NEW BOOKS

THE PORTABLE CHEKHOF. Edited by Avraham Yarmolinsky. Macmillans. Pp. 631. $2.50.

THE PORTABLE RUSSIAN READER. Edited by B. G. Guerney. Macmillans. Pp. 658. $2.50.

The present volumes maintain admirably the high standards set by their predecessors in The Portable Library, issued in the U. S. by the Viking Press and in Canada by Macmillans. Mr. Yarmolinsky has made a very representative selection from Chekhof's work and written a very good introduction. *The Russian Reader* represents not only the classic writers of Russia but also contemporary writers; in this way it gives the reader a chance to note what changes time and the Soviet government have wrought in the Russian genius. The editor, Mr. Guerney, has supplied excellent biographical and other notes and a good, though brief, introduction. Both volumes can be commended to the person who honestly wishes to understand the Russian people.

R. L.S. JONES.

NICANOR OF ATHENS: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF AN UNKNOWN CITIZEN. By O. J. Grazebrook.

Mr. Grazebrook, according to himself, is not a Greek scholar, but he has always been fascinated by Greek life and history. Imaginatively he saw the relation between a Greek of the period of the Athenian-Spartan war and an Englishman of the present century—"my generation gave of its best in one war and has shared in the ravaging of Western culture in a second"—and the result is this "autobiography" of an ordinary citizen of Ancient Greece. Nicanor was comfortable, if not wealthy; his economic interest lay in agriculture and maritime trade. He fought through many battles for Athens, not from fanaticism but from genuine love. He is moderate in all things and lives through a period of great political changes without losing his native sanity or equilibrium. The professed Hellenist may sneer at such a re-creation, but the ordinary readerwill enjoy this piece of fiction and learn much about ordinary Greek citizens and life some 2400 years ago. Books like this will do more than a dozen pedantic college courses to make ancient Greece live.

IAN A. MACDONALD

THE VARSITY STORY. By Morley Callaghan. Macmilans. Pp. 172 $2.50.

One wonders whether Mr. Morley Callaghan wrote this book. as his contribution to the present campaign of the University of Toronto for increased endowment, for it arouses in the reader, especially if he was at Varsity in the 20's, a decided nostalgia. This is not a

formal history of the University, nor is it just a series of essays or reminiscences, The author has a new Warden of Hart House, a New Zealander and an Oxonian, set out to find what unity, pattern or soul, this inchoate mass of colleges and faculties may have. The plan allows Mr. Callaghan great freedom in the presentation of his material, and the reader has fun penetrating the disguises that the author has given various professors. For example, Professor Alexander is mentioned by name, but there is another professor of English, anonymous, who seems to have many of Professor Alexander's characteristics. The writing is uniformly good, and at times—for example, when the ghosts of Bishop Strachan, Egerton Ryerson, and Daniel Wilson meet under the moonlight—is highly imaginative. Two criticisms might arise: the new Warden must have been a very obtuse man if it took him seventeen years to find the answer to his question, and Mr. Callaghan has been a little too kindly towards all and sundry in the University. Some who went on to other universities might reasonably point out the thinness of some of the instruction at Toronto, even in the "golden twenties." Nevertheless, the tale gives the reader a pleasant sentimental pilgrimage, and the exceedingly fine illustrations by Mr. Aldwinckle more than make up for any defects in the author's treament of his subject.

B. M.

Schooner Bluenose. Story by Andrew Merkel; Pictures by W. R. MacAskill. Ryerson Press. Pp. 70 and 25 plates. $4.50.

No reviewer can do justice to this magnificent book. It is a joy to look at, and a joy to read. Here is the story of the Bluenose, the most perfect creation of the Nova Scotian genius, not merely from the stocks, but even before that. Mr. Merkel, in his swift clean prose, starts with the squabbles that developed around Sir Thomas Lipton's attempts to recapture the cup for international yacht racing; then he traces the genesis of the idea of genuine schooner racing in the minds of some Nova Scotians. From then on, we have the story of William Roue and his great triumph of design, the Bluenose. Even into racing between real fishing schooners there came squabbles and feuds, but these were the creation of landlubbers and so-called sportsmen, not of the men of the Banks, who throughout the story show old-time chivalry and sportsmanship. To many the end of the Bluenose was an anti-climax, but it was really not so. She was designed for real work; when the war prevented her use on the Banks, she turned to the West Indies, where many a Nova Scotian ship had sailed before her, and, despite what some may feel, such a ship's final resting place should be in the depths of the Atlantic, not in a museum. Indeed, the fine prose of Mr. Merkel and the superb pictures of Mr. MacAskill have conferred on her immortality, for through this book the Bluenose will always haunt the imaginations and the hearts of Nova Scotians, of—let us hope—all true Canadians—and of all those who love the sagas of the sea. Here is a book to be treasured. B. M.

HISTORIC HALIFAX. By W. C. Borrett. Ryerson Press. Pp. 234.

Major Borrett's weekly broadcast, "Tales Told Under the Old Town Clock", has become with the passing of the years an institution in the Maritime Provinces; likewise his annual selections from these broadcasts have won a warm spot in Maritime hearts. Now to mark the bicentenary of Halifax, Major Borrett has brought out a volume devoted entirely to an "East Canadian Port." Major Borrett has an uncanny knack of digging out interesting incidents and characters that have long been forgotten, and making them live for the reader. Who would have thought that a very amusing story could be woven round Halifax's first mayor and his exalted opinion of his office? Or again, Major Borrett becomes the most delightul of guides as he takes us through St. Paul's Church or over naval establishments. Perhaps many of us have not noticed the word BANK in a stone on Water St., but from now on we shall keep our eyes open wider as we thread the old streets of Halifax. The author has spent all his life in the Halifax areas, and not the leastd elightful part of the book is when Major Borrett becomes reminiscent and tells us of sights he has himself seen and reproduces the conversation of older citizens of the town. While an essay may have a professed topic, the author can introduce, is true essay fashion, many interesting little sidelights; I have enjoyed particularly the digression in one essay on the quaint names of ships that have sailed out of Halifax. Not the least value of the book lies in the first-hand accounts of Halifax in two world wars, with its two explosions and the senseless V.E.Day riots. *Historic Halifax* is a book for both the native Haligonian—or Nova Scotian for that matter—and the many tourists who will visit Halifax this summer.

B. M.

THE PHYCHOLOGY OF IMAGINATION. By Jean Paul Sartre. Philosophial Library. Pp. 285. $3.75.

THE EMOTIONS: OUTLINE OF A THEORY. By Jean Paul Sartre. Philosophical Library. Pp. 97. $2.75.

In a concise and tense analysis of Emotion, and a detailed, slightly wordy study of Imagination, J. P. Sartre, tries to bring out of these two aspects of our psychological life their deeper significance as manifestations of what he calls our "human reality."

He shows the shortcomings of an experimental psychology that, aiming only at gathering facts, does not entirely succeed in being a science, and fails to define the behavior of man as man. Psychology should be phenomenological: it should interrogate phenomena (psychic events), in as much as they are significations of the human reality, and not mere facts.

Emotion is defined as a behavior of escape from the pressure of the world, when our needs are no longer fitted to this world. We transform the real world into the one that will suit our present needs: it is what J.P. Sartre calls the magical character of emotion. Imag-

ination is the "image function." The image is "an act which envisions an absent or non-existent object as a body," or, in other words, "which animates a certain material in order to turn it into the representation of such an object." Both imagination and emotion are not accidents of our consciousness, nor an empirical and superadded power of this consciousness, but a mode of its *existence.* They are the very essence of that consciousness considered from a certain point of view. (For the existentialist philosopher, existence precedes essence and determines it.)

We see here a revalorization of psychology: studying the phenomena of imagination and emotion brings Sartre to conclusions on the nature of our consciousness and its relations with the world. For instance, "a consciousness which imagines is one which posits the world as a nothingness in relation to the image."

The Sartrian Psychology can thus be considered as a direct outcome of the fundamental existentialist credo: there is no *apriori* given human nature, what we do determines what we are, and that is Sartre's conception of our freedom.

LUCIE JOLY

MATTHEW ARNOLD: A Study in Conflict. By E. K. Brown, (University of Chicago Press:, Toronto, The Ryerson Press, $3.50 Pp. xiii—224.

Feeling, quite rightly, that some pretext was needed for yet another book on Arnold, Dr. Brown has built his study around an inner conflict which, by direct statement from the publisher and by implication from the author, is supposed to be a new and exciting discovery. That there was such a conflict is hardly surprising news to the most casual reader of Arnold. Even in prose, the gentleman doth protest too much; and in his verse, both first—and second-rate, the fruitless search for peace and calm is of the essence. What Dr. Brown has done, in the manner of the best dissertations, is to document extensively the references showing that Arnold could preach "disinterestedness" and yet be blinded by prejudice; advocate the universal, and yet be misled by particulars; strive for peace and still yield to strife.

