

NEW BOOKS

TORONTO DURING THE FRENCH RÉGIME, 1615-1793. By Percy J. Robinson, M.A. Illustrated by C. W. Jefferys, R.C.A., LL.D. The Ryerson Press, Toronto, and University of Chicago Press, Chicago. Pp. xx, 254. 24 illustrations and a folding map.

The projected celebration of Toronto's centenary has called forth an historian to remove the reproach that it is a *parvenu* among Canadian urban centres, and to demonstrate its antiquity by pushing back the hands of time, not merely to 1793, when Governor Simcoe founded the town of York, but to 1615 when Brulé used the Toronto Carrying-Place en route to the Andastes on the Susquehanna. Mr. Robinson's *Toronto During the French Régime* should do much to exorcise the inferiority complex of those Torontonians who have been too conscious that they were "younger by 200 years than Quebec and Montreal", and lacked that "heritage of history and romance which flings a glamour about the traditions of the older cities." For Mr. Robinson asserts that the Toronto Carrying-Place is "as old as human life in America", and that Riverside Drive, Toronto, is "one of the most historic spots in the lake region".

This bold re-dating of Toronto's greatness has led to the re-telling of Canadian history, with particular reference to exploration, fur-trade and adventure in the region of the Great Lakes, merely because "Sometimes intimately, sometimes remotely, the Toronto Carrying-Place was touched by the struggle for the control of the continent waged so long between the French on the St. Lawrence and the Dutch and the English on the Hudson". The story has not been carelessly written. On the contrary, infinite pains have been taken to gather up that glamour of tradition that rests on the Toronto region or district, and "fling" it about the younger city. The process has involved an account of every explorer, fur-trader, map-maker, engineer or governor who has ever crossed over or stopped at the Carrying-Place. But the story embodies the latest research as to the site of the Seneca village, Teiaiaagon—an Iroquois ancestry which most Torontonians have forgotten. It establishes the contention that there was a French fort in Toronto as early as 1720, accepts M. Massicotte's view that two forts were built there by the French during the years 1750 and 1751, sketches the lives of Doubille, de la Saussaye, La Force, Bouchette and de Rocheblave, publishes Aitkin's account of the first survey of Toronto in 1788, throws new light on Col. J. B. Rousseau, the last of the French traders in Toronto, and reminds the heedless motorist on Riverside Drive that Brulé, Joliet and La Salle carried their own canoes over that historic ground three centuries ago.

All this narrative and discussion is interesting *per se*, and in the main beyond criticism. It is only occasionally that the author indulges in humour, as for example, when he says, "It is plain that even

in 1726 Toronto had assumed that commercial character which still distinguishes her inhabitants," or again, "The poet Moore had ample justification for attaching the epithet 'old' to the name when he wrote in 1804,

Where the blue hills of old Toronto shed
Their evening shadows o'er Ontario's bed."

On the whole, it may be said that, of its kind, this book has been well done. But this sort of book tends to throw general history out of perspective, and one cannot but feel that if the history of Toronto since 1793 were written in the same detail, descriptive and biographical, the Royal Ontario Museum would scarce have room for anything else. Fortunately Mr. Robinson omitted the "Huron Mission" and the "Loyalists", though he gives his readers a hint as to what he might have done with the latter, in lamenting the oblivion of the French Régime as follows: "But so completely has Simcoe's ideal of a new England in Upper Canada been realized that Toronto, the citadel of British sentiment in America, and Ontario, the most British of all the provinces, retain in place-name or recording tablet scarcely a vestige of all that happened before the coming of that most loyal of all loyal governors". If this is sound history, one wonders if it is not sound psychology to say that boasting of being *most British* is a *most un-British* thing. In any event, all Canadians must agree with the author's corollary that "only the most stubborn and insular patriotism would reject the rich legacy of romance bequeathed by the pioneers of New France".

The illustrations are beautifully done, and the work as a whole is a first-class sample of the book-maker's art.

D. C. H.

SOME FACTORS IN THE MAKING OF THE COMPLETE CITIZEN. By Sir Robert Falconer, K.C.M.G. The Rice Institute Pamphlet. Vol. XXI, No. 1. Jan., 1934. Published by the Rice Institute, Houston, Texas.

