

NEW BOOKS

THE NEUTRAL YANKEES OF NOVA SCOTIA. A Marginal Colony during the Revolutionary Years. By John Bartlet Brebner. Columbia University Press. Pg. 388. Two maps. \$4.00.

Professor Brebner is no new-comer in the field of Nova Scotian history. It is now nearly fourteen years since he first ventured into the maze of contradiction and controversy that then coloured our knowledge of the early French and British period in Nova Scotia. Four years later, in 1927, he emerged with *New England's Outpost*, a clear-cut, impartial account of that troubled era which began with the settlement and ended with the expulsion of the French. This book at once became a standard work. A companion volume to carry the story of the New Englanders down to the coming of the Loyalists has been eagerly awaited these past ten years, and now that it has appeared, there are few who will be disappointed. Surprising as it may be to some (although not to those who know the painstaking care and unwavering enthusiasm with which the author does his work), the sequel is even better than its predecessor. In *The Neutral Yankees of Nova Scotia*, Professor Brebner has set for himself a new standard of excellence in both style and content.

The central problem that Dr. Brebner faces in his new study of Nova Scotia is the stand which the province took during the American Revolution. As he says in his foreword, New England "repeatedly fought for the region in the seventeenth century, gradually drew it into her marine and mercantile domain, finally conquered it in 1710, supplanted the immigrants from England after the founding of Halifax in 1749, stimulated and carried out the expulsion of the Acadians in 1755, and planted twice as many settlers in the Province in their place. Yet when the Revolution came, Nova Scotia broke with her and remained loyal to Great Britain". Why the pull of Old England was stronger than that of New England during the years of crisis has always been something of a puzzle to historians. Many suggestions and theories have been advanced to explain the attitude of Nova Scotians which, in reality, differed only in degree from that of their fellow colonials. The majority of the people in all the colonies seem to have been passive while two active minorities, loyalist and radical, struggled for dominance. In thirteen colonies, the radicals won; but in Nova Scotia, as Professor Brebner says (p. 300), "neither minority was able to rouse its members beyond individual acts or minor joint enterprises for or against the Government". This apathy among Nova Scotians has been put down to their geographical position, their small and scattered numbers, their fear of the British navy, their belief that their bread and butter was linked up with the British connexion, their hope to supplant the rebels in the West Indian trade, and, in general, their lack of national feeling. Now Professor Brebner reveals yet another link in the chain that held Nova Scotia within the Empire. Rich London merchants, notably Joshua Mauger and Brook

Watson, one time residents of the province, had a tight hold on the tangled reins of Nova Scotian finances when the Revolution broke out. They and their agents in Nova Scotia had been looting the province since the founding of Halifax. Mauger and his two provincial henchmen, John Butler and Michael Francklin, were powerful enough not only to worst their chief New England competitors, the Gerrish brothers and Malachi Salter, but also to defy the Assembly when it threatened their rum monopoly and to do much to overturn the three Administrators who attempted to meddle in their affairs. During the 1760's, they had become deeply involved in the mounting debt of the province, accumulating most of the Government's promises to pay. But they knew from past experience that war meant prosperity in Nova Scotia and when the Revolution came, they were ready to cash in on Nova Scotian loyalty.

In answering his own question as to why Nova Scotians did not follow the example of bankrupt southern planters and rebel in order to repudiate their debts, Professor Brebner says (p. 294) that they were "too scattered and insubstantial in the mass to make any effective lead". It was simpler to pack up and leave for the other colonies and that is what many Nova Scotians did, but surely the suggestion that they all left except "the few rich" and "the poorest" needs qualification. If emigration had reached such proportions, it is difficult to see how the author could find 18,000 or even 17,000 people in the province in 1775. In actual fact, as he admits, it is possible—and one might add—quite probable that the population was nearer 20,000 because the census returns were never complete. Even in the nineteenth century many Nova Scotians avoided the census taker in the naïve belief that his enquiries would lead to taxation.

Although the writer naturally stresses his discovery of London dominance in Nova Scotian affairs as a potent factor in determining the loyalty of the province, he seems to believe that "the principal clue to Nova Scotian behaviour... lies in her isolation from the rest of North America" (p. 299). With this conclusion and all that it implies one is bound to agree, but when he extends it to say, as his last statement in the book, that "Nova Scotia had insulated and neutralized the New England migrants so thoroughly that as Nova Scotians they had henceforth to look eastward to London for direction and help rather than southwestward to Boston as they had done in the past", certain doubts rise in one's mind. The New Englanders and their descendants in Nova Scotia never lost sight of their American background. Their attempts to found a new New England may have failed in the eighteenth century when they came up against an entrenched officialdom and a state-supported church, but most of them were still looking to New England as a model in the nineteenth century when they successfully gained the independence and equality that they considered their birthright.

