

NEW BOOKS

SOCIAL PLANNING FOR CANADA. By the Research Committee of the League for Social Reconstruction. Nelson, Toronto, 1935. Pp. xvi, 528. \$3.75.

The Depression has given rise to a considerable crop of reformist and utopian literature in Canada as elsewhere, but none of the Canadian product has surpassed this volume either in point of criticism of the existing order or in detailed "blue-printing" for the future. The book is the product of many minds and many memoranda and discussions, but responsibility is accepted by a committee of seven intellectuals who have been largely responsible not only for this book but for promoting the League for Social Reconstruction, which perhaps should have been labelled instead "The Canadian Fabian Society."

Part I (over 200 pages) purports to be a survey and analysis of Canadian economy; in reality it is a socialist indictment. It opens with a Marxist overture entitled "The End of a Century of Progress", and then proceeds to discuss the nature of Canadian economy, the structure of Canadian business, agriculture and the farmer, government intervention, and finally concludes with a Marxist interlude, "The Inefficiency of the System." The picture is an alarming one, and particularly so since it is buttressed with a wealth of statistical material drawn largely from official sources. It is when one begins to examine the sources that doubt begins to arise. Much of the data is of the Depression era, and from *ex parte* statements. One of the principal sources, for example, is the Price Spreads Commission Enquiry, which suffers from both defects. Again, one is inclined to ask whether the socialistic views of the authors have unduly influenced their selection of facts, as well as their interpretation. Is, then, the picture drawn a fair picture, or merely a fair Marxist picture? Not being an economist, the reviewer is in a position only to raise and not to answer such questions. But though we make all allowances for bias, this indictment of capitalist economy in Canada will take some answering.

Part II is a gallant attempt to set out the steps to be taken to make Canada into a socialist Commonwealth, and to draft plans for the working of the new order. Let it be said at once, the authors are no revolutionaries; they propose that the desired changes should be brought about by constitutional means, and that the new order should be run by democratic machinery, though, of course, certain amendments to existing institutions would be needed, especially a redivision of jurisdiction between the provinces and the Dominion, revision of parliamentary machinery, and improvements in the personnel of the civil service and in administrative technique. Whether Canadian capitalism can be made to stand and deliver by use of the ballot box, and whether a democratic and parliamentary system of government could be used to drive a planned socialist economy, are points on which communists will differ from the authors. Incidentally, one of the

most drastic reviews of the book yet to appear has been that of Mr. Tim Buck.

In a socialist economy, planning is a major enterprise of statecraft. Considerable attention is therefore paid to the mechanism of planning, and then follows a discussion of the steps to be taken in socializing particular industries. As is pointed out, we have already experimented with a wide variety of social control of industry—government corporations, government ownership and operation by government departments, producers' co-operatives, municipal ownership, non-profitmaking trusts and corporations, regulation of private business by government commissions, and so on. The transition to a socialized economy would therefore not be entirely a "leap in the dark." Nevertheless, drastic steps would be necessary, and large-scale enterprises, especially banking and credit facilities, would need to be acquired by the state in order to control the new order. The authors repudiate expropriation: instead, compensation of the present owners should be fixed by arbitration boards, and payment made in government bonds redeemable on demand and bearing interest at a variable rate, depending on the expansion or contraction of the national income. Holders of bonds would, however, be subjected to a steeply graded income tax. A monetary system would be retained, but currency would be regulated in order to maintain stability in the purchasing power of money. Investment, particularly foreign investment and foreign borrowing, would be strictly regulated by an investment board. Foreign trade would be strictly controlled by export and import boards. A labour code, adequate social insurance and social welfare services would tend to equalize welfare, even if incomes were still unequal.

Agriculture and small-scale enterprise in other fields of production or distribution offer the greatest difficulties. Although the plans for dealing with agriculture are much less definite than for large-scale enterprises, it is clear that the authors do not contemplate either state farms or a system of giant collectives like Russia. Instead, they foresee a continuance of individual ownership, with some control over production, a better price relationship for agricultural products, and social welfare legislation for agriculturalists, to improve their standards of living. As for retail trade, it should follow no one pattern; monopoly products, such as gasoline, might become state monopolies; consumer co-operatives should be greatly expanded, and the consumer protected by a Commission of Internal Trade. This is a very inadequate summary of the wide variety of matters discussed, and space forbids treatment of the changes proposed in our political institutions.

As a book, this volume leaves something to be desired; it is uneven in quality; it is obscure in some places, and in others statistically wearisome; in places it is highly academic, in others it savours of slapdash journalism. It will anger professional economists because it has a mission, and political evangelists because it is "highbrow." But it is none the less a book of first-rate importance, less perhaps as a contribution to economics than to politics. It promises to remain for some time as the official programme of right-wing socialism

in Canada, and though the party for which it was obviously intended, viz, the C. C. F., has little prospect of office at least in the federal arena within any predictable future, the book will still have influence. If past experience in our politics is a guide to the future, we may expect many of the proposals of *Social Planning for Canada* to be quietly appropriated item by item by the traditional parties. The real function of minority parties in Canada is to provide the older parties with platforms. It is a tribute to the volume that it is now in its second printing. Decidedly this is a book to be read and pondered.

