

there are redeeming scientific or informative values. I can't find any. The authors do not seriously analyze the real problems that peek through their anecdotal approach nor propose solutions beyond anodynes. The book is too boring to inform the uneducated audience for which it may have been meant and reveals nothing worth telling to even mildly educated persons.

*Victims*, by J.L. Barkas, is a less pretentious book, and holds one's attention. It dramatizes, in serviceable English, the inadequacies of our criminal justice nonsystem and their effects on criminals (encouraging) and victims (discouraging). The statements of the distressed victims are often moving, the data accurate. Yet this too is a nonbook, a collection of anecdotes. There is no serious attempt to order, let alone organize, the material, to make sense of it, to analyze what is wrong in our system, to suggest how victimization can be reduced, and, importantly, victims helped.

A nonfiction book, if it does not break new ground, must at least provide some information not generally known, information that cannot be gleaned from any newspaper, and an analysis that helps our understanding of the material. Neither of these books meets this lenient criterion. A good popular book about victimization and victims is very much needed. It remains to be written. ©

*Ernest van den Haag is a professor of law at New York Law School. His latest book is Punishing Criminals (Basic Books).*

## Books in Brief

**Suffer the Children:**  
**The Story of Thalidomide**  
by the Insight Team of the "Sunday Times of London"  
Viking, 309 pp., \$12.95

IN THE LATE 1950s thousands of physically deformed and mentally handicapped children were born to unsuspecting mothers who had taken thalidomide as a sedative. The tragedy, though universally publicized and mourned, was compounded by fierce and protracted legal struggles between the parents of the ravaged youngsters and the large drug companies that had marketed the sedative. Britain was the battlefield of a particularly poignant and horrifying case study, a 20-year saga the details of which are finally set forth in this thorough and compassionate investigation by six members of the London Sunday Times staff.

There are actually two stories told here. One is a history of the drug's

inception, marketing, and devastating effects. The other is an exploration of how British laws prevented the press from investigating the national tragedy.

When British parents banded together to demand that the Health Ministry conduct an inquiry, their request was denied. They were forced to sue Distillers, the company that had distributed the drug in Britain. But as soon as the parents were locked into litigation, the British laws of contempt of court precluded an examination by the press and support from a sympathetic public.

Though stymied by gag orders, the *Times* did manage to publish a story in 1968 on the roots of the thalidomide tragedy. In the early Seventies they leaked information to the public through articles peripherally related to the court case. Parliament's interest was sparked, stirring a national debate on the thalidomide disaster and the role of the press.

The newspaper's efforts yielded a higher settlement for the parents, but it was not until 1977—when the European Commission of Human Rights voted that the House of Lords had deprived the *Times* of free speech—that it was able to publish an uncensored account of the saga in its pages.

Here, as in our own Watergate debacle, the press scored a resounding victory. But the Insight Team is humble and suitably skeptical about the effects of its work. It has not radically altered the laws of the system which permitted such an injustice. And it can never repair the damaged lives of the thalidomide families.

—SUSAN OCHSHORN

**The Madisons**  
by Virginia Moore  
McGraw-Hill, 568 pp., \$15

IT WAS A MARRIAGE of opposites—and, it seemed, one of convenience. James Madison was a 43-year-old, undersized, bookish bachelor with a history of epileptoid hysteria. Dolley Payne Todd was a 26-year-old bosomy widow with an open-faced joy of life. He needed a hostess to help discharge his social obligations; she, a father to help raise her 2-year-old son.

Virginia Moore's *The Madisons* richly demonstrates that the marriage was far more than a convenience. For Dolley it meant liberation. The former Quaker (she was expelled for marrying an Episcopalian) donned low-cut gowns, played loo, sipped wine, took snuff. But she was no mere butterfly. Moore, a poet-novelist-literary biographer, has perceived a vital transformation. When Dolley married James she was more a woman of heart than of

**The true story of a prescription  
for disaster which  
could never before be told.  
Read it for your own protection.**

"That so much misery could follow from carelessness and cover-up is tragic; that it could recur is fearsome, yet the conditions which countenanced this disaster persist."  
—*Kirkus Reviews*

"A model of responsible journalistic investigation...long overdue."  
—*The New York Times Book Review*



**SUFFER THE CHILDREN**  
**The Story of Thalidomide**  
by the Insight Team of  
*The Sunday Times of London*  
\$12.95  
**THE VIKING PRESS**

**The jelly glass is back  
—on your bar!**

Here's a new-fashioned way to entertain—with a 24-piece barware set inspired by the old-fashioned jelly glass. Includes 8 each of highball, single, and double old-fashioned glasses. Just \$21, plus \$2 shipping, handling, per set. Full refund if you're not delighted.



For Credit Card Orders, CALL TOLL-FREE: 1-800-821-5400.  
In Mo. call: 1-800-892-5760. Order No. HR6000 3100039.

**Halls** P.O. Box 7400 N.  
Kansas City, Mo. 64116

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ (Qty.) Barware Set(s)  
at \$21 plus \$2 shipping and handling each.

☐ Check or money order enclosed.  
☐ CHARGE MY ☐ American Express;  
☐ Visa; ☐ Master Charge Interbank # \_\_\_\_\_

Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY STATE ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ HR6000 3100039

mind. Forty-one years later, when the Englishwoman Harriet Martineau visited her at Montpelier, she found "a strong-minded woman, fully capable of entering into her husband's occupations and cares; and there is little doubt that he owed much to her intellectual companionship."