Next to the all-absorbing problem of Nova Scotia's neutrality during the Revolutionary War stands the constitutional struggle that characterized the history of all the American colonies. In dealing with this, Professor Brebner shows clearly and conclusively that Halifax dominated the Assembly as well as the Council and that the majority of the Halifax legislators were themselves controlled by the

Mauger-Butler-Francklin combine. The cleavage between country and capital has always coloured the politics of Nova Scotia but never more so than in the eighteenth century when the people in the out-settlements were so poverty-stricken and the means of communication so uncertain that the country members were able to attend the House for short periods only and sometimes not at all. Legislative action, as the author points out, centred around local taxation, local expenditure, and the attempt of the Assembly to gain control of both. The dice, however, were well loaded in favour of the Council and the merchants who pulled the strings of the irresponsible Government. Independent Assemblymen, such as John Day, stoutly maintained their right to hold the purse strings, but although there were times when practical politics dictated the necessity of compromise and concession, the Councillors never formally recognized this right. The New Englanders in the townships striving to attain autonomy in their municipal affairs had even less success. Nevertheless, before the period ended and the Loyalists arrived, some progress had been made towards the distant goal of popular government.

The pre-Loyalists in Nova Scotia, neglected by most of our historians until very recent years, receive their full due from Dr. Brebner, although he often gives the impression that they were all New Englanders. It is true that the New Englanders formed the great bulk of the population, but the Germans, French, English, Irish and Scots played their part too in laying down "the abiding foundations of Nova Scotian life" (p. 24). This aside, however, the author gives an excellent survey of the settlement of the province before the Revolution, tracing in considerable detail the growth of the new townships and sketching from many angles the daily life of the people. In vivid portraiture, whether of men *en masse* or of individuals, Professor Brebner is probably at his best. Unforgettable are his pen pictures of Jonathan Belcher, the pompous Chief Justice and Lieutenant Governor whose ambitions outdistanced his abilities, the Hon. William Campbell, the sporting and ingenuous Governor who rarely saw below the surface of things in his graft-corrupted colony, Francis Legge, the zealous but tactless successor to Campbell who delved too deep for his own good, and, to name yet another, Michael Francklin, the able, scheming merchant who made his way in the realm of politics as he did in the world of business.

J. S. MARTELL.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE. A Report on its structure and problems by a study group of members of the Royal Institute of International Affairs. Oxford University Press, London, New York, Toronto, 1937. Pp. vii, 336 and map of world political divisions.

This volume was compiled by a group of the Royal Institute of International Affairs assisted by an "outer group" of authorities in the Dominions to whom draft chapters were submitted for comment and criticism. The editor of the group was Mr. H. V. Hodson and

the secretary was Mr. E. B. Rogers who "drafted the major part of the report."

Part I of this report gives an historical and descriptive account of the constituent parts of the British Empire, separate chapters being devoted to the United Kingdom and to each of the more or less self-governing dominions, while the Colonial Empire as such is discussed en bloc. Part II describes imperial institutions, law and convention, which constitute the fabric of the Empire; and Part III discusses in some detail the various problems that confront the Empire at the moment. Though Part I is necessary as a background for the studies which follow, it makes no pretence to either completeness or originality; but has been compiled from the standard or least controversial historical and constitutional works. At the same time it outlines clearly the political organization and practical problems of each unit of the empire in contradistinction to imperial organization and the practical problems of collective activity.

The fabric of empire is found chiefly in membership in the British Commonwealth, the Sovereign, the Crown, the Parliament of the United Kingdom, the status of British subject, co-operative institutions, communication and consultation, imperial conferences and other imperial organizations; in the common law, the judicial committee of the Privy Council, the Statute of Westminster and various constitutional conventions. Under all these headings and their necessary subdivisions many interesting and informative observations are to be found—the strong and the weak threads of this fabric being noted with equal frankness and discernment.