R. A. MACKAY.

YOU AND THE UNIVERSE. By Paul Karlson. Pp. 325. George Allen & Unwin. \$3.75.

This translation from the German bears the subtitle "Modern Physics for Everybody". The first half of the book deals with the nature of matter, electricity and light, while the second half covers relativity, quantum theory, the neutron, the positron, transmutation of the elements and all the rest of the bag of tricks in the cabinet of physical science.

In these subjects, states the author in his preface, so much solemnity and dignity are inherent that we can afford to dispense with these qualities in expounding them. He is as good as his word. He is gifted with a remarkable facility for devising sprightly and sometimes fantastic analogies. Vivacity and humour, effectively aided by a large number of amusing drawings, are maintained throughout a book which might equally well have borne the subtitle "Painless Physics". It seems open to doubt whether this mode of presentation will appeal to those seriously-minded enough to wish to understand something about the subject. To them the sustained high pitch of the exposition may in the end prove rather trying. This criticism is not meant as condemnatory. There is admittedly a great need for making the spirit and results of science more accessible, if we are to avoid what Mr. Wells calls "the conspicuous ineffectiveness of modern knowledge in contemporary affairs." As an experiment with this end in view, this book should be welcomed.

G. H. H.

CANADIAN-AMERICAN INDUSTRY. By Herbert Marshall, Frank A. Southard, Kenneth W. Taylor. The Ryerson Press. \$3.00. Pp. xiii-360.

The Carnegie Corporation and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, in their search for new objects to promote, have made possible the setting-up of a series of investigations into Canadian-American relations. This volume is the first-fruits of their laudable enterprise. It is a study made by an international group of competent investigators, two Canadian and one American, into the very vital relationship between Canada and the United States in economic

life. We are all aware of this relation, and realise, for example, that a vast amount of American capital is invested in Dominion enterprises, that a considerable amount of property is owned here by American citizens, either as individuals or in association with others, and that there is much consumption of American-produced goods. Partial investigations have been made from time to time, but here the whole field has been thoroughly surveyed by methods of exact research. The work has been competently done, so that we have a volume of indispensable value and interest for any who wish to make a study either of the whole question of economic inter-relations between the two countries, or of any particular aspect of the same subject. Here we have accurate information about such subjects as the control of the newsprint industry, the penetration of chain-stores, what percentage of Canadian industry goes into the production of automobiles, how far our major concerns are financed by American capital, and how far such investments carry with them American control. All these, and kindred subjects, are treated in full and accurate detail, with particulars of individual companies and industries. There are surprises in waiting for the investigator. Not all is Dominion that bears the Dominion name, and there are some concerns with the outward appearance of being authentically Canadian that are really American. On the other hand, the American control is not so extensively present in other directions as we might have imagined. Not only has America entered Canada through economic penetration; Canadians also own considerable industrial interests in the United States. Interlocking directorates are a common device in concerns that operate on both sides of the border. The book concludes with some interesting reflections on the political and cultural significance of this vast system of international relations. An excellent appendix has been added by Professor Frank A. Knox of Queen's University, on the Canadian Balance of Payments. The indices are both full and useful.

JAMES S. THOMSON.

THE GENERAL THEORY OF EMPLOYMENT, INTEREST, AND MONEY.

By J. M. Keynes. 1936. Macmillan & Co. 384 pp.
\$1.50.

In his Memoir of Alfred Marshall, Mr. Keynes revealed his attitude towards the writing of Economics in the following words: "In view of the transitory nature of economic facts, and the bareness of economic principles in isolation, does not the progress and the daily usefulness of economic science require that pioneers and innovators should eschew the treatise and prefer the pamphlet or the monograph? I depreciated Jevons's 'Political Economy' above, on the ground that it was no more than a brilliant brochure. Yet it was Jevons's willingness to spill his ideas, to flick them at the world, that won him his great personal position and his unrivalled power of stimulating other minds. Every one of Jevons's contributions to Economics was in the nature of a pamphlet. Malthus spoilt the 'Essay on Population' when, after

the first edition, he converted it into a treatise. . . . Economists must leave to Adam Smith alone the glory of the quarto, must pluck the day, fling pamphlets into the wind, write always *sub specie temporis*, and achieve immortality by accident, if at all." The book before us is an outstanding example of this opinion.

One result of this view is carelessness in the use of words. Many examples could be given from the present volume, but it will be sufficient to say that the term "marginal product" is used to mean sometimes a physical quantity and sometimes its value, and "liquidity preference" is sometimes related to a quantity of goods and sometimes to a quantity of money. This variation in the meaning of terms adds a further degree of difficulty to the discussion of a subject which, in its nature, is so complex as to be almost unmanageable.