In these days, when it has evidently become a subject of debate in some quarters as to how far academic teachers may "interfere" in questions of social and political interest, Sir Robert Falconer intervenes most usefully to demonstrate that the thing has been done, that it can be done and that it ought to be done. Nothing but evil can arise out of a divorce between the University and the State. Conditions of mutual respect must be present. The professor's chair, says Sir Robert, must not be the seat of the rebel and the propagandist; but on the other side "the hand of the Churches must not be reached out behind the politician to stop the mouth of the teacher." What applies to the Churches must apply to every other hand. The distinguished ex-President of Toronto enters into the great tradition, coming down from the Greek philosophers, wherein true citizenship is expected to be a subject of academic discourse, and, may we say, in which statesmen are expected to be philosophers. The theme of the

lectures is developed through four aspects of education, which illustrate the breadth and depth of citizenship, viz., Tradition, the Spirit of Enquiry, the Pursuit of Beauty, and Religion. To all these subjects the lecturer brings the ripe wisdom of a man who in a singular way has combined the ideals for which he pleads—to be a man of culture and a man of affairs, with right hand and left hand each not only knowing what the other is doing, but each serving the other, and both serving the body, which is the State. We welcome these lectures as a contribution to the growing literature on the subject of civic education.

J. S. THOMSON.

RELATION OF THE VOYAGE TO PORT ROYAL IN ACADIA OR NEW FRANCE. By the Sieur de Dièreville. Translated by Mrs. Clarence Webster. Edited with notes and introduction by John Clarence Webster. Bibliographical data by Victor Hugo Paltsits. Toronto, The Champlain Society, 1933. Pp. xi, 324. 3 maps and plans, and 8 illustrations.

The Publications of the Champlain Society now number a score of volumes, exclusive of the *Works of Samuel de Champlain* which are being published in another series of six volumes for general distribution. The last volume of the first series to appear is Dièreville's *Port Royal*, edited with introduction and notes by Dr. J. C. Webster of Shediac, who in co-operation with the Champlain Society and other publishers is doing a great work in making the "classics of Acadia" known and available to students and the general public. It is unnecessary to say more about the general style of the book than that it appears in the regular format of the Champlain Society, is well illustrated, clearly printed, and practically free from typographical errors or omissions.

The book itself, though not the most valuable of the early works on Acadia, has a charm all its own and is intensely interesting. It is an account of a voyage to and from Acadia, and the observations of the author during a year's residence in Port Royal, 1699-1700. The author and traveller was apparently a medical man possessed of a lively curiosity, not a little credulity, and not too much courage. He also had literary ambitions and a flair for verse; and this, while adding to the charm of his narrative, has piled up difficulties for the translator. But Mrs. Webster has overcome these difficulties one by one, and achieved a brilliant effect in unrhymed verse and lucid prose.

In a concise preface and a comprehensive introduction Dr. Webster has expressed his thanks to those who have assisted him, and has given a critical summary and estimate of the author's work. His footnotes, too, are reasonably full, and are supported by the best authorities. It is obvious that Dr. Webster has enjoyed the editorial work, more especially because his author was a medical man with literary and scientific interests.

But it is impossible without repeating Dr. Webster's excellent introduction to give the reader any adequate idea of the charm of

this book. He must read it himself, and he may be assured that once he starts he will not stop until he has reached the end; for the Gallic author has an eye for the picturesque, is interested in social conditions and *l'amour*, and brings the comparative and genetic ideas to bear upon every description or observation that he makes. Thus the lives of the Acadians, the customs of the Indians, the colonizing methods of the English are described, compared and contrasted with the manners, customs and economic characteristics of contemporary France. At the same time, the perils and delights of contemporary navigation are shouted with great volubility into an atmosphere of cynical sailorly calm and timorous landlubberly piety.

D. C. H.

A HISTORY OF EVERYDAY THINGS IN ENGLAND: The Rise of Industrialism, 1733-1851. Written and illustrated by Marjorie and C. H. B. Quennell. Charles Scribner's Sons, Ltd., New York. 1934. \$2.50.

This is a volume divided into two parts, each half-century concerned receiving some hundred pages of treatment. In each section the staple occupations of the farmer, the clothier and the builder are examined. Subsidiary trades are given a chapter in each division of the book, and in the first part the development of sanitation is traced.

It is somewhat of a relief to turn from the ordinary modern book on philosophical, military or diplomatic history to a work such as this, which deals with the simple things our forefathers used in daily life, and deals with them in such a way as to make old times and old methods come to life again. The book abounds with illustrations of long-forgotten implements and costumes—and very well done these are, though the diagrammatic explanations of some of the machinery of the day may prove difficult to follow to the boys and girls for whom the book is alleged to be written.