The same might be said of the discussion of imperial problems: the commonwealth and external affairs, defence, colonial questions, a commonwealth tribunal, economic policy, population and migration, nationality and citizenship. At the end of each chapter in this section a short summary of the problem and of the conclusions arrived at is set down with precision, and, perhaps, because of that with a little more urgency than scientific detachment would justify. But, generally speaking, this book is what it claims to be: a handbook for Empire students of international affairs and an aid to clear thinking on the part of Imperial statesmen. As the Royal Institute of International Affairs is "an unofficial and non-political body" founded to "encourage and facilitate the scientific study of international questions" and, therefore, cannot speak as a unit, any opinions expressed in this book are to be regarded only as individual opinions, and, perhaps, because of the manner in which it was compiled such opinions may be regarded as a compromise between moderate imperialists and the ultras. But however wide the field of compromise may have been, the ultimate result has been to bring clearly into view a clause in the declaration of the Imperial Conference of 1926, which Dominion nationalists from wishful thinking have hitherto tended to forget, namely—"But the principles of equality and similarity, appropriate to *status*, do not universally extend to function." One cannot read the introduction alone of this book without being impressed forcibly by the soothing subtlety of Balfour phraseology and its enshrouding nuances, which concede without concession. But the phrases are there, and the facts are there, and, as a British subject

in any of the Dominions proceeds carefully through these studies, he is left with the rather sad conviction that to be born in a colony or a dominion is to be condemned to perpetual subordination either economically or intellectually, or both; for the inhabitant of the United Kingdom, however unintelligent, can feel himself a part of a more effective and superior "function", and, therefore, can regard himself as a superior being. This is one of the problems of empire that does not appear in this handbook, but that will have to be faced by imperial statesmen; and is perhaps more difficult to solve than the problem of mutual material advantages.

None the less this handbook represents the cooperative labour of many men who believe that the British Empire is an institution worth preserving at any cost; and it can be read with profit not only by those who are like-minded but by all who take an intelligent interest in international affairs.

D. C. H.

CANADA, THE EMPIRE AND THE LEAGUE. By various authors. Thomas Nelson and Sons, Limited, Toronto. 1936. Pp. vii, 163. \$1.50 cloth; \$1.00 paper.

This modest volume deserves a wide public. It consists of a collection of the papers given at the Conference of the Canadian Institute on Economics and Politics held in August of last year at Lake Couchiching, Ontario, for the study of Canadian foreign policy. The subject-matter is therefore timely, and—what is even more welcome—the spirit which animates the various contributions is patently scientific. The aim is to give information and to suggest lines of thought rather than to compel conclusions; and for that reason the book is the sort of guide which will be useful to those who seek to think through this anxious problem for themselves. The fact that the papers, though substantial and authoritative in content, are written in a style which is suitable to the needs of the general reader adds to the appeal of the book.

A general report of the papers and of the ensuing oral discussions is written by Professor R. A. MacKay. This serves as an appropriate introduction to the subject, giving a unity to the book which would otherwise be absent. The report is also in itself a very helpful analysis of contemporary Canadian opinion. The warning that the customary three-fold division of opinion into "imperialist", "collectivist" and "isolationist" is at best a wide, and not very accurate generalization, is well made. Our views are very much more diverse than that,—a state of affairs which is to be expected in a democracy and one which is, in the words of the editor, "possibly desirable, provided an effective compromise can be achieved for purposes of action".

The Conference first concerned itself with the general world situation. Dr. Hans Simons reviews the forces contending for supremacy in Europe, concluding that in the present state of things hope for peace in Europe, so far as the immediate future is concerned, lies in the early re-establishment of a balance of power. Signs of such a

development, he suggests, are growing more apparent daily. The ultimate ideal is the successful working of the collective system, but this will only be possible if the League is reformed. The weakness of the League is in part due to the fact that it has been so largely used by the victors of the Great War for the purpose of maintaining the *status quo*, and in part to the circumstance that it relied for its authority in European matters on extra-European support. The attempt for the future, therefore, in Dr. Simon's view, must be to organize peace on a regional, rather than on a universal, basis. The re-grouping of forces which is now going on, such as the new combinations among the smaller powers, of which the Balkan Entente is an example, gives point to this argument. It is suggested that progress towards a solution of the problem of peaceful change is more likely to be made by adopting this method. The degree of compromise and concession involved in such a process can only be assessed satisfactorily by the nations whose interests are directly concerned.

This point of view expressed by a European fits neatly into the reality of the situation with respect to the degree of collaboration which can be expected from many non-European countries, as for instance from the United States, as indicated by an American, Dr. Buell. The major item of American foreign policy continues to be freedom from commitments. Dr. Buell, however, is at pains to show that this does not mean isolation. The sentiment for isolation, he claims, is diminishing. On certain points indeed, such as the matter of reciprocal trade and currency stabilization, the most active co-operation of the United States is certain. It is noted that Anglo-American relations have never been friendlier and the part Canada can play towards maintaining this condition is stated in very generous terms.

