

## NEW BOOKS

THE LIFE OF LORD CARSON. Volume II. By Ian Colvin. Toronto. The Macmillan Company of Canada. 1935.

ARMOUR OF BALLYMONEY. By W. S. Armour, with a Foreword by Robert Lynd. London. Duckworth.

By a curious coincidence, these two books came almost simultaneously into the reviewer's hand. They describe two very different men, each playing his part in the tense drama of Irish life which marked the years immediately before the founding of the Free State. One of them is known to all the world, a public leader whose name—for applause or for reproach—was on the lips of everyone by whom the Anglo-Irish crisis twenty years ago was being discussed. The other moved in the restricted area of a clergyman in a country town of the County of Antrim. Their convictions were in the sharpest possible conflict, and in the advice they respectively proffered to those whom they could reach by tongue or by pen it would have been hard to find a single element in common. Yet as one reads the two stories, one has a strange feeling of resemblance deeper than these differences can conceal. It is the common note of courage, of high resolve to stand by principles rather than to plan for what is expedient, a readiness—as Nietzsche would have said—to “live dangerously” in the service of an ideal. Perhaps one should see here just another token of the tragic side of Irish life—where two men whose personality calls alike for such genuine admiration should have felt driven by the same zeal to courses so diametrically opposed.

In Mr. Colvin's book we have depicted the most exciting scenes in Lord Carson's life. It is concerned not with his career in the profession of law, but with his leadership of the Irish Unionist Party in that struggle against “Home Rule” which has ended in the scheme of two Irish parliaments for North and South respectively. Mr. Colvin writes with enthusiasm about the leader whose policy is altogether after his own heart, and sets forth episode after episode in graphic detail. His narrative will be read with delight, as expressing the very spirit of their movement, by those elderly or middle-aged Ulstermen whose credit is too much bound up with defence of what was done in 1913 and 1914 to let them view it with the clear judgment of spectators abroad. It is safe to guess that a younger generation in Ulster, with whom support of “Covenant” policies is no point of personal pride, will have other thoughts about the method whose consequences they have so much reason to lament. But as a psychological document, disclosing the very temper of those who engineered the gun-running of 1914, the shaping of Ulster's Provisional Government and the Mutiny at the Curragh camp, this book by Mr. Colvin is of value to the coming historian. In aspects other than this psychological

suggestiveness, very different criticism would have to be passed upon his work. The wholesale attribution of disgraceful motives to all whose policies he cannot approve, and the presentation of British leadership as a constant disguise of personal selfishness under pleas in "the public interest", belong to a very juvenile type of political controversy. On the whole, one must share Mr. Colvin's regret that Volume II of this *Life* did not come, like Volume I, from the pen of Mr. Edward Majoribanks.

In Mr. W. S. Armour's *Life* of his father we have the record of one far less in the public eye, of a career necessarily less spectacular alike in achievement and in mistake. But to all who, like the present reviewer, enjoyed the privilege of friendship with "Armour of Ballymoney," and to great numbers who knew only of him as among the bravest men to whom a time of fierce Irish party conflict had given birth, the issue of this book will seem a tribute overdue. It is the story of a Presbyterian minister in a northern corner of County Antrim who in troublous days had neither accepted the prevailing contention nor complied with the prevailing custom that a clergyman should be a mere mouthpiece for the more influential laity. His was never the sort of mind Mill once described as "filled with other people's opinions." Thinking for himself and speaking as he thought, preferring the tradition of the ancient Hebrew prophet to that of the modern hireling press, fearing to be untruthful more than he feared to be unpopular, here was a man whose name passed into a symbol, recalling the best days of an independent Church. Those who desire to see, reflected in one man's story, how menacing are the difficulties but how high the ultimate rewards of fortitude such as this will enjoy Mr. W. S. Armour's book, written with filial devotion, but also with critical candour. It is the record of an Irish patriot of the sort whose legend has begun, but will take time to be known. Those who showed these high qualities of heart and head must some day shine in any adequate history of their country's effort. And even before his death "Armour of Ballymoney" had come largely into his own, illustrating once more how it is wisdom—not discretion—that is justified of her children.