Whether the critical theories or the personal shortcomings of a poet-critic are always a safe basis by which to judge his poetry, or even his criticism, Dr. Brown does not, it would appear, suficiently consider. Perhaps he believes that Arnold is still taken too much at his own valuation, or at that of his contemporaries. He might have done better to assume that the modern reader has sufficiently discounted Victorianism, and would prefer, if a further study is necessary, an appraisal of what is of positive and permanent value in Arnold's prose, and even more sure and permanent in the best of his verse.

C. L. BENNET

THE ROYAL CANADIAN INSTITUTE CENTENNIAL VOLUME 1848-1949. Edited by W. Stewart Wallace. Published by the Royal Canadian Institute, Toronto, 1949. Pp. 232 and 17 illustrations.

The Royal Canadian Institute holds a unique place in the history of Canadian science. Founded in 1849 as a professional society devoted to engineering and surveying, it later expanded to foster the popularization, advance and application of all branches of science.

It was not unnatural therefore that such an organization, which also provided the first Canadian scientific journal, should eventually lead to the foundation of independent specialized scientific societies and some of our national institutions. In this centennial volume, ably edited by Mr. Stewart Wallace, the Toronto University Librarian, we gain a clear insight into the history and activities of this maternal body.

This volume opens with a series of short non-academic accounts each contributed by an authority, of the advances made during the past century in the different fields of Canadian science. Anthropology, astronomy, botany, chemistry, engineering, geology, medicine, metereology, physics and zoology are all dealt with in an interesting and comprehensive manner.

Following on this is a historical sketch of the Institute from its foundation to the present day. This section deals with the early struggles of the society, the various quarters it occupied through the passing years, and the splendid men whose achievements have firmly established the society. An appendix provides short biographical sketches of the officers and members of the council, many of whom have gained international fame.

R. L. DE C. H. SAUNDERS

THE GREAT AWAKENING IN NOVA SCOTIA 1776-1909 By Morris W. Armstrong. American Society of Church History. Pp. 141. $3.00

This is one of the most competent and most readable books hitherto published on any aspect of the life of Nova Scotia. It deals with the origin of the evangelical "free" Churches of this province. The immediate impression is style; and to have kept up the charm of narrative across all chapters, and to have combined this with meticulous care of statement, is perhaps the author's chief distinction.

Henry Alline, strange "New Light" evangelist of 18th century Nova Scotia, had already attracted the interest of William James of Harvard, who gave him a place in the famous "Varieties of Religious Experience;" and now another Harvard doctor has added his own treatment, and one that is fresh, vivid and sympathetic. A great mass of new facts and new sources relating to Alline's New England background, combined with the story-telling power of the writer, gives the volume a commanding place at once in the interest

of all who enjoy reading about the romantic past of our land and its people, and establishes the book as the authoritative work in this field.

There are seven chapters: first, the New Light movement in relation to New England Puritanism—a chapter missing in previous studies; next, the Pre-Loyalist settlers, covering more familiar ground but with valuable economic judgments added, and supported by a number of interesting letter sources. Then follows the personal history of Alline. The book continues with a description of the Baptist churches which arose out of this visitation and which were the chief beneficiaries of Alline's evangelical fervour, and closes with an account of their fortunes at the coming of the Loyalists.

This is a prize essay of the Frank S. Brewer fund, printed by the American Society of Church History at Hartford, Connecticut, and is volume seven of the present series, "Studies in Church History." The author is Head of the Department of History at Ursinus College, Collegeville, Pennsylvania, and minister of one of the Philadelphia churches, a native of Nova Scotia, and formerly minister of the United Church, in the Maritimes.

IAN MACKINNON

THE RISE OF TORONTO. 1850-1890. By D. C. Masters. The University of Toronto Press, Pp. 239. $3.75.

Dr. Masters' detailed study of the rise of Toronto to metropolitan status provides plenty of material for debating the question of whether all "progress" is necessarily in the right direction. His political attitude is becomingly neutral, but becomes provocative when dealing with the tension between the emotional tie, which binds to Great Britain, and the pecuniary tie, which binds to New York. The provocation consists in the bland assumption that covetousness can be a virtue. Toronto's two appellations, "Tory Toronto," and "Toronto the Good," did not spring from the same root. Here as elsewhere, Toryism and Sabbatarianism were in opposing camps. While the one declined, as evidenced by the gradual decline of loyalty to Great Britain, the other increased, as evidenced by the steady expansion in church-building. Church-building, it is to be noted, actually kept pace with expansion in all other fields; (Dr. Masters' longest appendix consists of a list of churches.)

The book's chief claim to attention is, of course, as a standard work of reference for those engaged in detailed studies of Canadian history. It is not, however, without appeal for those who remember a more gracious age in Canada: an age of weekly at-homes, of ordering the carriage, of card leaving, of the briefest of brief calls. Any Torontonian born before 1914 must retain a nostalgic recollection of driving through Rosedale or "the Hill," on a wintry afternoon, just as the lamps were being lit, to sit waiting in the carriage while mother swept into one after another of those imposing mansions:

the imagined pink cakes, the firelight, the furs, the corsages of violets, did more to stimulate the fancy of the waiting child than the reading of a dozen romances. Something of this Dr. Masters has recaptured for us; not deliberately, since his aim is historical, and his style pedestrian, but by the honest method of quoting original documents.

C. L. A. WORSLEY

(CP) THE STORY OF THE CANADIAN PRESS. By M. E. Nichols. The Ryerson Press, Toronto. 1948. Pp. 317. $5.00.

The Canadian Press, through its coast-to-coast news wires, supplies the national and international news framework of every Canadian daily newspaper. That the story should be told is commendable; that Mr. Mark Nichols chose the approach he did is to be regretted.

Two world wars and the almost phenomenal growth of speedy communications since the first steps were taken to found (CP) in 1907 have brought a growing realization that the world is indeed small. The knowledge that political and economic developments half a world away may quite literally foretell destruction and death for many of us has spun a thread of fear through our lives. As a result, newspapers and radio stations are met with an almost insatiable demand for news. But there is widespread distrust of to-day's news, as readers become aware that it is prepared for them by other human beings, subject to all the foibles and prejudices that can turn facts into dangerous propaganda. Therefore, it is of vital importance that people know where their news comes from, the men and machinery by which it is gathered and distributed.

Mr. Nichols, given the opportunity of performing valuable service in presenting pertinent and valuable information, evaded it. He could have examined the policies of The Canadian Press, the safeguards of accuracy, of factual reporting (with its implications of choice of facts), the trustworthiness of the hands through which the news passes from source to reader. Instead, he decided to tell the story of a business enterprise, and the product is both relatively dull and relatively unimportant. He examines the publishers' problems which made a news-gathering agency a necessity, the squabbles between the Eastern and Western publishers, the mergers and control shifts by which The Canadian Press grew. The story would be the same for almost any large, nationwide industry.

Mr. Nichols almost completely fails to impart anything human to his account of (CP). But it is knowledge of the human element in the news, the allowance we must be prepared to make for the human frailties and opinions and convictions of the news-gatherers, that will give an intelligent foundation for evaluating the news. And it is only with knowledge of the true nature of the news that we will be able to seek a successful avenue of escape from the impending chaos we have created.

E. J. SHIELDS

SWANS AND AMBER. By Dorothy Burn Thompson. University of Toronto Press Saunders Pp. 193, $2.75

During the seventh and sixth centuries B. C. Greek poets broke the fetters of the established epic tradition and devised for themselves new forms of expression. Unfortunately only fragments of their works have survived. Yet these fragments are, in the words of Profesor Bowra, "themselves the last relics of an art which, had it survived, would be one of the wonders of the world." Their influence upon succeeding generations of poets down through the ages is evident in the works of Horace, Catullus, Goethe, Shelley, Keats and Swinburne, to mention only a few. Their lyric poery portrays for us the pattern of life developed by the Greeks during that remarkable and restless period of their history and their intepretation of that life. Poetry had become, for the first time, the immediate utterance of personal emotion, of whatever the lyric poet deeply felt. It now speaks of love and adventure, of political strifes and "the battle of life and the turmoil of the market place." The sheer beauty and the keenness of emotion expressed in the small surviving portion of this lyric poetry remains unsurpassed.

It is highly questionable to what extent poetry of one language is translatable into another. However, in this volume Mrs. Thompson has made a very commendable attempt in providing for the general reader some of these masterpieces of lyrical poetry, freely translated and adapted. That she has achieved a considerable measure of success, her rendering, particularly, of the Danae fragment is ample proof. The text is delightfully decorated with selections from Greek vase paintings, and each group of poems is introduced with a lively historical and geographical sketch which paints the setting and provides a background for the poems.

At a time when the number of Canadians who can read these delightful lyrics in the original is on the decrease, good English translations are doubly useful. They, in varying degrees, bring within the reach of the general reader those unrivalled examples of Greek genius. They are also a valuable aid to those who in institutions of learning are trying to instil an appreciation of that large part of our inheritance which we owe to Greece. *Swans and Amber* will be a good medium for both purposes.