On occasion the narrative may seem to ramble, but it is a pleasant type of rambling, vaguely reminiscent of Jusserand's *English Way-faring Life*, and though comparatively frequent references to figures not on the same page as the text sometimes interrupt the even flow of the story, yet we have here a tale well-told of the revolutionary progress made in England, from the simplicity of a world whose work was done by human muscle to the power-driven complexity of the earlier hours of our present day.

This is definitely a book to possess. Its illustrations certainly will fascinate the juvenile audience for which the book was specifically made, but adult readers will welcome it too. To the jaded teacher in search of supplementary material to liven up the dull tale of ministries and kings of England, there is here a mine of useful and illuminating matter.

A. S. WALKER.

THE MODERN SCOT: Vol. IV, No. 4. St. Andrews, Scotland.

The Modern Scot is a Journal that aims at being the literary expression of the Scottish Renaissance. Emphasis is upon *modern*. It appears to attempt the fulfilment of its purpose in two ways—by localizing the modern movements of literary expression in the Scottish soil and heritage, and, at the same time, by delocalizing Scottish culture from the “kail-yard” influences and the Calvinistic blight. Scotsmen are to be good Europeans, and to this end they are to be set free not only from the political connections with England, but also from the Puritanical repressions of the Anglo-Saxon temperament, which have inhibited Scotland’s cultural progress. Those who are interested in the modern development of literary expression, especially of the psychological-realistic type, will find much in its pages to delight and instruct the mind. The best features of the present number are an article on “The Decline of the Novel” by Edwin Muir, and two short songs by “Hugh Macdiarmid”, who appears also under his real name as C. M. Grieve in an article on “The Last Great Burns Discovery”. This evidently he considers to be on a momentous theme, and I have no doubt that he will regard most other people as suffering from Calvinistic repressions because they think it disgusting.

J. S. THOMSON.

THE GIFT OF THE MUSES.

REASON AND BEAUTY IN THE POETIC MIND. By Charles Williams. Oxford University Press. Pp. viii—186. \$1.50.

KEATS’ WORKMANSHIP: A STUDY IN POETIC DEVELOPMENT. By M. R. Ridley. Oxford University Press. Pp. ix—312. \$4.50.

THE SHROUDING: POEMS. By Leo Kennedy. Macmillans in Canada. Pp. xiv—59. \$1.50.

In his earlier work, *The English Poetic Mind*, Mr. Williams expressed a belief that only the poet could be an ideal critic. In the present volume, *Reason and Beauty in the Poetic Mind*, we again find this underlying thought. “The four corners of this book lie at the following points: (1) the use of the word Reason by Wordsworth in the *Prelude*; (ii) the abandonment of the intellect by Keats in the *Nightingale* and the *Urn*; (iii) the emphasis laid on Reason by Milton in *Paradise Lost*; (iv) the schism in Reason studied by Shakespeare in the tragedies”. There is a danger in taking a poet’s own words as critical terms. What is the Wordsworthian Reason? It is much closer to the German *Vernunft* than to the Popeian Reason. Perhaps it would have been better had Mr. Williams used some more clearly defined expression, such as the supra-rational power of the integrating

imagination, or simply intuition. Again, the author's distinction between poetry and prose—poetry reminds man of his limitations by its pattern; prose does not—may seem too fine spun for the mundane reader. The development of the thesis is not always clear. But Mr. Williams has the defects of a poet, and his virtues are of the same source. His penetrating remarks and the light he throws on individual poems and authors well reward the reader. This is especially true of his treatment of Spenser and of Keats's Odes.

