

NEW BOOKS

CANADA GETS THE NEWS. Issued under the auspices of The Canadian Institute of International Affairs. By Carleton McNaught. The Ryerson Press, Toronto, 1940. Pp. 271. \$3.50.

How Canada Gets The News would more aptly describe the contents of this book, the object of which is to give a clear idea of how foreign news is brought to the Canadian reader through the daily press. The results of no inconsiderable study and research are here brought together in form acceptable to the general reader. The structure of the modern newspaper is described, the inability of any one alone forcing the pooling of resources—hence the gradual emergence of the Canadian Press. The process of news-gathering is traced from the representative in a foreign land and the difficulty facing him of getting at the actual facts, a duty the more difficult in recent years due to the censorship in force in so many countries. At this point the policy of "objective" reporting without attempt at interpretation may itself mislead, while "interpretative" reporting, followed by some agencies, however honestly done, may equally fall into the same error. The financial inability of the Canadian Press to have its own personal widespread foreign correspondents leads naturally to the description of other news gathering services of which it must make use. Here emerges the problem of news selection, the personal factor entering into it as indeed it must at every step. The tendency of each news service towards what will interest its own people, a so-called national point of view, together with the openly propaganda services of particularly the totalitarian news agencies, compels the careful sifting of the news before it is put on the cables for the Canadian Press. Studies of these different agencies are given together with studies of agencies with the news of which Canadian papers supplement their own press service. Next follows a study of the process through which the news passes when it reaches the offices of the Canadian paper. No paper publishes all that comes over the wires, a selection must be made, and what is omitted, may be as significant as what is chosen. The personal element enters here and sometimes the policy of the newspaper. Other factors operating are the relative importance given to different news items, the prominence given in position on the page, and the headlines which emphasise or bury it. All these are affected by the interests, training and knowledge (or lack of it) of the news editors, and sometimes by newspaper policy.

In this book will be found a fairly extensive study of the factors coming in at each stage which affect the end result as the news reaches the Canadian reader. The ordinary layman will find the book highly informative while the newspaper man, more or less familiar with the subject, may learn much from it. In this study the Canadian Institute set out to make a contribution to a series of studies "The Press and

Public Opinion" and the result is a creditable piece of work. A careful reading of this book may give some assistance in estimating the relative reliability of despatches according to their origin and guard from forming too hasty conclusions.

G. FARQUHAR

BRITAIN SPEAKS. By J. B. Priestley. Macmillans, Toronto, 1940. Pp. 263.

CANADA IN PEACE AND WAR. Edited by Chester Martin. Oxford University Press, 1940. Pp. xvii, 244.

These thirty-nine radio addresses, which have been heard by most readers of the *DALHOUSIE REVIEW*, describe and interpret some of the thoughts and experiences of the British people between May 30th and September 24, 1940, when they were threatened with invasion by the Germans. It is unnecessary to do more than call attention to the publication of these talks, as most of those who heard them delivered will wish to read them at leisure, to savour their courage, insight and humour; but I may be pardoned for insisting that we should all note particularly number eight, "The Intellectual and the Battle against the Nazis," in which Mr. Priestley tells why no university can be indifferent to the present struggle; for "the Nazis always deliberately make the complete destruction of the intellectual life one of their very first tasks."

Canada in Peace and War is an excellent example of the sort of thing that our students of national and international affairs would lose, if the Nazis had an opportunity to destroy our intellectual life: for in these eight lectures by Professors Martin, Creighton, Innis, Bladen, Underhill, Glazebrook, Dawson and Brady, of the University of Toronto, the constitutional, economic and political trends of our history have been summarized in a workmanlike manner, and interpreted without fear or favour. In none of the lectures is there any concession to national pride or censorship, or any sign of restriction other than the degree of discernment which each lecturer brought to his task. Neither student nor man of affairs can read these lucid, thought-provoking lectures without both stimulus and profit.

D. C. H.

THE BATTLE FOR ASIA. By Edgar Snow. Macmillans, Toronto, 1941. Pp. ix, 431. 28 illustrations, 3 maps.