M. O. MORGAN

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO WORLD WARS. By E. H. Carr. The Macmillan Company of Canada, Toronto, Oht, 1947.pp. 303. $2.00

This book was first published in 1937, under the title, *International Relations Since the Peace Treaties.* With a little additional matter in the later pages and with an altered title, it now appears again, as a historical review of a period marked by a most positive beginning and end. Two other books by Mr. Carr, which had been

completed during the summer of 1939 and which appeared before the end of that year, ought perhaps to be mentioned here as complementary to this. *Britain: A Study of Foreign Policy from the Versailles Treaty to the Outbreak of War*, was a descriptive review, written for a popular series, *Ambassadors at Large*, of various aspects of British foreign policy between 1919 and 1939; and *The Twenty Years' Crisis*, 1919-1939, was a highly critical commentary upon the underlying thoughts, feelings, institutions, and activities of the same period. *International Relations Since the Peace Treaties* would seem, then, to present to us Mr. Carr's reading of the history that he then went on to analyse in *The Twenty Years' Crisis*.

Reviews that have already appeared in England have praised this book for its conciseness, its balance, and its reliability and this general approval would seem to indicate that Mr. Carr has presented in it the picture of the period as it is generally accepted by well-informed persons in Great Britain at the present time. But is this British perspective correct?

The actions and attitudes of the United States receive only incidental consideration. Mr. Carr describes the consequences of the failure to ratify the Treaty of Versailles as "incalculable and far-reaching," but has nothing further to say about specific consequences of that failure. He makes no mention of "isolationism" as a dominating political idea. And he entirely ignores the United States naval building programme of November, 1918, the immigration laws of 1921 and 1924, the Fordney-Macumber tariff of 1922, and the Smoot-Hawley tariff of 1924.

Gaps in the story of British activities in the sphere of international relations are just as conspicuous—and also more tendencious. No mention is made of the morbid passion for "economy" which dominated British policy after 1920 and led to the grave impairment of British armed strength during the next ten years and more —with all the calamitous consequences that this impairment entailed. In his account of the Italian attack upon Abyssinia, Mr. Carr fails to mention Britain's appeal to other members of the League for help for *itself* in the event of an Italian attack after the imposition of sanctions, even though another authority upon international relations, Mr. Arnold Toynbee, has expressed his opinion upon this appeal in the following terms:

> The energy and ability with which the British Empire had effectively provided for its own security through the negotiations that have been, described in this chapter, threw into conspicuous relief the half-heartedness and timidity which were being displayed by the British Government in the execution of their obligations towards Abyssinia under the Covenant.
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> Royal Institute of Internatioanl Affairs: *Survey of International Affairs* 1935; Vol. II, p. 271.

Neither is it recalled that the Italian forces made use of poison gases in the later stages of the campaign against Abyssinia. Other episodes of critical importance in the story of Mediterranean relations are likewise ignored. It is not deemed worthy of notice that the

British fleet "withdrew" from Malta to Alexandria in August, 1936. And the activities of "pirate" submarines in the Mediterranean in August and September, 1937—and the international reaction to the attacks of those submarines on merchant shipping—are passed over in silence.

These omissions are not due to any necessities of condensation. Many occurrences of much less significance are covered at adequate length in the book.

In *The Twenty Years' Crisis* Mr. Carr stated that: "The exposure by realist criticism of the hollowness of the utopian edifice is the most urgent task of the moment in international thought." But can one hollowness expose another?

C. P. WRIGHT

THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA. By Robert MacGregor Dawson. University of Toronto Press-Saunders. 1947. Pp. 662., $5.50

This volume is a notable contribution in the field of Canadian government. It will be welcomed by all students of the subject, for it is the result of the author's previous researches in various phases of government activity in Canada. The organization and arrangement of material are clear and orderly, and the text is vivified and illuminated by a wealth of historical examples.

In the preface, Dr. Dawson states that this volume is presented as the second descriptive account of the government of Canada. Yet, even so, it was not designed "to cover, except incidentally, anything more than the Canadian federal or central government and its relations with the provinces." It contains seven sections, seven appendices and an index; but it has no bibliography apart from footnote references. The seven sections deal with constitutional development, the constitution, the executive, the administration, the legislature, the judiciary and political parties. The appendices include the British North America Acts of 1867, 1871, 1875, 1886, 1915, 1940 and 1946.

The first section is chiefly historical and is concerned with the influence of heredity and environment on the character of government. It traces the development of representative and responsible government in British North America, describes the creation of the Canadian federation and outlines the achievement of Dominion status. In the remaining sections, Dr. Dawson discusses the federal character of the Canadian constitution, describes the various organs of government and deals with the origin of the political parties, their distinctions, organization and problems. That the author has not paid more attention to sectionalism and special economic interests, and given more emphasis to the nature of federalism, is hardly a criticism of a book which does so much so well. On the subject of local government, which Dr. Dawson did not propose to discuss specifically in this book, Professor Clokie's *Canadian Government*

and Politics, which appeared first in 1944 and which Dr. Dawson calls "the first descriptive account of the government of Canada," is somewhat more complete.

Dr. Dawson illuminates the merits and demerits alike of the Canadian system. He is properly appreciative of the things of value, and similarly critical of the defects and the outmoded practices. In Cabinet organization, he points out the advantages of the use of the parliamentary assistant, but declares that the assistant's status is "as yet far from clear." "He occupies a parliamentary no man's land where he is no longer an ordinary member of the House nor is he listed in the official Ministry." His future "is still by no means assured." In Civil Service matters, he declares that the dual responsibility of Civil Service Commission and Treasury Board is, without much doubt, "most objectionable and fatal to efficient administration." Regarding the Senate, he states that "virtually no one has any desire to maintain it in its present unsatisfactory condition." "The Senate has thus been by no means a useles body; but there are certainly the gravest doubts whether it is worth the three-quarters of a million which is annually spent upon it unless it is looked upon simply as a pension scheme for retired commoners."

This fine volume discloses how much study has already been done in the field of Canadian government, and indicates the phases in which further research is needed.

C. B. Ferguson

Philosophy of Literature. By Gustav E. Mueller. Philosophical Library. Pp. 226. $3.50.

Philosophy in Wit. By Emil Froeschels. Same. Pp. 61. $2.75.

One Thing After Another. By C. B. Pyper. Dent. Pp. 262. $3.50.

Where Poetry stands now. By Henry W. Wells. Ryerson. Pp. 81 $2.25.

Philosophy of Literature, by a Professor of Philosophy at the University of Oklahoma, is least of all what its title first suggests, a discussion of the aesthetics of literature. It is far more a demonstration of the thesis that "changing style in literature is a function of the changing philosophy underlying art as well as all other cultural activities." Most of all it is a discussion of philosophy *in* literature. In it, "philosophy is seen in art" from Homer to Hesse: through Plato and Greek tragedy; Epicurus and Lucretius; Dante; the Renaissance; Shakespeare (in *Hamlet*), Erasmus, Montaigne, and Rabelais; Goethe and Mann; and Dostoewsky. The exposition of the philosophy of the various works examined is accompanied by a wealth of aesthetic appreciation. Because of its characteristically Germanic complexity and inclusiveness, in contrast with the typically Latin selective unity and clarity, this is a book not for a single reading but for repeated use by those interested in the philosophical meaning of the works discussed.

Philosophy in Wit "is dedicated to the proof that nothing but the assumption of congenital knowledge of philosophy can explain the 'creation' of some kinds of wit and the understanding on the part of the one who laughs." To put the proof of this assumption on a psychological basis, the author shows that the term "unconscious" is philosophically untenable and substitutes for "subconscious" and "conscious" what for him are more satisfactory terms, "not-expression-ripe" and "expression-ripe" respectively. For a joke based on congenital philosophical knowledge to succeed, this knowledge must be "expression-ripe" in both the maker and the appreciator of the joke. The theory is applied to sixteen jokes. Since "congenital knowledge of philosophy" admittedly is not the basis of *all* wit and humor, and since, at least for the not-philosophy-ripe critic, most, if not all, of both is obviously based on the recognition of some form of incongruity, this learned discussion may seem like a philosophical love's labor lost to readers incapable of enjoying, for example, the ratiocination of the schoolmen.

No philosophy of wit and humor is needed to appreciate the rich abundance of both in *One Thing After Another*. The promise of the title (the predication of the most widely known definition of life) is amply fulfilled, for practically every phase of life is represented. As Dryden said of Chaucer's works, "Here is God's plenty." These ninety-four short pieces (some of them in verse), their brevity determined by newspaper publication, are to the regular literary essay what the short short story is to the short story proper. The author has every qualification for success as a literary essayist—keen observation, skill in description and narration, a wide range of reading, a a reflective turn of mind, delicate sentiment, geniality, a chatty style, and, above all, a sense of humor. "The Witch," the only essay not first printed in the Winnipeg *Tribune*, appeared in the Toronto *Evening Telegram* (the editorial staff of which Pyper joined in 1938 and which was recently taken over by the Canadian newspaper magnate Bruce McCullagh) and shows what, given sufficient leisure and a free hand, the author might do with the Toronto scene by bringing to it the spirit of the West. (He has written for papers in Regina and Saskatoon as well as Winnipeg). Any book that wins the 1948 Leacock award for humor over this one must be unusually good.

