

Julian Quist, public relations counselor to the stars. In this case the champagne trail leads to madness and murder. It's very heavy stuff for readers who take their glamour undiluted and with the mere suggestion of a twist.

Raymond Chandler once said of Dashiell Hammett that he "gave murder back to the kind of people that commit it for reasons, not just to provide a corpse; and with the means at hand, not with hand-wrought duelling pistols, curare, and tropical fish." Both authors are being reissued for the first time in years. Ballantine books is publishing such Chandler classics as *The Big Sleep*, *The Lady in the Lake*, *The High Window*, and *The Long Goodbye*, while Vintage has reissued Hammett's *The Thin Man*, *The Maltese Falcon*, and *The Glass Key* (considered by many to be Hammett's best). Rereading them is almost as good as reading them for the first time. □

SHORTER REVIEWS

LICIT AND ILLICIT DRUGS: The Consumers Union Report on Narcotics, Stimulants, Depressants, Inhalants, Hallucinogens, and Marijuana—including Caffeine, Nicotine, and Alcohol. By Edward M. Brecher and the Editors of "Consumer Reports." Illustrated. 623 pages. Little, Brown. \$15.

Lenny Bruce once said that he expected marijuana to be legalized soon because all the law students were turning on. What may have been merely a joke only a few years ago seems closer to reality today; there was even a proposition to legalize marijuana on the California ballot in this year's election. Although those former law students may have had something to do with it, the real reason that a trend has developed toward the liberalization of our drug laws—according to the editors of this valuable and inclusive report—is that today's "drug fiends" are no longer only people with dark skins or people who live in another part of town but the sons and daughters of Middle America. This massive report, which has been five years in the making and comes under the very respectable auspices of Consumers Union (CU's 1963 *Report on Smoking and the Public Interest* was a major influence in the preparation of the Surgeon General's 1964 report on cigarettes and health), is bound both to have impact on medical, educational, and legislative thinking and to stir up considerable controversy. Exploring both social and scientific aspects of various types of drugs here and abroad, it argues that the roots of the drug "problem" in this

country are embedded not so much in the harmfulness of drugs themselves as in our legislative decisions, beginning in 1914, to outlaw certain drugs and thereby "stamp out" drug abuse and in the methods that have been used to propagandize and enforce these decisions. Thus, "the damage done by heroin . . . is largely traceable to anti-narcotics laws and policies and to the heroin black market that has grown up under the shelter of those laws and policies." Marijuana, after a third of a century of escalating penalties and "scare publicity," has reached "an unprecedented peak of popularity." Much the same is said of LSD. The speed freak, the book suggests, may disappear—"unless of course, a new wave of antispeed propaganda alerts a new generation of young people." Moreover, in addition to inciting use of illicit drugs, many of our laws make these drugs *more* dangerous than they might otherwise be (e.g., the lack of control of contaminated illicit drugs; the fact that "the sale or possession of hypodermic needles without prescription is a criminal offense—a policy which leads to the use of nonsterile needles, to the sharing of needles, and to epidemics of hepatitis and other crippling, and sometimes fatal, needle-borne diseases"). Covering all the drugs commonly, and not so commonly, associated with our nation's drug problem, *Licit and Illicit Drugs* notes that "by far the most popular mind-affecting drugs in the United States today are caffeine, nicotine, and alcohol The amount of harm done to the human body by nicotine and alcohol, moreover, vastly exceeds the physical harm done by all of the other psychoactive drugs put together. Further, the amount of damage done to the human mind by alcohol alone, as measured by mental hospital admissions, vastly exceeds the mental harm done by all of the other psychoactive drugs put together." At the end the report offers a series of conclusions and recommendations. It suggests that prohibition and scare publicity are countereffectual as deterrents and that many current anti-drug laws that actually increase the dangers of drugs should be abandoned. It calls for a reclassification of drugs based on scientific knowledge and different modes of drug use and for a truthful, unsensational, responsible drug education and control program geared, not to a national mania, but to real and local needs.