This volume is a commentary on four years of war and diplomacy in the Far East, mingled with sufficient history to elucidate the background of current events and as much prophecy as an intelligent author would dare to make in these days, when the term *status quo* has become meaningless over night. It is based on first-hand observation, extensive travel, and fearless mingling with all types of Chinese and Japanese;

and it is as candid as any friend could wish. It gives a searching analysis of the strength and weakness of the Chinese people, expresses admiration for their industrial cooperatives, and insists that the achievements of the latter have demonstrated Chinese capacity for that democratic organization, which provides the surest hope of ultimate victory over the robot Japanese. The author is much impressed also by the Chinese guerillas who "attack to annihilate and rove to avoid annihilation," and suggests that Chiang Kai-Shek would be wise to conciliate these communists, who are more patriotic than many of his capitalistic supporters, and would assist him to the death in driving out the Japanese.

Mr. Snow contends that the battle for Asia entered a new stage when it became an organic part of the second World War, that Japan, egged on by the Nazis, is bent upon driving both Britain and the United States out of the Orient, and that the British policy of appeasement has only strengthened this purpose. He suggests that both the United States and Britain should renounce extra territoriality in China, negotiate new treaties with her on a basis of full equality and reciprocity, and encourage the movement towards national unity on a democratic basis to the utmost. On the whole he is confident that the democracies can win, provided they regenerate their own ideals so as to make them vital and dynamic; but he thinks that they must do it now and not wait until the end of the war lest hope too long deferred immobilize a large part of their forces.

D. C. H.

A CHRONICLE OF KING'S COLLEGE. By F. W. Vroom, The Imperial Publishing Co. Limited, Halifax. Pp. xii, 160. \$2.50.

In the early seventies of the last century a young lad, Fenwick Williams Vroom, matriculated into King's College, Windsor. Since that day long ago, as undergraduate, graduate priest, member of the faculty and Dean Emeritus of Divinity, Dr. Vroom has known, loved and served Canada's oldest English college. When it was decided to mark the 150th anniversary of King's with a new history of the institution, it was natural that Dr. Vroom should be chosen to fulfil the labour of love. To-day we have the fruits of that service, coloured by the author's long connection with Old King's.

The story, as told by Dr. Vroom, takes us back to the early King's Colleges that were founded on this continent; of them all, only King's College in Nova Scotia still retains the honored name. King's College (now Columbia), New York, was the direct ancestor of our King's, for it was a group of graduates and faculty of that college who decided, even before the severance of the colonies from the Motherland was made final by treaty, that in the new land to which many of them would be going, there should be a college where the sons of gentlemen would be taught loyalty to their Church and King. Then comes the struggle of Charles Inglis, consecrated Bishop of Nova Scotia in 1787, to found the institution. In 1789 the Provincial Government authorized the founding of King's College. On Bishop

Inglis fell the choosing of the site, of the appointment of staff, and of the erection of a suitable building; he wanted a stone building, but there were no suitable workmen in the Province, so a frame building with stone noggings had to do service. Nor did Dr. Inglis's troubles end there: the Governors were His Majesty's Council, of whom some were indifferent, and others fanatical in their churchmanship; so arose through the obstinacy of one man, the insertion of the religious test for students against the advice of the Bishop, who had a vision of one strong college in which all denominations would be welcome.

And so the story goes: the withdrawal of the government grant; the rallying of the alumni to the support of their *Alma Mater*, the growing financial needs, the various attempts to unite King's and Dalhousie, sometimes with the intention of removing the latter college to Windsor; and then the disastrous fire of 1920, and the subsequent removal to Halifax. Woven into the story are delightful chapters on customs, traditions and men of Old King's. From the work one carries away two distinct impressions: the faith that inspired Kingsmen of old whenever disaster threatened the college, and the delightful style of the book itself, for only Dr. Vroom could have told the story in such an easy, charming, cultivated style. The book itself is a very fine production, on which the Imperial Press is to be congratulated; the illustrations have been well chosen and executed. Not only Kingsmen and friends of King's, but all who are interested in the cultural history of Nova Scotia will want to read and own this delightful work.