This circumstance takes on added significance with reference to the Far East. There has been a good deal of confusion concerning the Manchurian affair, and it is encouraging to find the fresh breath of realism used in discussing Pacific affairs. The reasons why the collective system has had no authority in this area are stated with marked frankness, and the possibilities for the peaceful adjustment of the conflicting interests in the Pacific are indicated in some detail. It is a pity, however, that we should not be given Lord Snell's observations on British foreign policy or Dr. Mott's remarks on the Present Crises in full, rather than having to be content with the very abbreviated accounts which appear. The treatment of the world situation is clearly incomplete without these two papers, especially the first. Our consolation must perhaps be the physician's advice that it is best to rise from a meal feeling hungry.

The second and third parts of the book deal with Canada's special position in this context of events. First of all, the basic facts which must govern our foreign policy are examined. A brief historical sketch gives us the record of past attitudes. The steady improvement of our relations with the United States is duly treated and its significance brought out by reference to less happier days. Then Professor Lower in an attractive and challenging paper sets out to demolish a number of *clichés* which have done years of service on the lips of after-dinner speakers. It is forcibly brought home to us that

our geographical position and climatic conditions are not unmixed blessings; at once they link us closely with the outside world because of our dependence on external trade, and withdraw us from the world so far as purely strategic considerations are concerned. There is on top of this the complicating factor that we are not racially homogeneous. Many, however, would feel that a qualification is in order in this regard. It is not clear that (even with regard to Western Canada) the figures of our racial composition as disclosed by the statistical record are as significant as is here suggested. For one thing, the first settlers were mainly of British origin and left their stamp on the institutions they created. It is also a fact that political leadership for the most part still rests with those of British stock. One does not, however, have to go the whole way with Professor Lower to recognize the contribution to clear thinking which his papers undoubtedly represent.

The question of future policy must necessarily be debatable. Mr. Paul Martin, M.P., comes down on the side of those who favour reform, but not abandonment, of the League, and makes specific proposals for reform including the separation of the Covenant from the Peace Treaties. Mr. Clifford Sifton takes up arms on behalf of full Canadian participation in a system of collective security and makes a strong plea for "vigorous, courageous and perhaps heroic action" to secure that end. A paper by Professor Jean Bruchesi on the state of French Canadian opinion is of unusual interest; it urges the contrary thesis in so informative a manner that the regret must be that such exchanges of views between the French- and English-speaking sections of Canada have not been encouraged a good deal more than has been the case.

It is indeed as a stimulant to further thought that this interesting collection is to be recommended. It is obvious that certain shades of opinion are either not represented at all or represented inadequately and the book suffers in consequence. But it does not purport to be a complete study nor for that matter a final one. It is, however, a valuable contribution in a field where the lack of informative literature is very grievous.

G. F. CURTIS.

COLLECTIVE SECURITY. Edited by Maurice Bourquin. International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation, Paris, 1936. Pp. xi, 514. \$4.00.

Whether the notion of collective security is valid or not, and, if it is, whether it can be the basis of a successful organization for ensuring world peace are questions which, if not exactly in that form, at least in substance occupy a large place in everyone's mind today. Even those who dismiss as a failure the post-war attempt to establish such a system in the form of the League of Nations do not face the alternative with any comfort. It may be a paradox, but it is a fact that just at the time when the League is most in disrepute, public interest in it is most marked. The present volume, which brings together the

views of a large number of experts in many countries, will therefore be warmly welcomed by those who desire to make something like a thorough examination of the subject for themselves. The material consists of extracts from the documentation submitted to the International Studies Conference which met in London in 1935 under the auspices of the Institute of Intellectual Co-operation, together with two exhaustive reports by Professor Maurice Bourquin and selected parts of the discussions which took place at the Conference. It is divided into three parts, the first being concerned with the notion of collective security, the second with the prevention of war under such a system, and the third with the repression of war.