WORKING THROUGH: A Teacher's Journey in the Urban University. By Leonard Kriegel. 210 pages. Saturday Review Press. \$6.95.

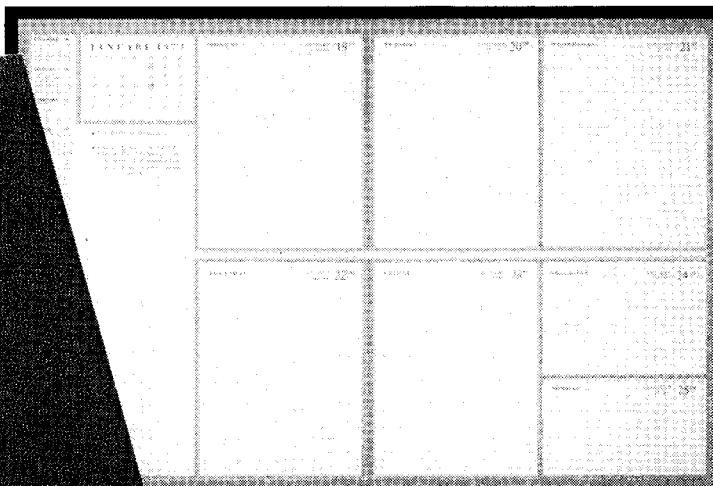
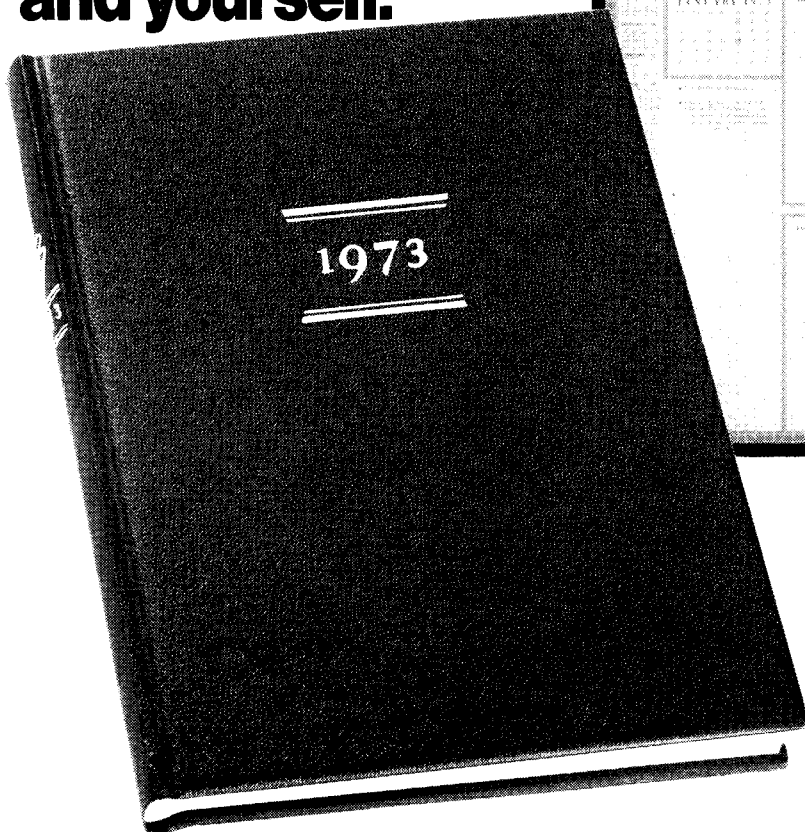
The author, a native New Yorker who did undergraduate work at Hunter Col-