B. M.

GERMANY TOMORROW. By Otto Strasser. Translated from the German by Eden and Cedar Paul. Jonathan Cape, London. 8/6 net.

HISTORY IN MY TIME. By Otto Strasser. Translated from the German by Douglas Reed. Jonathan Cape, London. 10/6 net.

A most valuable source of light upon the Nazi policies, and in consequence of suggestion for the best means to combat them is to be found in the books which have come of late so fast from the pen of Dr. Otto Strasser.

No man can have fuller knowledge of the Nazi movement. Dr. Strasser was a most effective organizer of the effort which during six years aimed, with a large measure of foreign sympathy, at "German Resurrection". He broke with Hitler when Hitler betrayed the design of social justice which had given his movement its first respectable appeal. When it became clear that under the double term "National Socialism" was disguised a purpose of ruthless national aggression, in which social reform would have no place, the organizer abandoned his chief. Dr. Strasser founded the famous "Black Front", an anti-Hitler enterprise within Germany, and since then he has been more or less continuously in danger of his life. The story of his hair breadth escapes in various countries from the agents of the Gestapo is as thrilling as any in detective fiction.

In the series of books which he has issued during the last few years we have a clear and comprehensive picture of the phases of the Nazi movement by one who knows it and its chief actors in every detail. His memoir entitled *Hitler and I* tells with unforgettable vividness of how and why an intimate association was broken.

The two books here noticed, *Germany Tomorrow* and *History in My Time*, endeavor to show how, in the light of the way the present war historically arose, a lasting settlement—once British victory has been won—might be made, on the basis of a scheme of European federalism. No one has better earned the right to be heard by the attention of lovers of freedom is the great venture he made, and so long successfully carried through, when he spoke to Germans, from a radio station across the border in Czechoslovakia—"German Freedom Broadcast, in spite of the Gestapo". Here, if anywhere, is one who has risked everything for the democratic cause.

No one who wants to follow the present tragic course of events with help of those at once most competent and most ready to interpret Nazi Germany to the British reader can afford to miss these books. Author and translators have cooperated to make them at once most instructive and most readable.

H. L. S.

ARISTOTLE'S ART OF POETRY, with an introduction and explanations by W. Hamilton Fyfe, Oxford, at the Clarendon Press, 1940, \$1.75.

This is an attempt to make Aristotle's famous treatise as accessible as possible to the modern Greekless reader, who is interested in comparative literature and the beginnings of literary criticism. The text of the translation is that of Ingram Bywater, taken from his monumental edition of the Greek and furnished with an introduction, notes, and occasional analyses of the argument by the Principal of the University of Aberdeen. The latter has also made a few changes in Bywater's language, designed to make it a little clearer and more in harmony with the original. For instance, he gives us "Socratic dialogue" in place of Bywater's "Socratic conversation" and "the theatres" instead of bywater's "the stage." These are really slight improvements.

Of the merits of Bywater's well-known translation it is not necessary to speak. It is still probably the best all-round rendering in English, and the one which most faithfully reproduces Aristotle's somewhat pedestrian style. Any difficulties which arise in reading it come from the subject-matter and not from the English. Principal Fyfe's introduction is simple, clear and sufficiently informative and critical to orient the student who comes to the Greek world with the minimum of knowledge of the background. His analyses and notes are judicious, sympathetic, and distinctly helpful. This edition probably takes the average student as far as he can go without the benefit of a teacher's aid.

A. K. GRIFFIN

VOICES OF LIBERTY. By F. M. K. Foster and H. A. Watt.
Macmillans in Canada. Pp. 613.

Although this anthology is designed primarily for college students, it should have a much wider appeal in these days. It is an attempt to present the best speeches and writings on the subject of liberty by British and American writers. It should do much to show the world how closely linked are the ideals of the British Commonwealth and the United States: it might well be read in conjunction with *Union Now* to show how deep the roots of such a movement really go. The end papers are particularly interesting: the front end paper is a facsimile of the Magna Carta; the latter, of the Declaration of Independence. The format is pleasing and the type very readable.