Where Poetry Stands Now says superbly well in brief space what most needed to be said about the contemporary poetry of the English-speaking world. Here judicial criticism, on the perennially sound philosophical basis that art should express the universal through the particular, reveals in the poetry of yesterday and to-day the merit and defects of both personalism and impersonalism. Under "chaotic social conditions," personalism, specifically from Emily Dickinson on, has at its worst, by "diligent cultivation of the personality and the ego . . . led beyond egoism and personality to eccentricity, Obscurity . . . and not infrequently to forms of acute maladjustment and indubitable madness." Impersonalism, specifically from Whitman on, has at its worst produced verse in which an "essentially vulgar and highly unaesthetic society is depicted in an equally vulgar and

unaesthetic language." Some specified poets have avoided the extremes by a measure of balance between personalism and impersonalism, by "an effectual union of imagination, self-expression and communal awareness." (It is of special interest to Canadians that the weaknesses of E. J. Pratt's long poems, which so far no press critic in Canada has been both competent and honest enough to consider, are due to the fact that his impersonalism is not artistically balanced by personalism, whereas the poetry of Klein and Page more nearly achieves such a balance.) The artistic advance of the future is to, be made by the cultivation, in both art and society, of true humanism the essential belief of which is "that there is nothing more fascinating than humanity, nothing more warming than human contacts, nothing more desirable than that men should live together." Everyone interested in the survival of the art of writing great or even good poetry in the English language should thoughtfully read this book.

V. B. Rhodenizerr

The Wrath of Homer. By L. A. MacKay. University of Toronto Press-Saunders. Pp. 131. $2.50

Any treatment of Homer must from the very nature of the evidence be largely conjectural and hypothetical. No final conclusion can be based on the archeological and other data that are at present available. It is not even always possible to know how much of the evidence is itself the product of old conjecture. The chief requirement of a theory is, as Prof. MacKay suggests, that it simplify, unify and illuminate the evidence with which it deals. Recognizing these facts, Prof. MacKay has propounded a theory that meets this requirement fully and that has also the mark of considerable plausibility.

His main theme is not the overworked Homeric Question but the pattern and structure of the *Iliad*. The main thesis is that the *Iliad* is a supreme and single poem composed with consummate art and with a broad mastery of plot construction by a great poet, out of two main legends belonging to different periods, the Vengeance of Achilles and the Fall of Troy. The unifying motif and the key to the whole *Iliad* is the Wrath of Achilles. Two hypotheses support this theory; one, that the object of the siege of Troy was to eliminate a rival trade route and secure possession of the metals of the Danube basin; the other, that important elements of peoples prominent in the *Iliad* were previously settled in Epirus, where several famous legends originated.

The heterodoxy of the theories of Prof. MacKay has led unfortunately to an overbalancing of his book. Less than a fifth is devoted to his main thesis. He has found it necessary to accumulate a mass of archeological and other data to support his views. The economic interpretation of Homeric history that he has adopted has been dismissed with contempt by eminent scholars who hold the orthodox view that the Homeric heroes had not the slightest interest in trade and that the object of the siege of Troy was to secure the main route

from Europe into Asia in an age of great migrations. Nevertheless it must now be admitted that many previously inexplicable events in early Greek history become elucidated only when economic forces are considered.

The Wrath of Homer, written by an author who is himself a poet and a scholar of note, is an excellent work. It is a mine of information, archeological, literary, ethnical and etymological, for the research student in early ancient history and in the works of Homer, and is rich in historic parallels. Although mainly written for scholars, it is not without interest for the general reader who has learnt to love this masterpiece of epics.

M. O. MORGAN.

CORNELIUS KRIEGHOFF. By Marius Barbeau. The Ryerson Press, Toronto. Cloth $1.50, Paper $1.00.

J. W. BEATTY: By Dorothy Hoover. The Ryerson Rress, Toronto. Cloth $1.50, Paper $1.00

Replacing the late A. H. Robson's monograph in the Canadian Art Series, Marius Barbeau has written a brief account of Cornelius Krieghoff's life in Canada and an appraisal of his work. The author is the most distinguished authority on this pioneer of Canadian Art and his study of the painter has continued since his previous book on Krieghoff was published fifteen years ago. Using this new material in his summary, he ingeniously relates biographical details to the established dates of the artist's more important paintings.

In a critical review of his art he places Kriegroff far above the level of a provincial "genre" painter following the Dutch tradition, and asserts that he was the true originator of a Canadian spirit in landscape painting. He cites a number of examples from the hundreds of known pictures to support this. The rise in printing costs has deprived us of many of the fine colour plates which appeared in the earlier Robson book but the four which are included are supplemented by fifteen splendid half-tones. A comprehensive grouping of the artist's paintings and a bibliography are valuable additions to this excellent little book.

Dorothy Hoover tells an intimate story of the life of J. W. Beatty. It combines personal recollections and reminiscence by his friends with an appreciation of his paintings. Beatty, for thirty years a teacher in the Ontario College of Art strove to develop Canadian painting and campaigned actively to establish it among the people of Canada.

As an artist he was a pioneer, exploring and painting the North country before the members of the Group of Seven discovered its hidden beauty. Unlike them, he did not originate as compelling a manner of expression and during his lifetime this aspect of his work

received less acclaim. His ability as a painter has been recognized and his pictures hang in most public and many private collections across the Dominion.

Mrs. Hoover places particular stress upon his tremendous influence as a teacher, his students are now leaders in the art of Canada. Many of his pictures are illustrated, a few in colour. The galleries where his work is exhibited and a short bibliography are included.

DONALD C. MACKAY.

OMAR FROM MISHAPUR. By Vere Jameson. Privately printed. Pp. 36. N. p.

STAR SHINE AND MOON LIGHT. By Henry Arthur Edwards. Privately printed. Pp. 20, $0.50.

THOUGHTS OF A RAMBLING MUSE. By Ernest Archibald. Imperial Press (Halifax). Pp. 121. n.p.

NEW YORK NOCTURNES. By Arthur Stringer. Ryerson Press (Chap book 132). Pp. 12. $0.75.

ALL FOOLS' DAY. By Audrey Alexandra Brown. Ryerson Press. Pp. 56. $2.25.

TANCRED, PRINCE OF SALERNO. By Lawrence Dakin. Dent (Toronto) Pp. 58. $2.50.

The contents of the first three collections show the varied quality of work that authors will print at their own expense. Of Jameson's previous volumes, *Moths After Midnight* and *The Sultan of Jobat*, a pleasingly successful attempt to revive humorous verse, the latter was reviewed in a former issue of this magazine. His new volume is sustained philosophical poetry with a subtly implied undercurrent of humor. He tells the reader that an American friend of his found in a store in Nishapur a letter, written in old age by Omar of *Rubaiyat* fame to a friend, enclosing some "quatrains of his later years," which the American friend thinks may be identical with "a tattered bundle of verse" that he found in the same store. Our poet versifies in rubais (rimed *aaba* as in FitzGerald's famous translation of the *Rubaiyat*) his friend's free translation of the old poetry, and the result is a genuinely poetic recantation of the philosophy of the *Rubaiyat*, particularly in regard to the use of wine.

Edwards's booklet contains thirty-four of his ten thousand "rhythmic compositions" up to April, 1947. Their refreshing optimism, expressed in appropriately lilting lyrical measures, is a mental and moral tonic.

Archibald says that his "hundred well-assorted rhymes" (with regard to quantity as well as otherwise his "numbers" are not correct) would never have come into being but for the advice of a friend. As Leacock remarked of those who say that the classics made them

what they are, this is a very serious charge if well founded. Nevertheless, lovers of poetry may get double their money's worth out of this volume as they chuckle from cover to cover over the unconscious humor arising from the incongruity between the form of its contents and that of any collection of well-written verse.

The Stringer chapbook, his tenth book of poetry, contains twenty lyrics on themes "as varied as the city of New York itself" so artistically wrought as to heighten considerably his previously achieved reputation as a poet. They emphasize with imaginative power the greater importance of spiritual values in a society tending to take a materialistic attitude to life. Most appealing to Canadian readers are the frequent expressions of nostalgic longing for the Northland.

Miss Brown's high rank among Canadian poets of the present is made more secure by her fourth volume of poetry. Every one of the fifty-two poems is a finished piece of poetic art. Very frequently she records with striking vividness the experiences that gave rise to her lyrics. Whether her theme is emotional or reflective, there is always something delightfully unexpected yet aesthetically sharable in its poetic expression.