lege, received an M.A. at Columbia University and a Ph.D. from New York University, was among the last of that generation of working-class students of the 1950s who saw education as the way to secure and enlarge the toe hold their immigrant parents had gained. Then came the 1960s, the decade of turmoil on the campuses, and the props were knocked out from under those values. It was a time when Kriegel, then an associate professor at the City College of New York, experienced, along with many of his colleagues, "a spiritual and intellectual disintegration," a loss of faith in the significance of the profession—and looked to their students for leadership. The author, however, doesn't set himself up as a spokesman for anybody; he is simply one teacher trying to come to grips with how the colleges can best function now. He admits to feeling skeptical and uncomfortable with the "relevant" new curriculums—"the relevant is not always real"—and he is convinced that we lose something of value by letting go of a more traditional curriculum. Open admissions, he thinks, is, on the other hand, a probably necessary innovation and, with a concentrated program of remedial work where required, a promising avenue toward truly egalitarian higher education. The responsibility is there, he contends, because the urban university must now be considered the prototype for the American city. Kriegel is never self-serving; a candid man whose decency comes across on every page, he is more interested in exploring viable means of teaching than he is in proving a point.

POWER AND INNOCENCE: A Search for the Sources of Violence. By Rollo May. 283 pages. W. W. Norton. \$7.95.

On the theory that flowers aren't going to disarm rifles and wishing won't make it so, Dr. Rollo May (whose previous book, *Love and Will*, was a much-praised bestseller) would have us put away what he calls "pseudoinnocence"—the type Melville wrote about in *Billy Budd*, *Foretopman* and, more recently, Charles Reich about Consciousness III—and get down to the real business of coping with what is. "When we face questions too big and too horrendous to contemplate, such as the dropping of the atomic bomb," Dr. May elaborates, "we tend to shrink into this kind of innocence and make a virtue of powerlessness, weakness, and helplessness . . . we do not then need to see the real dangers." And therein, he says, lies potential destruction. Dr. May is too reasonable and thoughtful a writer merely to mock counterculture values; what he is about is to assess various

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social attitudes in order to explain why it is essential that workable means be found for returning authentic power to people. "Power is the birthright of every human being," he says. Building on the truism that each of us needs a sense of significance (not fulfilled by dropping out), Dr. May discusses five levels of the potential power present in every human: the infant's power to be; self-affirmation, the ability to survive with self-esteem; self-assertion, which develops when self-affirmation is blocked; aggression, a reaction to thwarted assertion; and, finally, violence, when reason and persuasion are ineffective. For blacks, women, and underdeveloped colonials, among others, a burst of violence can be psychologically and spiritually life giving, a step out of apathy, Dr. May writes. But violence in itself omits rationality, he adds, and, when taken to its extreme form, becomes *destructive*. In order to mitigate the need for violence, we must recognize the underlying causes of the social disease of impotence, Dr. May stresses, and deal not merely with symptoms. Power with responsibility has to be distributed, "not paternalistically, but authentically." And, if the means are not explored, Dr. May's prognosis is ominous: "We are going to have upheavals of violence for as long as experiences of significance are denied people . . . and if we can't make that possible . . . then it will be obtained in destructive ways. The challenge before us is to find ways that people can achieve significance and recognition so that destructive violence will not be necessary."

UNDER AN ENGLISH HEAVEN. By Donald E. Westlake. Illustrated. 278 pages. Simon & Schuster. \$7.95.

The Caribbean island of Anguilla, a mere mouse of a Crown Colony (fifteen miles long, 6,000 population), spent something like 147 years alternately hissing and meowing to catch the benevolent attention of the British Lion. Ironically, when the lion finally did take notice in 1969, she misinterpreted the islanders' hijinks as an insurrection—and roared back with an invasion of two warships, seven transport planes, and four helicopters, carrying 315 paratroopers, forty marines, and forty London policemen. But the mouse, which was "armed" with a total of thirty-nine weapons, actually purred as the "conqueror" brought engineers to the island to build roads, install power plants, improve the water situation, and restore a telephone network that had been knocked out seven years before by a hurricane. Donald E. Westlake is a mystery novelist and an entertaining writer who plays it with tongue in cheek as he recounts Britain's embar-