A further result of the same view, and a more interesting one, is that the writing is animated by, if not governed by, a conviction about what should be done in the field of practical policy. The political pamphlet is distinguished from the scientific treatise in that the object of the latter is to explain, while that of the former is to advocate. The work which is here under review, and also its predecessor, the "Treatise on Money", (Mr. Keynes said economists should "eschew the treatise"!) are in their outward form scientific books; but in reality they are political tracts. Their primary purpose is to advocate a certain policy. "I conclude," says Mr. Keynes, "that the duty of ordering the current volume of investment cannot safely be left in private hands." It is this which has so rejoiced the hearts of the Socialists, and caused Mr. G. D. H. Cole to write an ecstatic review of this book in "The New Statesman and Nation".

A review is no place to enter upon discussion of the large questions which are here raised. Can the rôle of economist be combined with that of political pamphleteer? Still more, can one and the same book be a scientific work and a tract for the times? Is what passes for economic science nothing more, at bottom, than an elaborate disguise for the protection of certain institutions and policies? Is there, in short, such a thing as economic *science*, and some virtue in the painstaking, if prosaic, efforts of many worthy and able men over many generations to work out the relationships between economic phenomena, merely that we may *know*, and with no thought of defending any institution or advocating any policy? Even those who answer the last question in the affirmative must recognize that the pure stream of science is often defiled at its source, and they will therefore welcome, if only as an antidote, the brilliant iconoclasm of Mr. Keynes.

W. R. MAXWELL.

HEBREW ORIGINS. By Theophile James Meek. 1936. Harper and Brothers, New York. Pp. 220. \$2.00.

Professor Meek, of the University of Toronto, is a thoroughly competent scholar in the field of Semitic Languages, Biblical History and Biblical Archaeology. He is therefore well equipped to deal with "the origins of the Hebrew people, the evolution of their institutions and the development of their distinctive ideas about God and man."

He has evidently consulted everything of importance relative to his subject, especially the more recent literature dealing with archaeology and the attempts to correlate the Biblical evidence with the archaeological. One of the outstanding features of his book is its extensive reference to sources.

In the space of two hundred and twenty pages, packed with information, he has managed through clearness and simplicity of style, and through logical arrangement of his material, to present a fascinating study of a very difficult subject. The origin of the Hebrew people is, like so many origins, obscure. A casual and uncritical reader of the Bible may feel that the story is quite simple—the idyllic picture of Abraham and his descendants living as nomads in Canaan, their sojourn in Egypt and their exodus under the leadership of Moses, their sojourn in the wilderness, their conquest of Canaan under Joshua, and the settlement in the land. But a closer reading of the Bible will soon reveal that there are a large number of passages which are not in harmony with the general picture. Biblical students have long felt the problem of these variant traditions. Archaeology now comes to our aid with its revelation of the cultural background of the period, first of all in the re-discovery of ancient Egypt and Babylonia through the decipherment of the ancient languages, and more recently through the re-discovery of the material civilization and culture of Palestine and Syria. Very valuable written documents, as well as remains of art, have come to light. Conspicuous among the written documents are the Tell-el-Amarna letters, but there are many others, down to the most recently discovered Ras Shamra tablets. To reconstruct the beginnings of Hebrew history so as to do full justice to the Biblical evidence and at the same time to make full use of the archaeological material is no easy task. Necessarily there must be a good deal of conjecture, and the utmost that Professor Meek would claim is that, in the light of present knowledge, his reconstruction of history seems to be the most probable. But all students are aware that new facts may be brought to light which may lead to a modification of his views.

He holds that the Habiru of the Amarna letters were the Hebrews in a large sense of that term. About the beginning of the fourteenth century they were pressing in from the east and north into the Fertile Crescent, and settlements were being made in Mount Ephraim and northern Canaan as well as in the Trans-Jordan territory. Some of these invaders, unable to secure a footing in Canaan, pushed on into the southern deserts and some of them into Egypt, probably in the reign of Amenhotep IV. Shortly before 1200 B.C., under the leadership of Moses, the Hebrews in Egypt (the tribe of Levi perhaps) escaped into the wilderness where together with Judahites, Kenites and others they were consolidated into one group which ultimately became the tribe of Judah, and soon succeeded in conquering southern Canaan by way of the south. In the desert they had accepted Yahweh as their God, and the covenant was established. The popular Kenite hypothesis is rejected, with which conclusion the present writer entirely agrees. The knowledge of Yahweh and the acceptance of him by the northern tribes were accomplished through conquest by Judah. This view helps to explain the development of monotheism, but the

present writer is perplexed to see what there was in the religion of northern Israel which made the acceptance of Yahweh so easy. The calf worship and its associations with the fertility cult hardly seem to make a suitable soil for the development of the purer Yahwism with its monotheistic and ethical impulse. And yet in the northern kingdom prophecy first awoke. There is no space to discuss more fully this important book, but it is a book which all serious Biblical students will welcome.

W. G. WATSON.

THE POLITICAL ADVENTURES OF JOHN HENRY: The Record of an International Imbroglia. By Brigadier-General E. A. Cruikshank, LL.D., F. R. S. C., F. R. Hist. S. The Macmillan Company of Canada, Toronto, 1936. Pp. 206.

This volume is a documentary history of an unpleasant incident in Anglo-American relations prior to the War of 1812. It is fitting that this incident should be described in all its ramifications by General Cruikshank, as his knowledge of the background and course of the War of 1812 is intimate, detailed and unique.