A new star in the Canadian poetic firmament, as yet perceived by only a favored few, is nearing if it has not already reached the zenith. The plot of Nova Scotia born Laurence Dakin's *Tancred*, a lyrical tragedy of love, his ninth volume of poetry but the first to be accorded Canadian publication, is based on a story in the *Decameron* (IV, i) that has appealed to English as well as Continental authors. It appeared in England as tale 39 of Painter's *Palace of Pleasure* (1566-7). It was dramatized as *Gismonde of Salerne* in rimed decasyllabic quatrains and in the Senecan manner by "five gentlemen" in 1568 and acted before Queen Elizabeth at the Inner Temple. A revised edition of this play, rewritten in blank verse by Robert Wilmot, author of the fifth act of the original edition, was published in 1591 under the title *Tancred and Gismunda*. Dryden printed his version of the tale, "Sigismonda and Guiscardo" in his *Fables* (1699). Notwithstanding the title, the plot of James Thompson's *Tancred and Sigismunda* (a. 1742, pr. 1745), based directly on Le Sage's *Gil Blas* (1715-35), is more akin to another story in the Decameron (IV, v), given dramatic treatment by Hans Zachs in his *Lisabetha* and narrative treatment by Keats in his *Isabella, or the Pot of Basil*. Dakin's version not only is excellent poetic drama but, as noted of his *Marco Polo* by Professor Burns Martin in a review in an earlier issue of this magazine, contains several "exquisite lyrics." Moreover, the first scene of the third act is one of the finest dramatic expressions of romantic love in all literature. Dakin is a most worthy candidate for a major rank among living Canadian poets.

V. B. RHODENIZER.

No Man an Island. By George Whaley. Clark Irwin. $1.50

The Ninth Wave. By Geoffrey Johnson. Clarke Irwin. $1.50.

Mr. Whalley's poetry is an interesting and moving record of that least comfortable of modern situations—the thoughtful man faced by the great unreason of war. That he has turned his impressions to poetry is perhaps not very strange but it is remarkable that with such restraint of diction and metre he has made those painful commonplaces of war into poems of real power and beauty. Possibly the facts on which he bases his work, because they are familiar or common to the reader, made an initial claim on the attention that is not easily denied; certainly the maturity of the reflections that follow on the bare statements reveal (in the author) a cast of mind that, while it conforms with a tradition one can recognize, has an urbanity that is not familiar enough to most Canadian poetry. It would be a mistake to call this "war poetry," however. Mr. Whalley has found in his experience of war the means of self-discovery, and his poems are a disciplined revelation of that self.

In *The Ninth Wave*, Mr. Geoffrey Johnson's latest collection of poems, a quite different region of experience is described. It might seem at first that without his gift of image-making Mr. Johnson would be a rather slight poet, but the thought that lies behind the vivid language is always sufficient to bear its weight. These poems are often deep and valid inferences drawn from a close and accurate observation of surfaces, and while there are recognizable influences on his work these bring it into the respectable company of poetry that is not only readable but intelligible. These poems are concerned with what we call for convenience "nature," but the author's art, together with his obvious cultivation, raises them above the ordinary level of poems on this abused subject.

H. K. Greer

Saint Elizabeth By Anne Seesholtz, New York Philosophical Library. Pp. 136. $2.75

The life of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary provides a nice example to those who feel that either wealth and position on one hand, or misfortune and humiliation on the other, are impediments to sainthood Born a princess at the most opulent period of the middle Ages, Elizabeth of Hungary became first wife and soon widow of the Landgraf of Thuringia and Hesse. She was influenced by the ideals of Saint Francis d'Assisi, and in conformity with the best of Franciscan theory used the religious life as a means to allay her own and God's concern for His poor. The record of her works of mercy is proof enough of their necessity; the story of her renunciation of the life she had known is proof of the 13th century Renaissance of social and moral thought that ran parallel to the revival of philosophy and art. Miss Seesholz has given us a picture of St. Elizabeth and her times that is of interest not only to the general reader, but particularly to the sociologist, in whose field Elizabeth of Hungary was a brave pioneer.

H. K. Greer

SHAKESPEARE'S PROBLEM PLAYS By E. M. W. Tillyard, Litt.D.: University of Toronto Press-Saunders, 1949: vii 168 pp. $2.75

Dr. Tillyard is a critic upon whom we can rely; his latest study loses nothing in scholarship and gains in interest from having been prepared for publication by way of the Alexander Lectures at the University of Toronto. The writing is more than ever clear and direct, forthright and exact in statement, concise and trenchant in summary of previous scholarship and established opinion; the platform manner, which rests easily on the University Lecturer in English at Cambridge, has added a pleasantly informal touch to discussions which for all their learning have the air of reader to reader rather that of teacher to student. Dr. Tillyard takes over where W.W. Lawrence, in his notable work on *Shakespeare's Problem Comedies* left off; unlike Lawrence, and like F. S. Boas, he includes *Hamlet*, and so brings in a greater and more familiar play while avoiding much unprofitable talk about comedy. He omits the wager in *Cymbeline*, and by the same token is much less concerned than Lawrence with sources, analogues, literary conventions and dramatic fashions. He draws some cogent comparisons to support his grouping, and is well armed with critical and scholarly ammunition; but his concern is with the plays as Shakespeare wrote them; and though he has not completely changed one probably worthless opinion that *All's Well that Ends Well* shows mainly a regrettable lapse of art and taste, he justifies his conclusion that the "problem plays" are an interesting and worthy part of the Shakespeare Canon. To *Troilus and Cressida* and *Measure for Measure* he gives discerning and enthusiastic praise; and his discussion of *Hamlet*, the greatest of all problem plays, could not fail to be enlightening and provocative. Some readers will question the statement that *Hamlat* lacks something of complete tragedy. Even though Hamlet himself fails to show "regeneration" (in the first place) it might still be contended that the rottenness in the state of Denmark is purged by sacrifice to end the conflict between a misplaced character and the fat and pursy times. But to pursue the argument would merely support Dr. Tillyard's thesis that *Hamlet* is a problem play, and pay tribute to the skill with which he adds interest to the problem.

C. L. BENNET.

LITTLE THUNDER'S WOOING. By Ethel H. Butler. Port Royal: The Abanaki Press. 1949. $.75.

HEAVENLY TREASURE. By Dorothy J. Langford. Toronto: Evangelical Publishers. 1948.

TEARS AND LAUGHTER. By Kahlil Gibran. New York: Philosophical Library. 1949. $2.75.

WORDS ON A PAGE. By Doris Hedges. Toronto: The Ryerson Press. 1949. $2.00.

THE COLLECTED POETICAL WORKS OF DONALD COWIE. Volume two. Malvern: The Tantivy Press. 1949. 10s. 6d.

Little Thunder's Wooing is the third of the Abanaki Chapbooks in their distinctive format. Mrs. Butler has taken a legend of the

Glooscap country and transmuted Doctor Silas Rand's prose narrative into a charming story in gentle verse. Her poem abounds in living pictures of the land and its earliest people. Ever and again, from the midst of her blank verse, a little lyric spreads its wings and flies, like a bird in the woodland. This chapbook is a real contribution to the Indian poetry of Canada.

The circumstances of Dorothy Langford's life give special interest to her book. Though an invalid from girlhood, she has not lost time bemoaning her lot; rather she has lived her days in praise and prayer. *Heavenly Treasure* shares with its readers the joy of holy living.

In a book published by the Philosophical Library of New York, the reader naturally expects to find philosophical ideas. Mr. Gibran does not disappoint. In his rich and vivid poems, both in verse and in prose—like Lord Dunsany, he writes prose poems with distinction—this Arab poet sets forth his philosophy of life. Tears and laughter make its sum, sorrow and joy. The human spirit passes like a cloud over "the valleys of sorrow and the mountains of happiness" until it meets a wind of death and reaches its final destiny, "the endless ocean of love and beauty which is God.." His writing has simplicity, and an unusual vital quality. The most significant poems are *The Poet, Song of the Rain, The Life of Love, Leave Me, My Blamers.*

Mrs. Hedges' poetry springs from life. It has strength rather than beauty, and interprets human experience, observation, and emotion with sincerity and a certain starkness, but without glamor. A forceful free verse is her favorite medium. She is at her best in dramatic monologues, such as *Shall We Dance*?, which interprets a war romance that came near disaster, and the longer *Strike*, already well known, whose title tells its theme.

In 1947, the Tantivy Press brought out a first volume of Donald Cowie's poems, and British critics far and wide acclaimed them as poetry of the best. This second book maintains his reputation, but whether or not his fame will endure, "Let Time try," as Rosalind says. These *Collected Works* fill two hundred and fifty-one pages with odes, pastoral or didactic lyrics, and sonnets in abundance. A copious output, surely, for two years! Mr. Cowie always writes with zest. He has an unfaltering and ardent interest in things of the common day. Evidently, his spirit is that aeolian harp praised by Carlyle; the winds of life, as they blow, stir it to music.

SISTER MAURA

TALTREES. By Jessie McEwen. Ryerson Press. Pp. 221. $3.25.