Mr. Ridley in *Keats' Craftsmanship* has set himself a different task. He does not range over the whole field of critical poetry in an endeavour to form a critical pattern; he does not interest himself in whole canon; rather he restricts his study to the period from February, 1818, to September, 1819, that is, from *Isabella* to the *Ode to Autumn*. "There are then three distinct aspects of Keats's art which are worth study, which may be called very briefly 'sources,' 'materials,' and 'workmanship'; or, in other words, the 'points of attachment', the stuff of the web, and the artistry of its spinning". Books on Keats have of late fallen like autumn leaves, but there was room for this detailed study. Mr. Ridley has used to full advantage the material in the *Letters* and in the MSS. Through the latter the critic works indefatigably, suggesting reasons why Keats has made each change. Sometimes the reader may wonder whether a facsimile and his own wits might not have been as useful, but Mr. Ridley usually brings some new "source" or suggestion to bear on the poet's emendations. The study of the development of Keats the technician is excellent; even in the Odes, where Prof. Garrod has done so much, Mr. Ridley can add something valuable. The author makes good his contention that Mrs. Radcliffe contributed to the *Eve of St. Agnes* and the *Nightingale*. But source hunting is a dangerous sport, and the reviewer was occasionally reminded of the Harvard undergraduate's ironic marginal note to Lounsbury's admission that a certain thing, since no source had been found, might have been original with Chaucer: "Really, Mr. Lounsbury? You don't mean that Chaucer was capable of originality!" There is also a danger that, in our present enthusiasm for Keats, we may credit him with qualities he has not. Mr. Ridley speaks of Keats's "etching imagination;" but surely etching, which implies the utmost economy and the exclusion of detail, is the last word to apply to Keats. Again, the poet is frequently in the course of the book credited with a fine dramatic sense. If dramatic sense means ability to set the stage, then Keats has it; but if the term means, as it should, conflict, clash of wills, and high passion, then Keats simply has not dramatic sense. Mr. Ridley seems, like most recent writers on Keats, to shun the word *sensuous*, but that is the right and honourable word for this poet. Keats was developing right to the last, but we must judge him by his achievements and not by possibilities. And his accomplishment was so great and pure of its kind that no one need apologetically or idolatrously credit him with qualities he has not. But these are slight flaws in one of the best studies we have of Keats. Why one with this book before him could wish for the paltry thrills of the ordinary detective story, is beyond the present reviewer's comprehension.

they are still dark. He makes the king more human perhaps, but he leaves him no less frail. We still recognize the tawdriness of the old régime, and still detect the odour of decay that comes to us from the court of Louis Quinze. The king remains the same weak voluptuary that we have always known. He may have been wise enough to wish to keep France out of the War of the Austrian Succession, but he had not the strength to act on his wisdom. He may have been driven by circumstances in 1756, but that does not explain Rossbach or the loss of India or of Canada.

What the author does succeed in doing is to make us realize more clearly the weakness of the old régime. Its great sin was not its harshness or its oppression, but its lack of strength. It was slowly dying all through the eighteenth century.

One interesting aspect of the book to the English reader is to let him see his country's history through the eyes of a French historian. It does not appear the same as in the pages of John Richard Green. That the policy of the English government in the eighteenth century was marked by both cynicism and bad faith, is an established fact in the opinion of the author.

One annoying thing about the present book is the absence of an index.

G. E. WILSON.

THE LIFE OF CARDINAL MERCIER. By John Gade. Scribner's, 1934. pp. ix—312.

This is a good book for that elusive person, the general reader. It is a clear and on the whole pleasantly written account of the life of the Cardinal, by one who knew and admired him, but is wise enough for the most part to let the facts praise him without too much comment. The author, to be sure, can see only the good qualities of his hero; it is not probable that there is much else to see, but it is rather more than probable that Mr. Gade did not want to see it. It is no bad thing to have a Life of so great and good a man written in that spirit. This is not a learned or exhaustive work, but it is far ahead in genuine value of any of the work of the school of the "debunking" wits who have infested biography for a generation or so. Mr. Gade admires his hero; the debunkers admire themselves; and there is a difference in the objects and quality of the admiration.

Cardinal Mercier would, it seems probable, have been not even a name to anyone except a few scholars, if the Germans had not invaded Belgium. The story of his life shows how he became the man the war showed him to be. The story of his dealings with von Bissing shows the saint and patriot; it shows also the man who knew his own mind and had a clear head. In defence of his preachers, he says: "I have always found that the accused preacher has simply affirmed, without affront to the occupying power, that the Belgian Fatherland is whole and united, and that the sole legitimate authority for the Belgian conscience is King Albert, his government, his magistracy, and his army. Were you willing, Excellency, to grasp this elementary

truth of jurisprudence, the conflicts between us would come to an end." He surely has as much reason to hate the Germans as anyone; but the incident of his meeting with the young German lieutenant in his cathedral is surely a lesson in Christian charity. It happened to be the young man's birthday. Cardinal Mercier wished him many happy returns; took him home to dinner; gave him his blessing and sent him "a package of goodies and a book" when he was getting into his train.