Most students of that period knew of John Henry's activities, and the part that his sale of documents and the publication of those documents by Congress played in hastening the declaration of war against Great Britain in 1812. But here for the first time the full story is told of John Henry's meteoric rise and fall, the ultimate victim of megalomania and of an impostor more cunning than he, who also fell from the high estate which his romantic imagination had created for him.

General Cruikshank exposes very clearly Henry's technique in insinuating himself into the confidence of the fur-trading magnates of Montreal, and through them into the confidence of Sir James Craig and his secretary, Ryland. He then follows Henry on his journeys to the north-eastern states of the United States, to Great Britain in search of preferment and reward, and finally back to the United States, where he seeks revenge by selling a garbled copy of his correspondence to the American Secretary of State. He shows that from the moment that Henry left England and fell in with the self-styled Comte de Crillon he was a helpless megalomaniac in the hands of a romantic swindler. The intimate account of the duping of Monroe, the American Secretary of State, by the two swindlers, and of the later swindling of Henry by de Crillon makes interesting reading, and is itself a distinct contribution to our knowledge of the incident; but General Cruikshank goes further, and gives a very adequate account of the effect of the publication of Henry's garbled documents upon relations between Great Britain and the United States, the debates that it provoked in the British parliament, and the abortive efforts of the British government to counteract the malicious influence of Henry's duplicity. Even the lengthy quotations from letters and debates, and the tragic effects of Henry's treachery upon the lives of our forefathers, cannot prevent the reader from enjoying this volume as a romantic comedy.

D. C. H.

THE LIFE OF GEORGE MOORE. By Joseph Hone. The Ryerson Press. \$4.50. Pp. 515.

It is difficult to think of Mr. George Moore as yielding very readily to the "authorised biography" method of treatment. His was no "standard life." Mr. Hone has encountered the inevitable limitations of such an approach to a man of literary genius, whose character was evidently as eccentric as his style was exquisite. In the declining years of the Victorian age, George Moore disturbed the world of letters by the mildly shocking "Confessions of a Young Man." This was a style of literature which has now run its full course, and which, we may thankfully hope, is on the wane. But the George Moore of "The Brook Kerith" and "Heloise and Abelard" was a very different person. The story of how the ego-centric autobiographer developed into the perfect artist of the later phase is the real story of his life. Mr. Hone supplies its background in a faithful account of its year-to-year events. The subject is allowed to reveal himself in the self-disclosure of numerous letters. Here are all the excellencies of a full-length portrait, ready to be hung in the gallery of literary fame. Students of Mr. Moore's work, who wish to know the biographical background, will turn here inevitably, and will not be disappointed. And yet, one lays down this volume with a feeling that it is only the ground-work for another study of a more psychological kind. Here is a rare mind struggling for self-expression, the type that we knew so recently in the late D. H. Lawrence, and that, in the end, attained to a marvellous excellence of literary form. It is the story of an eccentric genius, whose place in literary immortality is already assured.

JAMES S. THOMSON.

THE LIFE OF PRINCIPAL OLIVER. By Rev. Clarence Mackinnon, M.A., D.D., LL.D. Pp. vii-162. The Ryerson Press. \$1.50.

Our interest in Principal Mackinnon's short biography of his friend and fellow-Principal at Saskatoon lies as much in the author as in the subject. And, in that respect, we shall not be unrewarded. With a deft hand, the writer has woven the career of Dr. Oliver into his historical and contemporary background, so that this little volume becomes something more than a mere chronicle of events. It might be said of Principal Oliver, as Walter Bagehot wrote of Shakespeare—"To a great experience one thing is essential, an experiencing nature." His life becomes a mirror of his environment, for he was part of all that he encountered. Thus the phases of his career until his recent, apparently untimely, death—his home-life and his school-days, his studies at Toronto, the opening up of the West, his leadership in Saskatchewan, his share in the Great War, then Church Union, and finally his elevation to the Moderator's chair—are as much a record of his times as they are of himself. The biographer, with great skill,

has had the good sense to present us with his subject in that light. It need hardly be said that the book is brightly written, without a single dull page. The reader is carried along by its vivid style, and enlivened by sallies and sparkling wit. Here, we may say, we have biography without tears and without boredom.

JAMES S. THOMSON.

LOST PLAYS OF SHAKESPEARE'S AGE. By C. J. Sisson. Macmillan Company of Canada. Pp. x, 221. \$3.75.

DEATH AND ELIZABETHAN TRAGEDY. By Theodore Spencer. Harvard University Press. Pp. xiii, 288. \$2.50.

Why anyone should read detective books when there is such a volume as Prof. Sisson's is incomprehensible. The author has searched the records of the Court of Star Chamber to good advantage, for he has found various cases referring to plays based on what one might call the lower middle class scandals of the day. These plays are now lost, but from various pieces of evidence Prof. Sisson can build out the plot of Chapman's *The Old Joiner of Aldgate*, and of Dekker, Rowley, Ford, and Webster's *Keep the Widow Walking*, and can give jigs from Yorkshire and Shropshire, the May Games at Wells, and a few libels. Prof. Sisson shows how close was the relation between the stage and ordinary life, and gives a salutary warning: if we had the plays and not the evidence, we might read them as allegories on Elizabethan high life and politics—a popular, but dangerous sport of scholars. The book should find a welcome, not merely among students, but among general readers: it should be a "best seller", but, of course, will not.