EFFECTIVE WRITTEN ENGLISH. By Warren E. Schutt. D. Van Nostrand. Pp. 433.

THE COUNTY KERCHIEF. By Louis Blake Duff. Ryerson Press. Pp. 224. $3.00.

For consummately artistic integration of its constituent elements *Taltrees* is a novel to compare with Hemon's *Maria Chapdelaine* and Savard's *Maitre Draveur*, or *Boss of the River* as translated by Alan

Sullivan (cf. p. 373 of the October, 1947, issue of this magazine). The tallness of the trees of the lumber industry is suggested even by the high ceiling of the room in which the story opens, and the dominating personality of Michael Goldie, who dies in the first chapter, towers like the shadow of a mighty oak over the action of the story up to the decisive moments in which his two children free themselves from their dead father's domination. All of the images, all of the comparisons, all of the figures of speech except one (p. 200), are chosen from the woodsmen's environment with which all of the characters are familiar, and the time of the action is confined to the lumbering season of 1945-6, the first after World War II. The life of the village and of the lumber camps skilfully reflects in miniature the whole problem of human relationships. This novel is an important addition to Canadian fiction.

Effective Written English is an excellent book for freshmen who have not had a sufficient grounding in their mother tongue or for a more leisurely study in the latter part of the high-school course.

The title *The County Kerchief* refers, as the quotation from Housman's poem makes clear, to that used in hangings. The book tells of hangings that did and did not (mostly did) take place in various countries in which that mode of execution has been practised. The treatment of this gruesome subject is saved from morbidity by the ironic humor and humane sympathy of the author.

V. B. RHODENIZER

THE CANADIAN ALPINE JOURNAL. Vol. XXXII (1949). Published by The Alpine Club of Canada (Headquarters at Banff, Alta.). Pp. 140, $1.00 (from L. C. Wilson, 1408 Gladstone Road, Calgary, Alta.).

This journal is an annual of which all Canadians can be proud. The contents are mainly articles on mountain climbing in the Canadian Rockies, and the book is lavishly illustrated with superb photographs. It should be an ideal gift to any one interested in outdoor activities and should be very useful in geography classes in schools

B. M.

THE FUNCTION OF THE UNIVERSITY. By R. S. K. Seeley. Oxford University Press. 1948. Pp. 79. Cloth, $1.25. Paper, 90 cents.

It is unlikely that many readers of these gracefully written lectures by the Provost of Trinity College, Toronto, will experience any strong impulse to quarrel violently with their contents. Yet beneath their moderate tone, tranquil good humour and well-tempered reasonableness there is revealed a clear understanding of the dilemma in which the modern Canadian university is caught: how to preserve

freedom in the search for truth that can be lived, and not merely intellectually comprehended, in the face of increasing state-control in a predominantly commercial, mechanical and war-like society. For this reason the statement on page sixteen that "the University is a community of people pursuing knowledge and truth for the sake of more perfectly adjusting themselves to society" is unfortunately open to misunderstanding. Actually the author would agree, I think, cordially with what Sir Walter Moberly has since said in *The Crisis in the University* about the universities failing "to give an effective lead because they themselves share and have shown small sign of transcending, the spiritual confusion of the age." For the scholar's task, the Provost states, is to inform the public mind rather than to be moulded by it. His true meaning becomes fully evident only on his penultimate page, where he speaks of the prophetic function of the university and says, "With its ability to coordinate facts, to study causes and effects, to see human nature against the background of history, the University is uniquely fitted to prophesy to the nation, to put its finger upon social disorders and to make plain to all the consequences of their actions and the inevitable result of public trends." All who are genuinely concerned about the true welfare, as distinguished from the merely financial prosperity, of our Canadian universities will read this little book with much pleasure and considerable profit. A more trenchant analysis of the forces, both without and within the universities, which at present impede the exercise of the "prophetic function" would have placed us still more deeply in the author's debt.

F. H. PAGE

THE PORTABLE PLATO. The English Translation of Benjamin Jowett. Edited with an Introduction by Scott Buchanan. Toronto: The MacMillan Company of Canada. 1948. Pp. 696. $2.75.

This rather dumpy little volume, too thick and fat to be easily pocketable, reprints yet again Jowett's translation of four of Plato's dialogues. The introduction runs to thirty-three pages. It relates the dialogues to Greek tragedy and comedy and pleads for the enjoyment of Plato's works in the first instance as products of his dramatic imagination. In addition it contains a sketch of Plato's life and of the Greek world of his time. There is also a note on the dramatic machinery of the four dialogues, a chronology and a brief bibliography. Since Plato, drunk neat, is apt to go to the head of the reader, engendering more warmth than light, it is perhaps a kindness to the beginner to draw to his attention also the *Selectons from Plato* in the World's Classics Series, where under the guidance of Sir Richard Livingstone he may gain a more definite comprehension of what Plato has to say to the world to-day.

F. H. PAGE

WAR, POLITICS AND INSANITY. By C. S. Bluemel. Denver, Colorado: The World Press, 1948. Pp. 121. $2.00.

That this is a sincere and well-intentioned book, I have no doubt. That there is in it much that is true and that this truth should be more widely known I am quite certain. Yet it contains proposals for setting the world to rights which, in their possible consequences, seem to me little short of appalling.

Briefly, this book sets forth a new philosophy of history which might be labelled "psychiatric determinism". Dr. Bluemel sees the events of history as the work of the "psychopathic leader", in whom high dominance drive and obsessive-compulsive tendencies combine and reach a pathological intensity. "In the appraisal of history hypomania is as important as gunpowder and schizophrenia may be as significant as the atomic bomb." War "results not so much from a conflict of interests as from a conflict of personalities." Only "when the world is governed by normal men" will it "cease to be the arena of battle captains and men will live together in peace." Thus the foremost problem becomes "the identification of the psychopathic leader and the search for a formula which might exclude him from the political world in which he wreaks his havoc."

It is notorious that when scientists turn to social and political questions they sometimes exhibit a child-like simplicity and naivety of thought which, if displayed in their proper studies would be universally regarded as woefully unscientific. To attribute wars to the psychopathy of rulers or indeed to any other merely mental states that might be removed by a process of psychological readjustment is surely a fond delusion. If men are fighting for bread, it is either naive or dishonest to tell them that what they really need is a readjustment of their attitudes, for changed attitudes fill no bellies.

But it is the constructive part of Dr. Bluemel's book that contains what seems to me one of the most sinister suggestions of modern times. In effect it amounts to the establishment of a psychiatric dictatorship. Only those whose personalities can pass psychiatric tests are to vote or take part in government. Supreme authority is given to a cabinet of five, who, having passed three successive psychiatric tests, are empowered to govern by decree. While this only pushes to an extreme a tendency already present in contemporary America—to choose people for their personality rather than their ability—one stands aghast at the possibilities inherent in this proposal. *Sed quis custodiet ipsos custodes?* For when the psychiatrist speaks of the normal he all too often means those who most successfully adapt themselves to current trends and the abnormal are those who are foreign to the mores of the tribe or the age. In Hitler's Germany Jews were "abnormal". There is no need to multiply examples or to come nearer home. What Dr. Bluemel does not see is that the application of social psychiatry to the determination of the criteria of civil rights would inevitably place a most powerful and dangerous weapon in the hands of any government which it would be too much to expect of human nature to administer without corruption.

F. H. PAGE

THE MEANING OF CHRIST FOR PAUL. By Elias Andrews Abingdon-Cokesbury Press. Pp. 266. $3.00

This book by Professor Elias Andrews is an important contribution to Christian literature. It deals with the doctrine of the Person of Christ, who forms the central element in our Faith. In the course of this able and learned discussion, the author introduces many of the living questions of present-day New Testament study, and the reader finds that his interest is stimulated by the sympathetic and competent way in which these questions are answered. The book is thus a comprehensive treatise on Pauline Christology, and it should find a welcome place in the library of ministers and Theological students.

Paul's importance lies in the fact that he was the greatest of early Christian Missionaries and thinkers, and the first to interpret the meaning of Christ for the world. "Paul, through his interpretation of Christ, secured once and for all time the essence and the universality of Christianity . . . He was the first to see the essential meaning of the Christian experience and then to put that experience into some doctrinal form." "Paul's witness to Christ is indispensable."

The introduction gives a brief outline of the meaning of Christ for Paul, and states what is to be the main thesis of the work that his doctrine of Christ was the direct consequence of his conversion and of his religious experience of the presence of the living Christ. For Paul to live was Christ. The main argument falls into three parts. In the first part, "The Relation of Christ to Mankind," Dr. Andrews meets the claim that is sometimes made that Paul was indifferent to the events of the earthly life of Jesus. He shows how many are the evidences in Paul's writings of the apostle's familiarity with the historic Jesus. He discusses the work of redemption accomplished by Jesus, and how far reaching was the impact of Christ on humanity. Jesus was the inauguration of a new humanity. If any man be in Christ he is a new creation.

