

alone. In this connection, while First Lady of the Land, she was not above making scenes in public and on occasion reviled in terms unprintable the woman whom chance brought into the President's company. Of good family, well-educated, she suffered from an overpowering ambition, and on her husband attaining the highest office she established "court" at the White House and apparently imagined herself an empress of sorts. She also seemed to think that as President's wife she shared the responsibilities of his office and had hysterical attacks when his appointments did not suit her. She was extravagant in dress, frivolous in deportment, and in the grave crises of war often behaved as if nothing but social functions mattered. Nevertheless, between times, we are told, she was a good wife and mother; we are left in no doubt that she was terribly fond of her children; the loss of three of them, leaving her only one, in each case tragically affected her mind, not created for adversity. Mr. Sandburg tries to make a case out for her on the score of her mind, which had an original kink in it, magnified by time and misfortune; she really "never grew up" and was never equal to adult tasks she was called upon to assume. A tragic figure, certainly, much to be pitied; but how much more her husband, destined to bear the common cross of internecine conflict and also the cross of a mate who could not comfort him. The documentation of the book mostly in the form of letters is supplied efficiently by Mr. Angle. Altogether, an important contribution to Lincolniana.

JOHN COUNROS.

EMILY DICKINSON FACE TO FACE, BY MARTHA DICKINSON BIANCHI.

Houghton Mifflin. \$3.50.

As becomes a loyal family member and last surviving witness, Martha Dickinson Bianchi defends her aunt Emily, her grandfather Edward, and herself against Genevieve Taggard's statements. She denies that Emily ever had a picture of George Gould on the walls, or that Maggie carried letters between the two, or that Emily wore white the year round because she had been forced to renounce him. Her characterization of Emily's father is that though he "was formal by nature, his heart was as warm as his manner was cold." And later, apropos of a letter in which Austin Dickinson speaks glowingly of his father, she says in part, "Where now is the grim Puritan caricature of Edward Dickinson, drawn by rank outsiders . . .?"

Unfortunately, though prolific in denials, she is not very successful in building a figure commensurate with the Emily of the poems. Emily was simply remarkable, and if what she did was strange, that was her right. Her white dress?—a matter of what we now call "self-expression." Her unwillingness to see people?—a device to gain time for her work. Nothing is explained. The best that can be said for this book is that it offers a fund of new material from a somewhat prejudiced source. Readers not already familiar with Emily Dickinson's work and the controversies which have embroiled those attempting to tell her life will not find much of interest here.

ARCHER WINSTEN.

FROM FLUSHING TO CALVARY, BY EDWARD DAHLBERG. Harcourt, Brace. \$2.50.

The characters of Mr. Dahlberg's "Bottom Dogs" were members of a rootless, heterogeneous, unsuccessful, wandering class that is statistically large in American life. In that novel, their shifting environment was the protagonist. In his second novel, Mr. Dahlberg brings his two principal characters, Lorry, and his mother, Lizzie Lewis, into more vivid perspective.

As the novel opens, they are living in Bensonhurst, an area aptly described by a minor character of the book; "Cheap people live here." They are facing their perennial prob-



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lem, that of catching on and making a go of life. Lorry works as an assistant shipping clerk, and then he tends a newspaper stand. Lizzie gives violet ray treatments, practises as a quack abortionist, and seeks to catch some sucker through the matrimonial advertisements in the newspapers. They take in a German boy as roomer. He has come to Jack Dempsey's land to make his fortune. After he is knocked out in the first round of his pugilistic debut, he attends a fake musical school to learn how to sing over the radio. Lorry and his associates look for girls at Coney Island. Their experiences mean almost nothing. Lizzie struggles with tense persistency. She likewise gets nowhere. They move from Bensonhurst to a small apartment opposite Calvary cemetery on Long Island. They grow cumulatively nostalgic; Lizzie for those days when she ran a lady barber shop in Kansas City; Lorry for that life he knew in the Cleveland orphanage (which Mr. Dahlberg described in "Bottom Dogs"). Eventually Lizzie dies in a charity ward to which she has gone for an operation. Lorry ventures forth still groping and goalless. He becomes entangled in a Union Square riot, and seeing the red flag, thinks of it as an auctioneer's flag. He is clubbed by a policeman, and runs. As the novel closes, he is walking through Washington Square, the blood clotting on his head as he sings a song he learned in the orphanage:

*"neath its folds, defeat unknown,  
triumph, triumph crowns our glorious way."*

This novel is written with a compulsive power. The portrait of Lizzie Lewis is particularly striking. Bitter and uncompromising as is Mr. Dahlberg's work, one can still describe it as poetry.

JAMES T. FARRELL.

THE DISCOVERY OF EUROPE, by Paul Cohen-Portheim (*Dutton*) \$3. In which America gets another lambasting for being one of the malignant forces (the other of course is Russia) which Europe, "the mother of civilization," must face and conquer.

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State of NEW YORK, County of NEW YORK

Before me, a NOTARY PUBLIC in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared CARROLL B. MERRITT, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the BUSINESS MANAGER of SCRIBNER'S MAGAZINE and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 411, Postal Laws and Regulations, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business manager are:

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BUSINESS MANAGER: Carroll B. Merritt, 597 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y.

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Sworn to and subscribed before me this 1st day of Oct., 1932

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Certificate filed N. Y. Co. Register's No. 4P65.

Commission expires March 30, 1934.