Dr. Spencer has conceived the happy idea of tracing the influence of the thoughts of death on Elizabethan drama. In two very interesting chapters he traces the shifting from mediaeval emphasis on the next world to the Renaissance emphasis on this world. Naturally there was a different attitude toward death because of the changed emphasis, and herein lies the subject of Elizabethan tragedy. Three chapters trace the influence on the language, ideas, and technique of drama. Finally we have a fine chapter on the drama as a reflection of the Renaissance mind. While the middle chapters are for the specialist, the opening chapters and the closing chapter should appeal to all interested in the history of ideas. The monograph is noteworthy for the ease and charm of its style.

B. M.

THE WHITE SAVANNAHS. By W. E. Collin. Macmillan Company of Canada. Pp. 284. \$2.50.

NEW PROVINCES: POEMS OF SEVERAL AUTHORS. Macmillan Company of Canada. Pp. 77. \$1.50.

A dangerous thing to say, but very probably true: these two volumes mark a new stage in Canadian literature. Prof. Collin is a little unfortunate in his title and in the titles of various chapters, for

some will see in them a trace of preciosity, as also in his fondness for dropping French words into his sentences. Nevertheless, here is a new and firm note in Canadian criticism: the author is not afraid to point out the decided limitations of Lampman and Marjorie Pickthall when tested by standards other than Canadian patriotic fervour. There is, however, no spirit of "debunking" in Prof. Collin's approach to the older gods. A chapter on Marie Le Franc is a welcome note in the volume. The chapter on E. J. Pratt is the least satisfying—not because the author has not seen the merits of Pratt's poetry clearly, but because of the note of pretentiousness in the comparisons of the last few pages; one feels that Prof. Pratt's head might well be turned by the distinguished company in which he finds himself. The chapter on Dorothy Livesay is sympathetic and penetrating; it is a pleasure to find a book published in Canada that does not use Communism as a bugbear to frighten us innocent readers. With the chapters on the four Montreal poets—Klein, F. R. Scott, A. J. M. Smith, and Leo Kennedy—Prof. Collin comes into his own. These chapters should be of value to anyone who wishes to understand these Canadian representatives of contemporary poetry. Prof. Collin not only places them in their relations to world poetry—or, better, English and French poetry—but also shows the distinctive Canadian note of each. A valuable and welcome book.

As if to illustrate Prof. Collin's critical work, Macmillans have published a thin volume of selections from the four last named poets and Robert Finch. To those in the stream of modern poetry these poems will not cause undue difficulty; but to those who think only in terms of the 19th century there will be a rude awakening to new values. No anthology is ever wholly satisfactory, for each of us looks for his own favourites; with this proviso, the present volume can be heartily recommended.

B. M.

PLANNING UNDER SOCIALISM, AND OTHER ADDRESSES. By Sir William Beveridge. 1936. Longmans, Green & Co. Pp. 142.

The author of this little book describes it in the Preface as "with three exceptions, broadcast talks, printed practically without change, as they were given and in the order in which they were given. . . . As contributions to the science of Economics they do not deserve reprinting. . . . They should be regarded in part as a review of economic events in the year 1935, and in part an experiment, or rather two experiments, in broadcasting method." This may be accepted as a just estimate, except that it makes no mention—and it is the pleasant duty of the reviewer to repair the omission—of the charm with which the topics are discussed.

One of the "exceptions" mentioned in the Preface is an address to the Cosmopolitan Club of the London School of Economics and Political Science on the subject of "My Utopia". Sir William Beveridge's ideal community is, in the first place, a world community em-

bracing many states with a wide variety of social, and especially economic, systems; it is a comparatively empty community (5,000,000 people in Britain); and in it everybody gets as much education as he "can possibly profit by". There may be some doubt about this as a description of Utopia; but it certainly is a description of Sir William Beveridge.

W. R. MAXWELL.

GENERAL GRANT'S LAST STAND. By Horace Green. Scribners, 1936. Pp. xvii, 334. \$3.75.

Mr. Green is a grand-nephew of Dr. Douglas, the friend and physician of General Grant. His "Last Stand" is the last stand the old warrior made against the disasters that threatened at the close of his career. In this book "the preliminary chapters merely skim certain features of Grant's career, and a general knowledge of the military and political aspects on the part of the reader is assumed." The resumé, however, is sufficient to put the reader in command of the relevant facts.

To the general reader, Grant's achievements in war are probably his chief title to such fame as he has. Mr. Green quotes an interesting passage from one of the biographers: "Grant made serious mistakes;—they seldom affected adversely measures of broad public policy. When we recall the great accomplishments of his administrations,—the establishment of the principle of international arbitration through the Treaty of Washington and the adjudication of the Alabama claims by the Geneva Tribunal; the upholding of American dignity and the assertion of American rights in the matter of Virginius and the handling of the Cuban complications; the rehabilitation of the national credit and the maintenance of the national honour; the inauguration of a consistent and merciful policy toward the Indians; the recognition of the principle of civil service reform; and the restoration of a semblance of order in the South"—so goes the list, and it is not inconsistent with Grant's well known "Let us have peace". Among other things, says Mr. Green, Grant "made of Canada our friendly neighbour."