B. M.

ASKLEPIADES OF SAMOS. By William Wallace, Asst. Professor of Classics in the University of Colorado, and Mary Wallace, Oxford University Press, 1941. Price \$2.50.

This is the first time, as far as I am aware, that the poems of the Greek poet, Asklepiades, have been published in an edition by themselves, complete with introduction, notes, and translation; and the result has justified what might otherwise have seemed too ambitious an undertaking for the few slender verses that have been preserved amid the manifold variety of the Greek anthology. A great deal of the interest of this work, of course, arises from the wealth of English verse translations. Professor and Mrs. Wallace have given their own version in each case, and where possible have added a number of other ingenious efforts. Translating the polished gems of the Greek anthology is an old and exciting game which occasionally achieves astounding success, as in Porson's lines

"The Germans in Greek
Are sadly to seek;
Not five in five-score
But ninety-five more;
All, save only Hermann,
And—Hermann's a German."

Most translations, however, are foredoomed to failure; but it is an appealing pastime to consider which of the various attempts in English verse comes nearest to the spirit and air of the original. Before long one is apt to take out a pencil and join in the chase, by adding yet another improved rendering, which needs to be corrected by yet another, and so on *ad infinitum*.

This is an edition of which one feels that the poet Asklepiades would have approved himself; that it has something slight and precious about it would be no demerit in his eyes. He was the fine flower of an age which vacillated between the direct enjoyment of life and the delight of saying the right thing about it; in other words, the pedantry of courts and academic institutions was beginning to have its effect.

Poetry was leaving the dusty highways of the world for the appreciation of small exclusive groups. After the tempestuous reign of the Athenian democracy, it was becoming again an aristocratic concern.

Asklepiades, who lived about 300 B.C., was apparently an appreciated adherent of the court circle of his native Samos, presided over by the tyrant Douris, who was himself a voluminous historian and literary man. When there was realized this phenomenon of the historian tyrant, as rare surely as Plato's philosopher king, literature came into its own and among the poetic ornaments of the ruling society were Asklepiades and his two friends Poseidippus and Hedylus. They published a collection of epigrams in common, so that it is not always quite certain who is the author of a particular piece. Besides his epigrams Asklepiades must have written considerable other work; for instance, poems in the fascinating metres to which he gave his name, and which Horace is so fond of employing; but these have been allowed to perish and the slender epigrams are practically all we have of his work.

Some are stilted, some are frigid, some are over-elaborate, but others are fresh and clear with all the charm of exquisite miniatures, and Professor and Mrs. Wallace are to be congratulated on their success in presenting this rather fragile material in so attractive a form.

A. K. GRIFFIN

CANADA SPEAKS OF BRITAIN. By Sir Charles G. D. Roberts.
Ryerson Press. Pp. 15.

This small paper-bound pamphlet should have a wide sale. In it Sir Charles has brought together his poems of the present war, a few from the Great War, and three recent poems of more general subject. The years seem unable to diminish Sir Charles' sterling patriotism or his poetic craftsmanship. Here we find the clear cut Canadian touches—farm life with its varied activities and its close contact with Nature has always caught Sir Charles' imagination—and the simple, masculine rhythms. One is glad to see in more permanent form "Peace with Dishonour": in September, 1938, Sir Charles was one of the few who saw clearly the implications of Munich and dared to express his disgust. The author's royalties are devoted to the work of the War Services Library Council—may they be bounteous.

B. M.

THE CHRISTIAN'S KNOWLEDGE OF GOD. By W. W. Bryden,
M.A., D.D., Professor of the History and Philosophy
of Religions, Knox College, Toronto. \$2.50. The
Thorn Press, Toronto.