The second part, "The Relation of Christ to God" consists of a careful treatment of the Divinity and Lordship of Christ. Many vital issues are here introduced leading up to the conclusion that 'Christ's is the final word on God. Paul's conviction is that Christ is "the eternal affirmation of God."

The third part, "The origins of Pauline Christology," is of great interest. Here Dr. Andrews is moving into the realm of much disputation and critical discussion. But he treads with much skill,giving a well-balanced judgment of the influence of pagan and Jewish backgrounds. He recognizes the place of Greek language and thought in the formal setting forth of his truth, but adds, "There is no reason to believe that this in any way influenced his Christology in respect to its sources." On the other hand he gladly acknowledges the debt which Paul owed to his Jewish ancestry and scriptures. But though these outside influences were present in Paul's mind, they were only like tributaries flowing into a stream whose head-waters are found in the new experience of the redeeming love of Christ the Lord. The book concludes with a short note on the abiding value of Paul's Chris -

tology, "which has continued to ring true to the Christian experience of mankind in all the centuries since."

This is a slight sketch of a book which by its wide range and precision merits a distinctive place among the works on New Testament Theology.

J. W. FALCONER

CANADA 1949: THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF PRESENT CONDITIONS AND RECENT PROGRESS. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Pp. 288. 25c.

This is a very useful handbook on Canada. Nearly every phase of our life is presented with accompanying statistical tables and charts. It is admirably illustrated with photographs, some of them in colour. It should prove very useful to all sorts of people and especially valuable in schools.

B. M.

CANADIAN WELFARE: 25TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION. Ottawa: The Canadian Welfare Council. Pp. 84. 30c

The January issue of *Canadian Welfare* commemorates a quarter century of social welfare in Canada. It contains some very fine articles written especially for the occasion by experts in the field of public welfare. Dr. Cassidy thinks the Dominion-Provincial disgreement is largely political rather than constitutional; in that case, the sooner the general public demand action instead of football the better for Canada as a whole. The growing importance of welfare work is shown by the fact that in 1920, expenditure on public health and welfare was $85 millions, and in 1948, $850 millions. The intelligent Canadian will find much food for thought in this issue of *Canadian Welfare.*

B.M.

THE PORTABLE VOLTAIRE. Edited by B. R. Redman. Viking Press—Macmillans in Canada. Pp. 599. $2.25.

THE PORTABLE CHARLES LAMB. Edited by John Mason Brown. Viking Press—Macmillans in Canada. Pp. 594. $2.75

The latest volumes in the Portable Library are well up to the high standard of their predecessors. Charles Lamb always has an appeal to the English-speaking world, and in these days when there is such a dangerous return to dogmatism and irrationalism Voltaire should prove a most healthy astringent.

In his introduction to the Voltaire volume, Mr. Redman discusses such questions as the origin of the name Voltaire, the impor-

tance of the English visit, the meaning of the "infamous thing," and the relations of Voltaire and Frederick the Great; always the editor shows wide knowledge and discusses these problems with insight and balance. He has a flair for the striking comparison: "In the streets of Paris, Voltaire scored triumphs of a kind that are now known only to film stars." The body of the book is commendable. There are more than 200 pages of selections from the *Philosophical Dictionary*; we have the complete texts of *Candide* and *Zadig*, besides shorter works, and a generous selection from Voltaire's letters. Many of the briefer extracts show the limitations of the 18th century as well as its virtues: "Reasonable enthusiasm is the patrimony of great poets." "In metaphysics and in morals, the ancients have said everything. We always encounter or repeat them." "Money is always to be found when men are to be sent to the frontiers to be destroyed, but when the object is to preserve them it is no longer so." Voltaire was not the perfect observer or critic of life—certain fields lay beyond his ken—but he is surely a much needed corrective to-day, and Mr. Redman has given us of Voltaire's best.

Mr. John Mason Brown, in his Introduction to the *Portable Lamb*, gets off to a dangerous start, for he stresses very much the importance of Mary Lamb's murder of her mother in Charles Lamb's career. He avoids becoming maudlin, but he ignores, for example, the recently acquired evidence that Lamb was at one time very eager to marry a well-known actress of the day. Leaving that point aside, one has no other fault to find with the introduction, which is a discriminating appraisal of Lamb as man and author. "Closely related as Elia is to Charles Lamb, they were not—they are not—in any sense of the word identical. When it came to authorship, there were two Charles Lambs. If not that, there was one Lamb who wrote in two styles so different that he could be suspected of employing his left hand for the one,his right hand for the other. As in the case of countless others, inkstained or ink-free, Lamb had a public and a private manner." (p. 23) And again: "The difference between the letter-writter who signed himself C. L. and the essayist known as Elia is the difference between a candid camera close-up and a full-length portrait in oil,appareled for effect and so posed that its very casualness is studied." (p.26). Mr. Brown is wise in estimating Lamb as a critic: "He hovers like a bee, avid for the taste of honey. Moreover, beelike, he is quick to find it, to linger over it, and to transfer it. He neither intends to be reliable nor intends to be impartial . . .Lamb's blindspots were many; his tastes more eccentric than catholic. If he rejoiced in his lack of orthodoxy, so should his readers. Any mediocrity can be orthodox." (pp. 32-3). In the body of the book, the editor has put first, as the best introduction to Lamb, some 220 pages of Lamb's letters. Then come the famous essays grouped usefully under such headings as "Himself," "London," and "Men, 'Characters' and Places." The lover of Lamb will rejoice in this new Portable; if there is a person who does not know Lamb, he could hardly find a better introduction.

B.M.

THE YOUNG HENRY ADAMS. By Ernest Samuels. Harvard University Press— Reginald Saunders. Pp. 378. $6.25.

Mont-Saint Michelle and Chartres, though privately printed in 1904, was not given to the public until 1913, just before the First Great War; *The Education of Henry Adams*, finished in 1907, was not given to the general public until 1918, the year of the author's death. Both books became Bibles for those people of the post-war generation who felt themselves out of sympathy with the trends of the times. Many saw themselves as Henry Adamses, just as Coleridge saw himself as Hamlet, and Hamlet as Coleridge. With the passage of time and the blows of another world war, perhaps we can see Henry Adams and his two masterpieces in a little better perspective. Perhaps, indeed, Henry Adams was as much out of joint as was the world.

The present work is an admirable starting point for this new evaluation. Professor Samuels is not content to accept Henry Adams' disillusioned, slightly cynical *Weltschmerz* as an objective account of 19th century America; he goes back to primary documents. For example, Adams states that in his undergraduate days Harvard was at a very low ebb; Professor Samuels notes the professors of the day, the courses offered, the contemporary references of undergraduates including young Mr. Adams; the result is that the reader has a much more objective standard by which to judge the highly subjective conclusions of a worldweary old man. Again, as we follow the contemporary evidence as educed by Professor Samuels, we have a very different picture of the London days from what we have in *The Education*.

Professor Samuels is also much interested in the character of Adams through this early period. (The book takes us only to 1877.) Henry Adams seems to have been weighted down by the great Adams tradition. He suffered constantly from self-mistrust. He longed to do something for the world and to have the glory of leaving his mark on it—but the world would have to accept him and his standards, for he, in good Adams fashion, would not compromise with the world as it was. (How many of our ardent idealists after World War I fell into disillusion for the same reason.) The author mentions the fact that Henry Adams was only 5′ 3″; one reader is left wondering just how much this physical characteristic left its mark on Adams' character. (Note how many dictators have been very short men.) Adams struck his contemporaries as very opinionated and as inclined to monopolize a conversation; some considered him crotchety and conceited. There is no doubt he longed for publicity and the limelight. His moral and political principles were decidedly of an *a priori* cast. In a word, Henry Adams, by nature and training, was an 18th century patrician born into an age that he did not understand, with which he had no sympathy, and with which he was determined to make no compromise. If only the 18th century had not passed away, if only men were not what they are, Henry Adams would have been a fairly happy and a very self-satisfied person; but the world being what it is, Henry Adams withdrew into himself and became somewhat cynical. As a result he gave the world two literary masterpieces.

Professor Samuels ends his book in 1877, when Adams at the age of 40 resigned his Harvard professorship and sought the fair fields of Washington. *The Young Adams* is a very important book; we can only hope that the author will continue (in the same objective spirit) his study of Adams to the end in 1918.

B.M.

THE OXFORD COMPANION TO AMERICAN LITERATURE. By James D. Hart. Oxford University Press. Pp. 890. $7..50

The first edition of this invaluable aid to American studies appeared in 1941. Various impressions have since been issued, and now (1948) a revised edition has appeared. New entries have been made, chronological lists (such as the Pulitzer Prize winners) have been brought up to date, and dates of deaths have been added where necessary. Recently the reviewer had occasion to seek information about a very prominent American dramatist; after consulting one or two other reference works he found his desired material in the latest edition of the *Oxford Companion.* This is a book to be kept at the elbow not only by professed students of American literature but by all those who are interested in any phase of American life and thought, past and present, for the compiler has interpreted the word "literature" in very broad terms.