Grant's utter incompetence in the Wall Street game is freely admitted. His idea of business generally is illustrated by the following anecdote: "His father sent him to buy a colt, and the boy had said to the owner: 'Papa says I may offer you twenty dollars for the colt, but if you won't take that, I am to offer you twenty-two and a half, but if you won't take that to give you twenty-five.'" Not so are fortunes made. After the financial crash that left his family destitute, the General made his "Last Stand." He completed his memoirs in about eleven months. This work "in two volumes totaling 1231 pages and 295,000 words, brought to General Grant's family within the first two years after publication a royalty of \$450,000." In this respect, one can think of no parallel nearer than Sir Walter Scott.

Grant's throat began to trouble him in the spring of 1884; but curiously, owing to the absence of one physician in Europe, and the patient's respect for medical etiquette, he did not report for treatment

until October. From that time until July 23, 1885, he was occupied in the unfamiliar task of writing to gain money to support his family after he was dead, and the business of dying of cancer of the throat.

On the last page, Mr. Green speaks of Grant's tomb, within which, he says, most people see the Ohio boy, the General, some the President "whose head was battered by the storms of the Reconstruction Era." "For my part," he goes on, "I see these things well enough. But in the shadow of the tomb I also see a wicker chair where sits a kindly but determined writing man, in suffering quite serene." To most of us this point of view is perhaps new.

The book contains a number of illustrations, and some interesting facsimiles.

E. W. N.

THE GLITTERING CENTURY. By Phillips Russell. Scribners, 1936.
Pp. 326. \$3.50.

This is a bird's eye view of the eighteenth century, a century that the author considers "very like our own". It is to be hoped that he is not too optimistic, and that sometime before its close the twentieth century may recover some of the intelligence of the eighteenth. In the eighteenth century, too, there was a dark mass of poverty and misery behind the bright facade; but such things as the modern totalitarian state were not on the map. Frederick the Great did what he liked; but his subjects said what they liked.

The book begins with the Sun King and ends with Talleyrand. It naturally contains a great deal about France. Talleyrand is referred to as the "Master Salesman", and Louis, though he was capable of fawning on bankers for money, had no regard for commerce. "In fact, all the time that Louis XIV was dazzling Europe, the real monarchs of France, as of all Europe, were sitting on their thrones elsewhere, in their counting-houses or before their bullion-vaults." And the best combination leads to the French Revolution.

Yet there are many things besides France in the book. One of the best chapters is on the subject of Peter the Great, the "Russian Axman" as he is called. Pierre Bayle has a chapter to himself headed "Father of Ideas". One may even tire of the epithets that Mr. Russell applies to the characters, though some of them are appropriate. But his taste is catholic, and his book does give one an idea of the multitude of men of many minds carrying on the business of life in France and Prussia and England and America and India and elsewhere; with the result that the power of the nobility declined, and the power of the moneyed class became ultimately supreme. The warriors appear; but they are not more respected than Walpole, the apostle of peace and prosperity, or Wesley, the messenger of an even more compelling theme. Catherine the Great is there, but not more prominent than Voltaire; and George the Third or Lord Chesterfield is on equal footing with Rousseau or Arthur Young. The author is perhaps here and there a little too contemptuous of the Middle Ages; but that seems a proper error for the eighteenth century. The illustrations are good.

E. W. N.

DIE SOZIALEN PROBLEME KANADAS UND MITTEL UND WEGE FÜR IHRE LÖSUNG. By Rev. Dr. A. S. Murray, Bedford, N.S. Buchdruckerei Sperling, Breslau.

Perhaps no lines of Burns are more frequently quoted than

O wad some power the giftie gie us
To see oursels' as ithers see us,

for human nature is as sensitive as a photographic plate to public opinion. Nor is this sensitiveness absent from our international relationships. Indifference is only a mask, when one seems not to heed what the foreigner thinks. The discovery of it is as often as not a cruel disillusionment. Not long ago the writer, glancing cursorily through a German periodical, came upon a serial story, one chapter of which dealt with this city of Halifax. Prudence would have left it unread. The young German who was stranded in these forlorn parts got into trouble in a street car, and was arrested by mistake. He was taken to the police station and placed in a room. Suddenly a dozen doors opened and as many guns were trained upon him. When the mistake was discovered, he was politely dismissed, and went with his friend to have some "Calgary beer". Our courteous and considerate officers would surely not recognize themselves in this European tale.