This is an interesting and an opportune book. Written in clear, vigorous style, it from time to time presents an incisive phrase or a memorable paragraph which the reader wants to underline or to mark with pencil in the margin as summing things up with peculiar effective-

ness. Dr. Bryden has a talent for illustration, and when he is roused in controversy—as all admirers of Karl Barth must now be roused—his occasional satire is a means to lucid statement. A book too which urges after the writer's own manner of thought many a Barthian interpretation, without being simply or chiefly a study of Barth, has just now a valuable supplementary use. For this the present reviewer is grateful.

To say so is not to adopt or approve the extraordinary onslaught upon what is commonly known as "liberal theology" or "theological modernism" which confronts us everywhere in these pages. One could wish that some of those who represent that movement had the combination of earnest purpose with expository power which marks this critic. But to the present reviewer, at least, Dr. Bryden's central contention is the denial of what he most firmly believes about the place of Christianity among the historic "searchings after God". This last phrase, indeed, is one against which Dr. Bryden will be quick to protest: he will say that to regard Christianity as a searching, side by side with other searchings, is to miss its quality of "revelation", on which Karl Barth has been as explicit as St. Paul—but not more so. The reply is that St. Paul, and at his best Karl Barth himself (in this respect so superior to many a Barthian) is nowhere committed to such contemptuous depreciation of the ethnic faiths. To seek through such contempt the true method of emphasizing Christian originality is a fault against which even "the poor seraggy Deists" of two hundred years ago sounded a wholesome note.

One well understands, indeed, and may well sympathise with, the impulse which produced such a book as this. Reaction has been long overdue against a flippant theological relativity: but recoil from reason, however attractive, is no safer now than it has been in melancholy theological adventures of the past. Dr. Bryden's occasional burst of scorn for the difficulties of modernists reminds one of a like temper in the Abbé Loisy of long ago towards the difficulties of Protestants, and Abbé Loisy's ultimate development carries a warning of which Barthians may well take note.

This is not the place to pursue technical detail further, and it is not objections, however fundamental, that are chiefly to be emphasized in speaking of so suggestive a book. Even one who dissents most strongly may keep in mind how much an attitude such as Dr. Bryden's is preferable to the opposite extreme. The corruption of a Barthian may be the generation of a Frank Buchman, but the corruption of an anti-Barthian has too often been the generation of a Kirsopp Lake. And the former risk is to be preferred.

H. L. S.

SUEZ AND PANAMA. By Andre Siegfried. Translated from the French by H. H. and Doris Hemming. Jonathan Cape, London.

Here is a monograph on two Canals. About each of them it is most important that he who would follow the course of the day's news should now have much better information than that imperfectly

instructed person known as "the general reader" usually possesses. For most purposes in the past, while we still enjoyed "piping times of peace", the scanty fragments of such knowledge set forth in school geographies and school histories was perhaps adequate. That the isthmus called Suez, and pierced by a canal joins two continents and separates two inland seas, was made known to us at a very early age. We later learned, from an immortal song, that it likewise divides the more austere western world from an indulgent East—an East which rocks little of moral difference, encourages thirst, and has no Ten Commandments. But we need to appreciate regarding Suez just now much more than we can learn from "Mandalay", if we would appreciate what is afoot in Syria and Lebanon and Iraq. Likewise, if we would understand the point of many a broadcast from President Roosevelt, warning Americans of the menace in the Caribbean Sea, we ought to acquaint ourselves with the story and the present situation of the Panama Canal.

Here is the very book required to bring these matters before the general reader in concise, engaging form. Andre Siegfried does not need to be commended to any British audience. The work could hardly have been better done than he has here done it, giving us the points vital for appreciation, and avoiding the burden of more.

H. L. S.

UNION NOW WITH BRITAIN. By Clarence K. Streit, Author of *Union Now*. Jonathan Cape, Ltd. London. \$2.00.

Two years ago, Mr. Streit aroused and held the world's attention by the volume called *Union Now* in which, with uncanny insight into what lay ahead, he urged the necessity for immediate organic union among the democracies to resist the menace of combined dictatorships. One recalls the air of profound wisdom with which certain of his critics then dismissed his proposals as "unworkable": since then, we have had to watch, working very actively indeed, that alternative to his proposals which Mr. Streit, having spent long years of disillusionment at Geneva, saw grimly at hand.