Unfortunately, Moore does not convince us of her tandem view that Dolley converted James from a cold intellectual to a warm humanitarian. He had already achieved immortality as the father of the Constitution and champion of religious freedom when he met Dolley. During his years with her in the White House he tarnished his image by steering us into the unnecessary War of 1812. Perhaps he should best be remembered for those years as the man who accompanied Dolley Madison to Washington.

—MAX M. MINTZ

**A Glorious Third**  
by Cynthia Propper Seton  
Norton, 202 pp., \$8.95

CYNTHIA PROPPER SETON'S newest novel is a gem of a comedy. With delectable wit and a glittering style, Seton examines the leisured urban upper-middle

class, its guilts and self-deceptions, its integrity, poignant strivings, and resignation. *A Glorious Third* is more surface than depth, more Oscar Wilde than Jane Austen; the author is a veritable gourmet chef of the language, whipping up verbal delights on every page. Excitement and suspense are generated not by the plot, which is hardly gripping, but by spicy epigrams, succulent turns of phrase.

Celia Dupont, heroine, is benign guardian of an inherited mansion in the Bronx, and self-effacing wife to Philip, who edits a liberal journal and at 52 epitomizes well-intentioned male complacency. In 1968, amid confusing new sexual mores, burgeoning feminism, political upheaval, anti-war protests, and assassinations, Celia decides to validate her existence by devoting its final third to study—history and French, Proust and Dante, for openers. She reads indefatigably, despite the distractions of a would-be lover and the escapades of five nubile daughters. Ludicrous as the project appears to her activist friends, it is a serious quest to assign traditional values their proper, if unfashionable, proportions while the world spins into chaos. Along the way, Celia also jolts Philip into renewed appreciation, makes friends with her er-

rant mother, and sheds some of her pride of lineage.

The novel is not as neatly proportioned as its heroine's life: It suffers from an overlong beginning, sketchy middle, and sudden, far-too-cozy ending. Seton describes Celia at one point as "not really emotionally wrung," words which unfortunately apply throughout. But flaws in a writer of such high style are easily forgiven, especially since *A Glorious Third* is so gloriously irreverent.

—LYNNE SHARON SCHWARTZ

**Edward VII: Prince and King**  
by Giles St. Aubyn  
Atheneum, 544 pp., \$19.95

WITH IMPORTED Edwardiana enthroned on television these days, a new biography of the monarch who gave that stylish era his name was bound to cross the Atlantic. *Edward VII: Prince and King* is fresh in one sense, but oddly dated in another. The biography's newness springs from the recent discovery of the correspondence of Francis Knollys, who served Edward as private secretary for more than half a century. It is upon these letters, long thought destroyed, that St. Aubyn builds his portrait of the playboy prince and belated king. Yet his reliance upon the words of a man who was after all a courtier colors this work with a certain old-fashioned unctiousness. To quote a typically smarmy passage: "The king attended a reception at the Hotel de Ville, where he made an irresistible speech which went straight to the hearts of his audience." May a reader in this republic be permitted to judge that an overstatement, not to mention as stylistically daw as a shopworn paste tiara. Victoria, Edward's mother, probably gave him the highest praise to which he was entitled when she said: "I am sure no Heir-Apparent ever was so nice and unpretending as dear Bertie is." (She also held some harsher opinions about her eldest son.)

Head of the history department of Eton, and thus a member of the current British establishment, St. Aubyn writes as though he were part and parcel of the Edwardian establishment as well. Only about Queen Victoria does he allow his considerable talent for irony free rein; Edward seems to be not just a king, but *his* king, to serve. If this reader were sovereign, St. Aubyn would have devoted more space to Edward's enterprising sex life, of great psychological if not prurient interest, and less to the ins and outs of party politics, in which Edward played only a marginal role (when he wasn't simply getting in everybody's way).

—RALPH TYLER

## If You Love Words,

you'll love **VERBATIM**, The Language Quarterly dealing with all aspects of language. Send \$5.00 (U.S.) or \$5.50 (elsewhere) for a 1-year subscription, starting with the current issue. Money back if not pleased. Allow 6 weeks.

**VERBATIM** POST OFFICE BOX 668 BX  
ESSEX, CT. 06426 U.S.A.

## EXPLODING STAR

A YOUNG AUSTRIAN  
AGAINST HITLER

**Fritz Molden**

Translated by Peter and Betty Ross

"A thought-provoking, fascinating,  
rattling good yarn.... Immensely  
readable." —MARTIN F. HERZ,

Foreign Service Journal

\$10.00

**WILLIAM MORROW**

105 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016

There really is no mysterious or fearful aura surrounding the nature of a human being and his world. What has been lacking are simple straightforward answers to a few questions. Here are such answers to some

## QUESTIONS ON OCULTISM

By Dr. Ernest Wood

205p. \$3.75 Quality softcover

Quest books are published to help humanity in a search for life's meaning  
At bookstores or order from Quest Books, Dept. SR, 305 W. Geneva Rd., Wheaton, IL 60187

Is there a way to overcome fear?  
What is "ready-money" karma?  
Does hypnotism retard spiritual advancement?  
Can one learn yoga without a teacher?  
What really is worthwhile?