What is perhaps the striking feature of the book is the large measure of agreement in the views expressed by those who took part in the Conference. The differences which do exist are mainly differences of detail or of emphasis. Even in the first section where the notion of collective security comes under notable attack from Professors Coppola and Forges-Davanzati of Italy there is not a wide divergence, because the most enthusiastic defenders of the collective system themselves recognize the necessity of bringing the existing agencies more closely into the line with the realities of international life. A similar disagreement between those who, like Professor Underhill, question whether such a change in ideas was brought about by the War as will ensure the success of the new system and others who hold that we have broken with the past in this matter, largely comes down to a difference concerning the method which ought now to be pursued if the world is to have peace; each side sees equally clearly that, as Professor Cassin of France said, "we must push on" towards some new form of world order. The brief review of the state of public opinion in the various countries, which precedes the account of this discussion, reveals indeed no opposition on the part of the mass of mankind to the idea of organizing peace on a collective basis. There are reservations about the part which certain countries, such as the United States—on which point Professor Jessup's memorandum is especially informative—ought to play in such a system and a scepticism of the methods pursued over the last 17 years; but in essence the national views, as described in Chapter I, correspond to a remarkable degree with the weight of expert opinion in Chapter II that collective security is within the realm of possible achievement.

The explanation of why efforts to organize collective security have so far met with such little success is revealed rather more clearly in the second part of the book, which deals with the problem of the prevention of war. Discussion does not proceed very far in the section without disclosing fairly conclusively that the essential weakness of the League is that it has been furnished with no apparatus to bring about the adjustments which are necessary from time to time to meet the needs of an ever-changing and dynamic world. There is general agreement that when a dispute involves merely the definition of existing rights or their infringement the arbitral and judicial provisions of the covenant are adequate. It is when the problem is one of a change in the *status quo* that obstacles, both of a psychological and of a procedural nature, are encountered. In this connection, a paper of considerable enlightenment is that by Professors LeFur and Geouffre de la Pradelle of

France which recognizes the need for reform of the Covenant along these lines and contains specific suggestions of the steps which might be taken. One is that the requirement of unanimity be abandoned and due weight be given to the disparate interests and responsibilities of certain nations by a rule of augmented majorities. In this view, the use of Article XIX of the Covenant would provide the necessary machinery for change. Other papers contain proposals for the creation of special procedures. The success of the Mandates Commission leads Professor Jessup to suggest that a similar body be set up for this purpose; he urges strongly that by reason of its permanent nature it could resolve differences before they had reached the "explosive" stage and had engendered national feeling. The idea of a court of equity, to which resort would be compulsory, also has its advocates, though strong doubts are expressed by others, notably Professor Ehrlich, whether states would be willing to make such a sacrifice of their sovereignty as schemes of this nature would involve. The kind of changes which should be contemplated and the methods by which they are to be brought about are hardly, however, more than touched on; these questions were left over for the next conference which will confine itself wholly to them.

The third section of the book has to do with the means of repressing war. The subject is considered in three aspects, namely, the determination of an aggressor, sanctions and neutrality. Anglo-Saxon and Latin minds show their "two ways of thinking" in their opposing views concerning the wisdom of defining beforehand what shall constitute an act of aggression. Our constitutional practice counsels against the provision of rigid formulae; rightly or wrongly, we feel that much of our progress towards political maturity has come from a habit of not tying our hands in advance by undertaking to act in a specific way in the event of a crisis. This preference of being free to shape our policies as the circumstances of the hour seem to demand evokes no sympathy from those who place the guarantee of security against invasion above all other considerations. The difference is not resolved in these pages, but opinions draw closely together in considering the Litvinoff formula which was used in the Treaties of London of July, 1933, as the most practicable one so far evolved and one which might, with modifications, serve as a basis for further efforts to satisfy the demand for security.

There were, however, many who remained impenitent in the view expressed by Sir Austen Chamberlain some years ago that a definition of the aggressor was "a trap for the innocent and a sign-post for the guilty". Notwithstanding this disagreement both schools of opinion were united in believing strongly in the force of public opinion in these matters. The Lytton Commission showed clearly the service the League could render in providing an impartial account of the facts bearing on a dispute. The criticism in that case was the delay in getting the facts before the public, and the suggestion is put forward in some of the papers that there might be permanent technical commissions of experts under the League who would keep abreast of developments of this nature and be in a position at once to report in the event of a crisis.