There are occasional good sayings of the Cardinal. One which heads a chapter is "Suffering accepted and vanquished... will give you a serenity which may well prove the most exquisite fruit of your life." And there is sometimes a touch of genial comedy in the behaviour of the Cardinal with his man Franz: "When the shaving brush cracked and Franz provided a new one, he found Mercier in the gray hours of the morning standing in his underclothes examining the new shaving brush through his pince-nez. He gravely handed the offending novelty to the servant: 'Franz' he said in an injured tone, 'take this back to the shop and tie a string carefully around the anatomy of the brush I am using so successfully.' There is a short appendix containing comments of Franz on the American tour.

One or two errors should be noted. Mr. Gade is capable of writing, or his printers have made him write, a plural "incunabulae." It is silly to refer to Aristotle as "that stout Stagirite, Aristotle." Mr. Gade says, too, that Mercier believed with Milton "that depth in philosophy bringeth men's minds about to religion." No doubt both Milton and Mercier did so believe, but the quotation is a familiar one, and comes from the third sentence of Bacon's "Essay of Atheism." Old Routh's advice seems never superfluous.

But the mistakes are trivial. It is a good book, and a generous book, and well worth reading.

E. W. N.

COLLECTED ESSAYS OF ROBERT BRIDGES. Vol. II, Nos. XI-XV.
Oxford University Press, London, 1933.

With the exception of the "Letter to a Musician on English Prosody", these essays are reprinted from the *Times Literary Supplement*. The use of Bridges's phonetic alphabet is continued—unfortunately, for it is annoying both to the average reader who is puzzled by such spellings as *for* (four), *conker* (conquer) or two signs resembling question marks followed by the letters *pok* for *epoch*, and to the spelling reformer who finds that the alphabet is neither phonetic nor consistent. There are a few misprints. On page 7, for example, the first vowel of *extension* is represented by the sign of the vowel of *see*.

Of special interest are the original and penetrating analysis of English prosody, and the hitherto unpublished account of Bridges's syllabic free verse, the metre of *The Testament of Beauty*, suggested to the poet by his studies in Milton's prosody.

A. R. JEWITT.

ELIZABETHAN BOOK-PIRATES. By Cyril Bathurst Judge.
Harvard Studies in English. Vol. VIII.

In this learned volume, heavily weighted with foot-notes, quotations and appendices, the author writes the "history of the repeated attacks on the privileges of men who printed under royal favour, and in particular, . . . a record of the extensive piracy of psalm-books, A. B. C.'s, and grammars". The work shows the scholarship and laborious research to be expected in this series, but the printing of a book should oblige an author to make it readable and interesting. In this respect Mr. Judge has failed, where his predecessor in the field, A. W. Pollard, has succeeded.

There is justification for the first two chapters, as they give a succinct statement of the development of the printing trade in England from 1476 to 1603, although much of this would be included in any good history of English literature. The last chapter is very interesting, for the author tells why the book was written, connects the pirating of grammars and accidentes with the sincerity of purpose that brought forth Milton's *Areopagitica*, and ends with a vindication of the book-pirate equally applicable to his successor, the boot-legger.

A. R. JEWITT.

THESE TWENTY-FIVE YEARS. A Symposium by W. H. Alexander, E. K. Broadus, F. J. Lewis and J. M. MacEachran of the University of Alberta. Toronto. The Macmillan Company of Canada, Limited. 1933. Pp. 113. \$1.50.

Last year the University of Alberta celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of its opening, and the four lectures contained in this slender and neatly bound volume were originally delivered to mark that event. Professor Alexander writes with optimism of the future of universities as foundations where knowledge is sought for its own sake, despite the present-day menace of political pressure and the dangers of the trend towards an increasing Utilitarianism. Reviewing the activities of the English poets during the last quarter-century, Professor Broadus is led to the re-discovery of greatness in Hardy's "calm detached studies of human circumstance" which places them above the physical probings of Lawrence and the teasing symbolism of "The Waste Land." Professor Lewis surveys the immense field of the physical and biological sciences, and preserves a sense of continuity amid his somewhat embarrassing wealth of material. Philosophical speculation is fittingly reserved for the concluding lecture, in which Professor MacEachran reveals a rare gift of clear and compressed statement in his exposition of the development from the heyday of English Idealism to more modern types of realistic speculation under the influence of scientific theories. The summaries of individual philosophical positions, those of Bergson and Alexander for example, are remarkable for their skilful condensation.

F. HILTON PAGE.