assment and historic frustrations in trying to ignore or, ideally, be rid of the tiresome problem of Anguilla. One unworkable solution, and the primary reason for Anguilla's discontent, was to hook the colony into statehood with the Caribbean island of St. Kitts, seventy miles from Anguilla and, from all reports, governed by a tyrant. Westlake is also appropriately indignant as he gives the back of his hand to the charlatans, do-gooders, and busybodies who latched onto the Anguillian fiasco. Among the more colorful characters were a group of San Franciscans, including a newspaper editor, an advertising executive, a proctologist, and an economics professor, who pushed for their own highly romanticized notions about the purity of a small city-state. This bizarre group minted "Anguillian" currency, designed a flag (mermaids were a prominent feature), and even placed a fund-raising advertisement in the *New York Times* offering contributors a special "Anguillian passport." (The Anguillians publicly disclaimed the ad.) There was also a Harvard law professor who, on his own, framed a constitution for the island and then tried to get spokesman recognition from the United Nations third subcommittee of the Special Committee on Colonialism, a decidedly anti-colonial group. (The island, remember, was trying to *hold onto* its colonial status.) The Anguillian caper is a quirky footnote to history, which, like Alice's adventures in the looking glass, becomes curiously and curiously.

THE TOOTH TRIP. By Thomas McGuire, D.D.S. Illustrated. 233 pages. Bookworks/Random House. Hardcover, \$6.95; paperback, \$3.95.

Thomas McGuire, a West Coast dentist, believes in preventive dentistry; he also believes that much preventive tooth and gum care can, with proper knowledge and determination, be done at home. This remarkable little book tells you how; more than that, it is a guide to the mouth—what it does, what's in it (and what shouldn't be in it), what can go wrong, how to recognize tooth and gum diseases, and what to do about them, including when to see a dentist and how to tell a good dentist from a poor one. Dr. McGuire's plain objective is to help you save your teeth (he believes most teeth can be saved); along the way he dispels much of the mystery, ignorance, and fear that unnecessarily surround the subject of dentistry. The book is written in plain English, with humor and common sense, and there are drawings to help you see what's what. Among the many making-do/self-help books, this is surely one of the most needed and, potentially, one of the most useful.

FROM THE LAND AND BACK. By Curtis K. Stadtfeld. Illustrated. 202 pages. Scribner's. \$6.95.

This modest, leisurely, often beautiful book is the story of how Mr. Stadtfeld's forefathers "picked a somewhat inhospitable portion of central Michigan, put their roots down, made farms and homes and futures, and how all that they built for generations was swept away almost overnight by technological change." Its importance, however, stretches beyond the particular family involved—it is, in microcosm, nothing less than the story of the permanent disappearance of a whole way of life. The book is, of course, nostalgic, but not sentimental: Stadtfeld is not only aware of the disadvantages of farm life but clearheaded about the impact of World War II and the eagerly embraced consumer society that followed. "I have tried to show," he writes, "how fragile a rural society is when it is based on isolation and ignorance of the outside world. That is a lesson that those disenchanted young people who seek the simple life of the farm should know." The text is accompanied by line drawings of the Stadtfeld farm by Franklin McMahon and a foreword by René Dubos. □

Looking It Up

A Survey of Recent Reference Books

BY DAVID M. GLIXON

It has been SR's custom each spring and fall to present a roundup of recently published reference books. No survey is complete, of course, and in matters of reference new is not necessarily better; many of the old and standard works remain the standard works. Nevertheless, the continuing evolution of such books is of interest; it provides one window through which we can follow, at a distance, the continuing evolution of society.

With the first four volumes published out of an eventual twelve, the *Dictionary of Scientific Biography* has already made a major contribution to the history and understanding of many disciplines. Well organized, clearly written, and supplemented with chemical and mathematical diagrams, these accounts, edited by Charles C. Gillespie under the auspices of the American Council of Learned Societies, delve deeply into the careers and accomplishments of scores of scientists of all periods. Volume V (Scribner's, \$35), covering *Fi* through *Ha*, includes articles on Sir Alexander Fleming and his discovery of penicillin; Armand Hippolyte Louis Fizeau and Jean Bernard Léon Foucault, who pioneered research into the velocity of light; Benjamin Franklin, as well as the less well-known Rosalind Franklin, who did important studies on DNA before she