Are we ready, even yet, to bury our objections and prejudices, making the sacrifice that is needful if world rescue is to be tried at all? Mr. Streit's scheme is one for "federal union": it means, in most concise English, the construction of a united democratic front, no mere "league" for exchange of opinions, but a closely cemented organization of democracies, with a common treasury for national defence, and a common sovereign legislature to assign to each section its due part in the common defence burden. When he first proposed this plan, he was able to enumerate some fifteen democracies that had earned the right to equal place in such a union. Alas, a good many of them are now vassal states of a tyranny. But Mr. Streit is not deterred. He has here redrawn his program, as the altered situation seems to require. What he wants is still "Union Now", but he suggests that a beginning be made with the two democracies, British and American.

On the detailed method by which it is worked out, there is here no time or space to dwell. This early brief review notice is supplied that the reader may be apprized of so important a publication, on which more will be said later. It is a book of the first importance that we have here, by a writer who knows how to adjust earlier proposals to the limits which the march of events has made needful, without compromising in the least their essence.

"Where bad men combine, the good must associate"—so wrote Edmund Burke, and Mr. Streit very aptly quotes it as a heading for one of his chapters. One might add that the association requires definite automatically acting machinery, not that limitless encouragement to mere debate by which the promise of the Geneva method was so frustrated. We have seen within less than thirty years two world wars, in each of which it should have been plain from the outset that American and British vital interests were coincident. It required 2½ years to make that clear in the first case to those who had to act upon it, and after 1½ years of similar exchange of speculative opinion, the forces of malicious folly were beginning again to be silenced by the voices of justice and wisdom. Will the like fatuous delay be interposed again, before—say—a Third World War? Even though the *Blitzkrieg* had not been evolved, even under the slower conditions of previous campaigning, such delay was much too long. Now it is still worse.

It is to prevent the like that Mr. Streit is working, with ample knowledge and keen insight. Let us help him to a result.

H. I. S.

THE ROMANCE OF MEDICINE IN CANADA. By J. J. Heagerty, M.D., C.M., D.P.H. The Ryerson Press, Toronto.

I have just read with great interest *The Romance of Medicine in Canada*, another historical success of J. J. Heagerty, M.D., C.M., D.P.H., published by the Ryerson Press. Contributions from its sale will be made to the Canadian Red Cross for the relief of war victims. May it go over the top! The book deals concisely with disease and epidemics among the Indians and early settlers, with the practice of medicine under French and British rule, with the foundation of hospitals, the introduction of nursing, and the establishment of public health measures, an ideal of to-day and the recent outcome—health insurance. This trend of public health is recorded in the little book as having been anticipated about three hundred years ago.

The subjects are dealt with in a most interesting manner, interspersed with amusing incidents which lend humor to so serious a topic. Disease is outlined in epidemic form from the days of Cartier, who learned the treatment of scurvy from the Indians. These tribes suffered with this dread disease, also with tuberculosis before the advent of the white men. The outbreaks of small-pox among them were blamed on the Jesuits, and this led to the massacre of those noble priests who had gone to their assistance.

As we read, we note how these various epidemics played a part in determining the history of Canada. On many occasions disease

intervened and so ended wars between the English, French and Indians, thus controlling to a great extent the destiny of our country.

From the crude methods of surgery, when "speed, with the amount of blood on the frock coat" brought renown, we are led to the introduction or discovery of anaesthesia, antiseptics and vaccines to the surgery of this century. Every day the documents of our archives are being unfolded, and so the history of our country is gradually opened to the public: may our future writers add to the work of this noted historian, and so enrich our libraries with the secrets of the past.

M. H. L. GRANT

YANKEES AND YORKERS. By Dixon Ryan Fox. New York University Press, New York, 1940. Pp. x, 237. Map.