Canada's proximity to the United States makes the final section—that on neutrality—of direct interest and fortunately it is in many

ways the best part of the book. There has been a lot of confusion on this subject. Some have claimed, with perhaps more hardihood than reason, that owing to the combined effect of the Covenant and of the Briand-Kellogg Pact neutrality is a thing of the past. This is clearly shown to be a piece of wishful thinking. An interpretation of the text of Covenant and of the Pact, as well as other post-war treaties, establishes that neutrality is still legally possible, and, apart altogether from this, the special position of certain countries, of which Switzerland is clearly one, would mean that a contrary doctrine would be a source of weakness to a collective system. A more fruitful approach is to inquire, Professor Jessup does notably, how far the concept of neutrality has undergone modifications in the post-War period. This way of going about the matter is historically valid, for the rules governing the position of neutrals have undergone many changes in the past. It is suggested, therefore, that while some countries may prefer to treat the merits of a particular dispute with indifference they have a deep concern with the preservation of peace and may be prepared to adopt policies which will facilitate the working of a system designed to achieve this end. In this view measures such as the United States is adopting may buttress the collective system by serving to "starve the war". This is a line of thought, which, if not entirely new, readers will find put with such authority and clarity in this volume as to assist greatly in an understanding of a subject about which a good deal will likely be heard in the coming months.

It is inevitable that some topics receive inadequate treatment in a work of this kind while others get more than their share. The compensating advantage, however, is that one has access to material which would otherwise not be available since a great deal of it comes from foreign hands. For those who desire to be in possession of some of the best expert opinion available on collective security, this substantial volume will be of distinct value.

G. F. CURTIS.

THOMAS PICHON, "THE SPY OF BEAUSEJOUR", an account of his career in Europe and America, with many original documents translated by Alice Webster. By John Clarence Webster, C. M. G. Special Publication, The Public Archives of Nova Scotia, Halifax, 1937. Pp. xiii, 161 and nine illustrations.

In this volume Dr. Webster's enthusiasm as a collector of rare illustrations and documents and Mrs. Webster's skill as a translator of eighteenth-century French have again been combined with excellent results, and their joint efforts have once more been directed towards the preservation and extension of our cultural history. Though Pichon's life as a spy is intensely interesting to historians of the Maritime Provinces, that phase of his career partook of few dangers in comparison with similar adventurers in the Great War, and seems

to have been carried on in comparative comfort and security. As clerk to Le Loutre, because of his skill with the pen, he was able to enter the arcana imperii of French secular and ecclesiastical policy and to pass along information of great value to the British officers at Fort Lawrence. Because of his services to these officers here and in Halifax he was recommended for and received a pension from the British government. Different accounts of these services as well as the actual information furnished to the British by Pichon may be found in forty-seven letters written by him between July 1754 and October 1755, and printed from the originals in The Public Archives of Nova Scotia. Other letters from the Huntington Library, San Marino, Windsor Castle Library and the Bibliotheque de Vire throw much light, if somewhat highly coloured, upon his career before and after his sojourn in Isle Royale and Acadia.

This documentary biography as a whole is captivating both from the dramatic character of the period treated and the divided character of the central figure in the drama: for Beausejour occupied a strategic position in Acadia during those years when France and Great Britain came into violent conflict over its boundaries, and Pichon, who was a third-rate squire of dames, was a cunning rogue, almost disarming in his cynical probity and studied simplicity. In his introductory chapter Dr. Webster traces in some detail the tortuous career of Pichon, his frustrated honesty and patriotism, his self-regarding love passages, and his rather shabby treatment of Madame de Beaumont; and in his account of the latter Dr. Webster brings his expert knowledge of female psychology to the aid of the historian. Besides this introduction he has added a glossary of place-names and biographical sketches of personages mentioned in the text, and has also reproduced portraits of Pichon, Madame de Beaumont, Lieut.-Col. Scott, and Hon. Robert Monckton, fac-similes of Pichon's handwriting and varied signatures, as well as a painting of Halifax in 1750, and Brewse's plan of the siege of Beausejour.

This vivid work, together with the valuable collection that Dr. Webster has gathered in the new museum at Beausejour, should do much to revive intelligent interest in that period of our history when Le Loutre and Lawrence became joint-authors of the Acadian tragedy.

D. C. H.

JAMES WILSON MORRICE. A BIOGRAPHY. By W. Buchanan.
The Ryerson Press, Toronto.

