning of each section, are essential statements not articulated in the text.

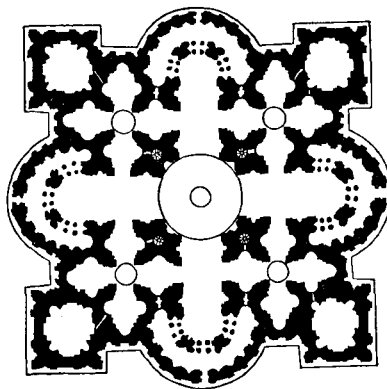
When Bernardo Rossellino was commissioned in 1454 to build a new basilica for the shrine of St. Peter in Rome, he envisioned the sanctuary as a Latin cross. Donato Bramante, under whose direction the edifice was again started in 1506, altered it to a Greek cross, an outline

also favored by Michelangelo after several architects, Raphael among them, had tinkered with the design. However, with the addition of a long nave by Carlo Maderna in 1605, the plan reverted to the elongated cross. In construction from 1506-1626 and completely hand-built, St. Peter's is the largest church in the world, occupying more than five acres on the site of Nero's circus and a fourth-century basilica. *The Story of St. Peter's*, by Thea and Richard Bergere (Dodd, Mead, 128 pp. \$4.95), includes black-and-white photographs, prints of old floor plans, and architectural details.

To win the imprimatur of His Eminence, Richard Cardinal Cushing, and thereby advance the ecumenical colloquy, but fourteen editorial revisions in the annotations were required of *The Oxford Annotated Bible with the Apocrypha* (Oxford, 1,944 pp. \$10.50). The Revised Standard Version text, RSV footnotes, and supplementary articles are unchanged in the new edition, which has colored maps of Palestine in Persian-Hellenistic times and the Near East in the Hellenistic period, showing the Ptolemaic and Seleucid empires.

Although its jacket carries the "YA" seal of approval for young adults, adult adults will also find enlightening Robert Payne's study of the first 1,300 years of Christendom, *The Christian Centuries* (Norton, 450 pp. \$8.95). The book encompasses such related topics as Islam and the changes wrought by Byzantine, Romanesque, and Gothic art. "The artists performed a priestly function," Mr. Payne writes with reference to the first, "for they depicted the splendors of the celestial city. The churches were not simply places of worship, but portions of heaven."

The angels have sulky expressions and the Infant Jesus rides piggyback on



—From "The Story of St. Peter's."

Bramante's plan for St. Peter's.