B. M.

OF IRONY. By G. G. Sedgewick. University of Toronto Press—S. J. R. Saunders. Pp. 127. $2.75.

This is a new edition of the Alexander Lectures delivered at the University of Toronto during the session of 1934-35. As the new preface says, very few changes have been made in this edition; Professor Sedgewick modestly adds that he hopes some day some one will tell the whole story of irony with final authority; the reader can only wish that Professor Sedgewick might be that writer, but if he is not, then his successor will be greatly indebted to these four brief but pregnant lectures. To summarize the argument would merely destroy the verbal felicity and keen play of mind revealed in the lectures. The wise reader will buy a copy of the book so that he can mark passages to be read over and over again for their learning and wisdom. A word of praise should be said for the very fine decorations by Mr. Robert Langstadt, which add greatly to the enjoyment of the book.

B. M.

NEWFOUNDLAND AT THE CROSSROADS. By Sir Gordon Macdonald. The Ryerson Press. $2.00.

For the first three months of this year Newfoundland was rather in the spotlight because of her pending union with Canada. And now that she has become the 10th Province, there is a natural and commendable curiosity on the part of many Canadians to learn something about this new member of their Dominion. Any book therefore, appearing at this time with such an eye-catching title would seem most timely and likely to provide the desired information. The author of this book is a man experienced in politics who for the past three years has held the highest executive post in the government of Newfoundland and who has travelled extensively around the island and taken an active part in its administration. One would expect, therefore, that this book would make a valuable contribution to an understanding of Newfoundland and her problems. One could reasonably expect to find within its covers a brief historical introduction to the recent negotiations and a descriptive, if not a critical, account of the social political and economic conditions and of the future prospects, etc. of Newfoundland.

Newfoundland at the Crossroads contains no such account, descriptive or critical. It is a collection of eighteen speeches delivered over a period of three years. A break-down of this collection will clearly indicate their subject matter. Five were delivered before religious organizations on appropriate religious topics, two were Convocation addresses on education, two were patriotic addresses on the occasion of the unveiling of War Memorials, and two were New Year's messages. Only five deal mainly with Newfoundland and her affairs, and these contain little information for the uninformed but curious reader. Too many of the speeches are peculiar to Newfoundland only in that they were delivered to audiences in Newfoundland. The only claim that the book has to its title seems to be that it was published at a time when Newfoundland was at the Crossroads.

The speeches clearly indicate the oratorical ability of the author and his firm religous convictions. They show in a very small measure the fruits of the examination which Sir Gordon had undoubtedly made of Newfoundland conditions. For anyone who seeks information about Newfoundland and her problems, this book can have little interest..

M. O. MORGAN

A HISTORY OF NOVA SCOTIA by G. G. Campbell. The Ryerson Press, 1949. Pp. 288. $4.00.

When Judge Thomas C. Haliburton undertook to write a history of Nova Scotia a century and a quarter ago, he found so little historical material available in the province that he had to import books from Britain and the United States. Nearly thirty years later, the Pro-

vincial Government, inspired by Joseph Howe, sought to complete its files by procuring pertinent documents from the state paper office in London and the archives of Quebec. These documents were published in 1869, under the editorship of the late T. B. Aikin, as the *Nova Scotia Archives*, and thus became available to scholars. In general, however, there were no adequate facilities for research in the province until the establishment of the Provincial Archives in 1931. Since then, the studies and publications of Dr. Harvey the Archivist, his assistants, and many visiting scholars have added greatly to our knowledge and understanding of past events and have led to the hope that the history of Nova Scotia will be rewritten from the sources.

As the first history of the province to be published since the opening of the Archives, Mr. Campbell's book will be received with interest and enthusiasm; it is a distinct addition to the literature of historic Nova Scotia. The author is a teacher with an evident love for his native province. His material has been carefully chosen, and his style is simple and direct. Excellent illustrations, eighteen in all, have been provided by the artist, Donald MacKay. The emphasis on cultural, social, and economic history is evident throughout, and is convincingly modern. Mr. Campbell has produced an attractive and informative book. Its publication should go far to refute a commonly expressed belief that high school teachers have no place in productive scholarship.

It should be noted, however, that while the author has made excellent use of recent publications in his field, his book was not written from primary sources. As such it will have a greater appeal to the general reader than to the historian. Probably this was intended; it should prove a useful text for students in both school and college.

The book is divided into four parts of varying lengths. Part 1, entitled *Discovery*, consists of five short chapters on the early explorers, especially Cabot; the first European fishermen and traders to visit North America; the commercial and colonizing ventures of Demonts and his associates; the Scottish colony at Port Royal; and the adventures of Isaac de Razilly and Nicholas Denys. The chapters are well written, but are, in most cases, so brief as to suggest summaries. Many topics such as the Knights Baronets of Nova Scotia are dismissed with a few words.

Part II, *War in America*, is given more attention. Here the author describes the well known rivalry between d'Aulnay Charnisay and Charles de Latour, the misfortunes of Nicholas Denys, New England's invasions of Acadia, and the final capture of Port Royal. His quotation of the laconic message from the French Commander, Subercase, to the British General Nicholson, "I deliver to you the keys of the fort in the hope of paying you a visit next spring," suggests more than a soldier's forlorn hope—it was a prophetic indication of the uncertain future of Acadia from the Treaty of Utrecht to the founding of Halifax. The rise of the "Dunkirk of America" at Louisburg, the intrigues of the priest, Le Loutre; D'Anville's naval disaster; and the massacre at Grand Pre are significant events in this period. It closed with the exile of the Acadians and the destruction of forts Beausejour and Louisburg.

Part III, *The People*, is the longest and best section of the book. Here the influence of such texts as *New England's Outpost* and the *Neutral Yankees of Nova Scotia* is clearly evident. The descriptions of the Acadian farms and their occupants, and of the pre-Loyalists, make good reading—they reveal the author's interest in the common man. Due attention is given to the Germans at Lunenburg, the Scots in Pictou and Cape Breton and the Loyalists, who filled many a niche in an already occupied colony. "The latter," says the author, "were not slow in making their influence felt in provincial affairs." Relations between the pre-Loyalists and Loyalists were at first far from harmonious, but their common problems soon brought them together. Certain racial and social customs and characteristics still remain, but all are Nova Scotians.

In Part IV, called *Development*, the chapters on agriculture, shipping, transportation, and education deserve special commendation. These are a part of our growth as a province, and should have a place in our history. The last three chapters, however, like Part I, may best be described as useful and well written summaries. To write an adequate account of political events in Nova Scotia since 1758 in thirty pages is a difficult task, and the result is likely to be somewhat sketchy. To explain the evolution of responsible government in five or six pages is even more difficult. Little space can be given to the men of the day or to their motives and actions. Yet, within these limits, the task has been well done; essentials have not been overlooked. The formation of the Dominion of Canada and Nova Scotia's attitude to the federation of 1867 receive only scant attention, and the Epilogue leaves political events after 1867 untouched. It is probably assumed that the history of Nova Scotia ends with the union—this is a matter of opinion and definition. A sub-title might be used to indicate the intended scope of the book.

On the whole, the author is to be commended for his scholarship and industry. He has produced a useful and scholarly history.

There is a bibliography. An index would be a useful addition.

R. S. LONGLEY.

THE GREAT BEYOND. By Maurice Maeterlinck. New York Philosophical Library. Pp. 226.

The problem of death has always solicited Maeterlinck's attention. It filled his first plays with anxiety. The "Intelligence des Fleurs" ended with an essay on immortality. In 1913 he devoted a book to explain the sentence "There are no dead" from "L'Oiseau Bleu." It is impossible to shun the thought of death: "It obscures everything with its shadow." Our mistake is that we deliver it "into the dim hands of instinct and that we do not give it an hour of our intelligence." For about twenty years Maeterlinck applied his clever intelligence to the thought of death. In a succession of books which certain critics classify as Pascalian, not only because of their discon-

nected composition, but also because they dare to question the mystery straightforwardly, the famous Belgian writer undertook to investigate, through lucid reason, the various hypotheses on death. *The Great Beyond*, which has just been translated into English, pursues this "quest for the divine."

What are the results? What kind of game does Maeterlinck bring us from his hunt in those veiled kingdoms? His new book does not seem to mark a break in his line of thought. Through notes which often "stir the sleepy recesses of the mind," through sometimes touching and always dense dialogues (The child which does not want to be born; The old man who does not want to die . . .), the conclusion that takes shape is the one which he has often proposed as "the most credible among provisional hypotheses": Death is neither nothingness nor survival, but "a modified conscience," which reabsorbs itself, without being annihilated, into the universal conscience.

One will appreciate in this work less this diffuse conclusion, a rather pale and somewhat deceiving certitude, than the variety and the quality of philosophical and poetical substance. Through this book "full of soul," one recognizes an obstinate and courageous intelligence, self-confident enough to look without dizziness into the abysses that surround Man and strong enough to enclose in words the resonance of the infinite.

PAUL CHAVY.