It is therefore all the more satisfactory to have our Canadian life, "Canada's social problems and the methods and ways of their solution", explained to a great and scientific people like the Germans by one of ourselves. This has been admirably done by Dr. Murray in this published thesis, which was successfully presented to the University of Breslau as an "Inaugural-Dissertation" for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The reader has not perused many pages before he becomes impressed by the ease and accuracy with which the writer expresses himself in a foreign tongue. He is still more impressed by the frank and well-balanced manner in which the social situation in our Dominion is presented to European eyes. There is no attempt to burnish the picture, as in the old and unwise immigration days; nor are the difficulties and discords glossed over. Rather are they traced to their sources in the pioneer conditions out of which social life in Canada emerged. Some may think there is too strong a list toward "Social Planning for Canada", but the treatise removes any impression that there is an alarming communistic movement. The title of its last chapter gives the author's serious purpose, "How can the Social order be made Christian?"

C. McK.

A CANADIAN HEADMASTER. By Watson Kirkconnell. Clarke, Irwin and Company, 1935, pp. x-156.

Thomas Allison Kirkconnell was born in 1862, and died in 1934. He lived all his life in Canada, and followed the dubious profession of a schoolmaster. To the outside world his most obvious achievements were degrees from Canadian universities; yet this little book

is a worthy memorial both of a Canadian whose work was of great importance and of a father who inspired in his son a reverence and affection that reminds at least one reader of Thomas Carlyle's tribute to James Carlyle. The relation of father and son is not much influenced by position or fame, and one readily recalls "In several respects I consider my father one of the most interesting men I have known." And the man himself *was* interesting; had plenty of brains and character, and a kindly wit. His story shows several things; among other things, it shows how a quiet man in what great centres regard as a backwater may live a life rich, full, and satisfying. If there are more headmasters of that kind in the country, it would be a useful service for someone to tell the public about them.

A. K. GRIFFIN.

LATIN, ITS PLACE AND VALUE IN EDUCATION. By C. W. Valentine, University of London Press, 1935. pp. viii. 163.

The title tells the story of this thoughtful and useful little book. Mr. Valentine is a Professor of Education at Birmingham, and his discussion is based on practical experience of Latin and of teaching; it may be remarked that without such experience no one is qualified to discuss the problem. The arguments for and against the subject are fairly presented, though the discussion is, of course, relevant mainly to the English situation. The only further suggestion that occurs here is that the mere language, due to historical accident, deserves to rank among the humanities if properly presented, even before there is any comprehension of the literature. But the outstanding characteristic of the book is fairness. Professor Valentine realizes that the main problem is the problem of selection. In this country, our maximum is hardly above Professor Valentine's minimum, which is another historical accident. But the spirit and method of the book make it worth reading for anybody who is interested in Latin or in education. Professor Valentine's treatment is entirely free from the elaborate technical vocabulary that makes so many books on educational subjects hopeless for the general reader.

A. K. GRIFFIN

SIR PHILIP SIDNEY AS A LITERARY CRAFTSMAN. By K. E. Myrick. Harvard Studies in English, XIV. Harvard University Press. Pp. 322. \$3.50.

RICHARD CRASHAW: A Study in Style and Poetic Development. By Ruth C. Wallenstein. Madison, Wisconsin. Pp. 160.

Fashions in literature may come and fashions may go, but the Elizabethans will always hold a fascination for us. They are so much of a piece, and yet so individual, that study of the period or of an individual writer cannot grow stale; they are so decidedly English, and yet owe so much to foreign influences, that further research is always bringing to light some unexpected fact.

Sir Philip Sidney has frequently been misunderstood as a man of letters: he was the gentleman amateur dabbling in literature, yet he thought the *Arcadia* worth rewriting; he wrote a book on poetry, in which he criticizes the romantic freedom of native drama, yet his *Arcadia*, even in the revised form, is seemingly more formless than Elizabethan drama. Dr. Myrick set himself the task of re-examining these paradoxes, and ours is the profit. In this well organized and interesting book, he shows that Sidney's works conform to the best critical standards of the day; for example, the *Defence of Poesie* is a classical oration conforming to the dicta of Quintilian, and the revised *Arcadia* meets the Renaissance critical standards of a "heroical poem". Future students of Sidney—whether as man or as artist—will need to study this work.

Crashaw was also in need of a new evaluation. Between him and many a reader less concrete in his thinking there is at first a seemingly insuperable bar. Then, too, just as Sidney has to be studied in the light of Renaissance critical theories, so Crashaw is not fully understood unless he is seen against the Latin poetry inspired by the Counter-Reformation, and against baroque art. Miss Wallenstein has done this, and consequently Crashaw is a much more comprehensible poet. But Miss Wallenstein is equally aware of the English background of Crashaw's poetry, especially the writings of Spenser, and her thesis is well rounded. Nor does the author talk merely of influences on poetry; she analyzes the poetry itself; perhaps some of the most valuable pages of the book are those in which Miss Wallenstein traces Crashaw's growing command over certain similes.

B. M.

A CATALOG OF SCIENTIFIC PERIODICALS IN LIBRARIES OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES. Prepared by E. Hess. The Nova Scotian Institute of Science, Halifax. Pp. 82. \$2.00.