This attractive book is introduced to us as "the biography of the most illustrious of Canadian painters." James Wilson Morrice was the son of a wealthy and highly respected citizen of Montreal, and from the first showed a decided inclination towards Art. But the opportunities for such study in Canada did not satisfy his fastidious taste, and he drifted away from his home, never taking the same interest in the colours, forms and atmosphere of his native land as was taken by the Group of Seven in Toronto, though an exception should be made in connection with his superb paintings of snow scenery in

Quebec. Paris became his second home, and here he associated on intimate terms with many of the leading painters of the Post-impressionist school. In his early Parisian career he came under the influence of Whistler and he later was a friend of Matisse; but probably his own native endowments were the formative forces in his art. He was a diligent student of the ordinary features of French scenery and character; he excelled in colour, and was seen at his best in his small oil sketches on panels, depicting life as he saw it in his favourite cafés. His extreme modernness alienated many of his Montreal friends, and he felt their criticism keenly. Since his death, however, his fame has greatly increased, and specimens of his painting are to be found in many of the leading collections of Europe and America. In the latter part of his life he travelled much in the tropics, and became fascinated by the wealth of colour which met him on every side. It was now that he showed most clearly his deep sympathy with Matisse, but it is an open question whether his West Indian paintings will have the permanent place which must be assigned to such earlier works as "The Beach of St. Malo" or "Quai des Grandes Augustins."

The author of the biography is one of the younger art critics of Canada, and has spared no pains in gathering up his materials from the somewhat meagre sources available. He gives us a vivid, if rather sordid, description of the personal life of Morrice in Montmartre and Montparnasse, revealing a great contrast between the unconventionality of his Bohemian existence and the quiet and restrained spirit of his early Montreal home. The book is a genuine addition to the all too limited art literature of our Dominion and we must express our gratitude to Mr. Buchanan.

J. W. FALCONER.

POEMS: 1911-1936. By John Hall Wheelock. Scribners. \$2.50.

MONTICELLO AND OTHER POEMS. By Lawrence Lee. Scribners. \$2.00.

THE TREE OF RESURRECTION AND OTHER POEMS. By Audrey Alexandra Brown. Macmillans. \$2.50.

Mr. Wheelock's *Poems* represents all the work to date that the author wishes to be remembered. There is nothing sensational about Mr. Wheelock's poetry—which is all to the good. The language is simple, the verse forms are traditional and simple, and the thought is never obscure. Yet, or more probably therefore, this volume has nothing that does not call forth praise. One is caught by the idealism and faith of the man, by the chastity of expression, and the quiet, haunting music. Never does a line seem forced or unnecessary; never does a poem seem unfinished. The reader can trace a growing maturity as he goes through the volume: not so much of expression, as of philosophy and depth of vision. Just because Mr. Wheelock's poetry is so quiet, so restrained, so unobtrusive—in a word, so classical—there is danger that the younger generation may miss it; that would be a pity, for younger poet and younger reader can learn much here.

Mr. Lee, a younger poet from the Southern states, has dedicated his volume to Mr. Wheelock. One can indeed see the discipleship.

Again we find restraint, simplicity, and clarity of expression. Yet as Mr. Lee is a younger man, one feels at times more of modern elusiveness in the thought, though never enough to make him a "difficult" poet. One hardly knows whether to praise more highly some of his sonnets or such a perfect sequence as "Slowly Flows the River". Of one thing we can be certain: Mr. Lee is in the true tradition, and in the immediate future should give us even richer poetry than there is in this volume.

When we turn to Miss Brown, whose name is almost by now a household term in Canada, we are in another world. One feels in reading Miss Brown that one is seeing life as through a veil or a fine, beautiful mist. Her forte is elaborate description woven of many rich strands; the music of her verse is essentially rich and sensuous. But herein lies a danger—as the followers of Spenser and Tennyson learned to their sorrow. The reader is frequently soothed by the richness of music and description into a state where thought is at low ebb. It is true that nearly every poem by Miss Brown has a core of thought or genuine feeling, but the point is that the reader may miss it because of the ornateness of the vehicle. Miss Brown's poetry is good, but it would be greater if the author disciplined her imagination more severely. Fortunately some poems in this, her second, volume show signs of development in this direction; e. g., "White Bride", which grips the imagination powerfully. Then, too, Miss Brown has handled the simple lyric measure admirably in certain poems. If she will but curb her fluency of imagery and of diction there can be little doubt that Miss Brown will eventually take a high place among Canadian poets.

B. M.

THE ENCHANTED GLASS. By Hardin Craig, Oxford University Press. Pp. 293. \$2.50.

Prof. Craig believes that before we can understand and appreciate Elizabethan literature we must understand the life and thoughts of the Elizabethans. In this book he attempts to introduce us to this background. He examines the ancient, mediaeval, and contemporary strands in Elizabethan culture, and the Elizabethan attitude toward authority and tradition. Though the style makes the book rather heavy reading and though at times Prof. Craig seems to labour the obvious, the volume is of real value to any one interested in the Age of Shakespeare.