These eight lectures by President Dixon Ryan Fox of Union College, delivered in the Phelps Lectureship on Early American History, Stokes Foundation, New York University, present a vivid picture of the not always peaceful penetration of New Englanders into the State of New York, during the late 17th and 18th centuries. The first lecture, "Two Personalities," personifies New England and New York, sketches in bold outline the different racial, religious and political traditions of the two original peoples, and foreshadows the clash of the two civilizations. The succeeding lectures trace in necessary detail the southern and westward migration of the New Englanders and the ultimate victory of their aggressively democratic way of life over the more feudal and aristocratic Dutch pioneers of New York. The theme of these lectures is much less familiar to the student than the character and influence of the northern and eastward push of the New Englanders, and the lectures themselves make delightful reading.

D. C. H.

POETS OF TOMORROW: Cambridge Poetry, 1940. Macmillans in Canada (for The Hogarth Press). Pp. 87. \$2.00.

It is easy to laugh at undergraduate poets who, according to themselves, are primarily interested in jazz music and cricket, or whose chief ambition is to write good prose despite an inability to read novels, or whose chief interests are religion and Auden's poetry; nevertheless, beneath the pose there is very probably something substantial. Eleven undergraduates or recent graduates are represented here, most of them by only a poem or two. Obviously, then, it is as a group and not as individuals that the young men are meant to interest us. One notes that none of the group is greatly interested in politics; there is not a strictly political poem in the book. Again, most of the writers seem to be disgusted with the world as it is—not a new note among young poets. These men, too, tend to be more simple and direct than their immediate predecessors were; indeed, Mr. Mark Holloway's "Oh, for the days when birds wore spats" has a rollicking movement, but at the same time shows admirably the



"Do you know why I like being with you?"

"Because I always carry Sweet Caps."

SWEET CAPORAL CIGARETTES

"The purest form in which tobacco can be smoked."



writer's boredom with existence. Poets of tomorrow? That is a very rash prophecy: very often rebellious and disillusioned undergraduate poets have a shocking tendency to settle down quite comfortably into the despised commercial and conventional life. The Canadian reader is amused at the rather smug way in which the editor informs us that this one has not heretofore been published outside Cambridge and that one has served on *Granta* or *Seven*: really, the world is not an ellipse with Cambridge and Bloomsbury as twin foci.

B. M.

SIR WILLIAM ALEXANDER, FIRST EARL OF STIRLING. By Thomas H. McGrail. Oliver & Boyd, Ltd., Edinburgh and London, 1940. Pp. xiv, 273.

In his foreword to this volume the author asserts that the creative energy of the English renaissance expended itself in four fields of endeavour—literature, statecraft, colonial expansion and religion—but produced only two men who reflected all its manifold interests, Sir Walter Raleigh and Sir William Alexander; and that, of the two, the latter was "even more representative of his age" than the former. His purpose, therefore, was to make a complete study of the life and achievements of this extraordinary man, whose work has been shrouded in oblivion while his ghost has reappeared at intervals throughout the intervening centuries. The study involved extensive research over a wide area and, if it has not revealed the greatness of Sir William or restored him to his 17th century pedestal, it has shown the causes of his failure to reach the hall of fame. Moreover, it has assembled within reasonable compass a mass of detail which will save the curious reader many weary years of preliminary research, and even help him to different conclusions.

Of the twelve chapters in the biography, three are devoted to Sir William's colonial dreams and ventures; and, though they too failed, the story is of permanent antiquarian interest to both old and new Scotland. In these chapters the author tells again the familiar story of Sir William's Nova Scotian venture; but, apart from an eloquent and highly exaggerated estimate of Sir William's contribution to the province, in which he cites the names of all those who came to Port Royal prior to 1710 to promote settlement or conquest and asserts that "Sir William has left the most enduring mark of all," his chief contribution to historical knowledge is his discovery of a document which shows that the site of the Scottish fort at Port Royal was east and north of the French fort, confirms the traditional view—challenged by Insh—that the first Scottish settlement at Port Royal was made in 1628, and seems to prove that Lord Ochiltree's settlement in Cape Breton was made in the same year.

D. C. H.