This list of some 3500 periodicals and government publications dealing with science gives in detail the volumes and parts of these journals, which are to be found in one or more of 26 libraries in the Maritime Provinces. Such information is here made available for the first time in a form which may be considered reasonably complete. The amount and value of scientific publications thus made accessible in these provinces is surprisingly great. Specially noteworthy is the inclusion of data regarding the extensive libraries of the Provincial Science Library of Nova Scotia and of the New Brunswick Museum.

The preparation of this list has been an ambitious undertaking, made possible by the aid of grants from the Nova Scotian Institute of Science and the National Research Council of Canada and, what is more important, the indefatigable efforts of the Editor, Dr. Hess. The Catalog is very compact, all bibliographical information about the journals having been omitted, since it is readily available elsewhere. This book should find a place not only in the libraries but also on the desks of all those actively interested in science in Eastern Canada.

G. H. H.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NOVA SCOTIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE.
Vol. XIX, Part I. Pp. 153.

The 73rd annual volume of Proceedings of one of the oldest Scientific Societies in Canada contains seven papers printed *in extenso*, besides a number of abstracts of other papers presented before the Society. In this particular volume the biological sciences predominate. While it may seem invidious to pick out a single article, its general interest seems to invite mention of a paper on the Marine Fishes of Nova Scotia by V. D. Vladykov and R. A. MacKenzie. This is a comprehensive list of 151 species, with brief descriptions of each, and some 130 illustrations. A very valuable part of the paper consists of a simple key whereby the layman may identify any of these species for himself. This paper is also obtainable separately from the Institute.

G. H. H.

LIFE IS AN ADVENTURE. By the Hon. Dr. R. J. Manion. Ryerson, Toronto, 1936. Pp. 360.

There are to-day few more "colourful" or attractive figures in public life in Canada than the former Minister of Railways, the Honourable Dr. Manion. This chatty volume of reminiscence will interest a wide circle of readers of all political stripes. It covers his boyhood "in the pioneer fringe" of Northern Ontario, college days in Toronto and Edinburgh, and his experience as a medical practitioner, as an army medical officer during the war, and some fifteen years in parliament. The main interest of the volume is its anecdotes (not all new) and ten sketches of various personalities, from a famous bar tender to the former Prime Minister, who, the author thinks, would have made a great bishop. There are no blazing indiscretions, and few important contributions to political history or political thought, but the volume makes entertaining reading. All of which suggests that the genial doctor, though temporarily unhorsed by the electors, does not intend to desert the lists, and indeed he can ill be spared by either his party or his country. Incidentally, it is news to learn that Lytton Strachey is a "brilliant young writer" who has become converted to Communism.

R. A. MACKAY.

FOUR ELEMENTS IN LITERATURE. By Norman Hurst. Longmans, Green, & Co. Pp. xix, 192.

Like everyone else, Mr. Hurst is impatient with the traditional terminology of criticism; but, bolder or rasher than most of us, he has attempted a new system. In all literature he sees four fundamental qualities: the Outer (or objective), the Inner (or subjective), Energy, and Balance. He tries to show these qualities, separately and in various combinations, in the great English writers. It is an ingenious

theory, but seems to lead to some strange positions. The theory seems to be unfair to classicism; despite his reading of the late Irving Babbitt, the author sees tradition rather as a dead convention than as a living principle.

B. M.

MRS. THRALE OF STREATHAM. By C. E. Vulliamy. Jonathan Cape. Pp. 334. \$3.50.

Mr. Vulliamy, who is well versed in the 18th century, here tells us all that is known of a very minor figure of the second half of the century, and gives us an interesting and convincing interpretation of her character. He has no illusions concerning her greatness or importance; consequently one wonders why, instead of giving us a very readable monograph, he has seen fit to write a very long book, which through no fault of the author but from the nature of his subject frequently becomes tedious. Rousseau, Wesley, and Boswell were worthy of this author's knowledge and skill; Mrs. Thrale is not.

B. M.

THE GAEL FARES FORTH: The Romantic Story of Waipu and Sister Settlements. By N. R. McKenzie, B. A., F. R. G. S. Whitcombe & Tombs Limited, Wellington, New Zealand 1935. Pp. 269, with illustrations.

This is the story of the achievements of the Rev. Norman McLeod and his followers and their descendants in New Zealand. The story of McLeod in Pictou and St. Ann's has been freely if not fully told in Nova Scotia, but his fortunes in Australia and New Zealand have not hitherto been carefully investigated. This volume is the work of a descendant of one of McLeod's followers, based upon manuscript documents, newspaper accounts, and memories or tradition, and it presents the New Zealand part of the saga, while dealing briefly with the Nova Scotian beginnings. As a local history or the history of a local settlement it is very competently done, and, in addition to a brief general outline of the origin and history of the settlement, it describes the social, economic, educational, medical and religious life of the settlers, concluding with lists of descendants who have risen to distinction at home and abroad, or who served in the Great War. Appendix One gives two lists of the passengers on the six ships that took part in the emigration. Among the illustrations are pictures of some of the pioneers, the schooner *Gazelle*, and scenes in New Zealand, as well as a map. Altogether, the volume contains an amazing amount of detail that has been preserved from the ravages of time, and some of it will be of abiding interest to descendants of these settlers.

D. C. H.