B. M.

LETTERS OF HARTLEY COLERIDGE. Edited by G. E. and E. L. Griggs. Oxford University Press. Pp. 328. \$4.50.

One might call this volume an autobiography, so skilfully have the editors chosen the letters to illustrate the course of Hartley Coleridge's life and development. Editorial comment is restricted to introductory notes to individual letters. Some hitherto unpublished poems are

found in the letters; none of them will add to Hartley's poetical stature. Very interesting light is thrown by Hartley on his father and the latter's contemporaries. Only one criticism occurs to the reviewer: as all of us are not familiar with the ramifications of the Coleridge family, a genealogical table or a glossary of names would have been of great help.

B. M.

ATLANTIC CROSSING. By G. Wilson Knight. J. M. Dent & Sons. Pp. 337. \$2.75.

The jacket tells us that this volume is an autobiography, a philosophy of life, a transatlantic journey, and a love story—certainly the reader should get his money's worth. Prof. Knight employs all the tricks of modern novel writing, being particularly fond of the stream of consciousness. Unfortunately the book *as a whole* does not fulfil the reader's expectations. The love story is rather thin; the journey is an ordinary one; the philosophy, or philosophizing, is not profound or strikingly original. But in parts the workmanship is splendid. As one might expect from Prof. Knight, there are brilliant aperçus concerning Shakespeare. The descriptions of Persia and the East are magnificent, and one would need to go far to find a better description of the thoughts of a seasick person.

B. M.

WINTER IN THE SUN—David Burnham. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. 1937. Pp. 300. Price \$2.50.

Here is a story modern in its conception, intense in the brilliancy of its style and pulsing with psychological problems, which hews for itself a somewhat unique place among modern fiction. Against the vivid background of a small Arizona ranch, near the Mexican border, the author has placed many diverse characters—Papago Indians, ranchers, Mexicans and sophisticated city guests. In this highly picturesque Western setting one glimpses the true Arizona, to which come two young, somewhat disillusioned young Easterners, around whom the story centres. With deft strokes the author portrays the human side of his characters—not as the world sees them, but as they really are when stripped of their superficial posing. The book is one not essentially of outward action, but of inner conflict, clash of ideals, desires, temperaments, with finally an emerging, from much confused thinking, of certain simple truths, acknowledged and accepted by the main characters.

The author, though barely thirty, displays a distinctly mature insight in his penetration of psychological problems. Despite his youth, he has travelled extensively on two continents and devotes his entire time to writing. This last fact undoubtedly accounts in his writing for the very evident finish of technique. Although his philosophy will be questioned by many readers, (for one feels that his work

if decidedly subjective) one must acknowledge his intense sincerity of expression and natural skill in subtle sketching. With these and other qualities, he is able to make a real contribution to modern literature.

GRETA L. ROSE.

TOWARDS THE CHRISTIAN REVOLUTION, Edited by R. B. Y. Scott and Gregory Vlastos (Willett, Clark & Co., Chicago—\$2.50), pp. viii—254.

This book is a symposium, written by a well-known group from within the United Church of Canada. Its general theme might be summarised in the words of Professor Eugene Forsey of Montreal, "This generation seeketh after a sign, and there shall be no sign given it but the sign of the prophet Marx." The series of essays is a considered manifesto on the Christian Social Order, in which the belief is set forth that a social revolution, directed by powerful economic forces, is imminent and that the Church must adjust her mission and message to this new situation. These writers address themselves to this task with eager enthusiasm. Professor John Line, in his two introductory essays on *The Philosophical Background* and *The Theological Principles* contends that a revolutionary witness is implied in the very nature of the Christian faith. Professor Vlastos of Queen's University advances a similar position in Christian Ethics. In what is the most satisfactory essay of the series, Professor R. B. Y. Scott exhibits the thesis of the book as rooted in the teaching of Scripture. Professor Forsey sees nothing ahead of us but an inevitable Socialism, and he welcomes the prospect. Mr. King Gordon addresses himself to the political implications of the Christian message. Mr. J. W. A. Nicholson of Prince Edward Island summons the Church to a new prophetic mission, while Mr. Eric Havelock outlines the character of *The New Society*. Whether we agree with this book or not, it is one that ought to have been written, and which all who want to understand what is stirring in many minds to-day ought to read. It is a robust, vigorous and fearless encounter with some of the gravest problems of our time.

J. S. T.

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