H. L. S.

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PHILOSOPHY: An Introductory Study of Fundamental Problems and Attitudes. By Clifford Barrett. The Macmillan Co. New York. 1935.

One might wonder in picking up this book whether there is room for yet another introduction to philosophy, but after the reading of a few chapters conviction comes that here is an unusual work. It performs the presentation of philosophy in no formal and perfunctory manner, nor, yet again, in an over-laudatory and flamboyant style. The tone is quiet, truthful, respectful, yet arresting.

Professor Barrett does not seek to arouse an interest in their teachings by an extensive portrayal of the lives and personalities of the world's great thinkers. Such biographical details as he gives

are meagre in the extreme. Nor does he seek to make the various positions and doctrines of philosophers more lively and exciting by a little heightened emphasis and antithesis. His method is fundamentally the ancient aporetic one. In taking up in turn the various questions that perplex the human mind, he gives in clear and simple language (1) an account of the meaning of the problem itself, (2) accounts of the more significant attitudes which have been taken with respect to it, each frequently illustrated by a careful exposition of the thought of a leading historical representative of the position, and (3) contemporary attitudes to the problem. Thus we have exposition, history and current criticism, and for those who think that the best way to learn to philosophize (as to swim) is to jump right in, lengthy extracts from the great thinkers are given.

The scheme is sound and the execution fine. Only one who has tried something similar can appreciate what judgment has been exercised in omissions, what conciseness and freshness there is in statement, what imagination in presentation.

Whether the book alone would carry a young student far in philosophy, one may doubt. That is too much to ask of any one book. But it forms an excellent frame-work for amplification, and may be heartily recommended as a text-book in introductory courses. Again, for the student who, after a deep plunge into Plato or Descartes or Kant or Hume or some other of the immortals, wishes to broaden his view and correct his perspectives, it is admirable. Even for the advanced philosopher who desires to review his far-ranging speculations and hard-won conclusions, this work serves to start the trains of thought and mark the dangers and difficulties of the way. Not least among its merits is the splendid bibliography at the back.

If one book can do it, this one gives the right kind of introduction to philosophy.

A. K. GRIFFIN

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THE WILFRID WARDS AND THE TRANSITION. I. The Nineteenth Century. By Maisie Ward. New York. Sheed and Ward, Inc.

This is the first volume of a biography which many of us have awaited with eagerness, and it will stimulate still further our expectations for the sequel. One's first thought on sight of a *Life* of Wilfrid Ward may well be that of Milton about his departed friend:

Who would not sing for Lycidas? He knew  
Himself to sing, and build the lofty rhyme.

For this is the biography of one who was himself a prince among biographers. And the biographic method which Wilfrid Ward not only formulated with such care but exemplified with such skill has been admirably applied by his daughter in fashioning a likeness of himself.

He was among the most distinguished men who adorned the world of English letters in the closing nineteenth and the opening twentieth century, known to some as the charming essayist, to others as the great editor, to yet a third group as the biographer of Wiseman and Newman, to a fourth perhaps as the chief Catholic layman writing—as Mr. Chesterton and Mr. Belloc now write—on Catholic doctrine for the general reader. There was little in these several fields which he touched without adorning it, and what his daughter has now given us is the story of his intellectual development up to the opening of the present century. It is a picture which would, one feels sure, have been after Wilfrid Ward's own heart, showing exactly in his familiar manner how ideas shaped themselves in his mind, how influences competed, how through the impact of persons he became introduced more and more clearly to problems. One can watch here the very growth of an intellect subtle and capacious far beyond others. Incidentally one meets, as in Wilfrid's Ward's own books, with figure after figure so drawn as to be unforgettable.

The biography includes more than a single subject. Its title is not *Wilfrid Ward*, but *The Wilfrid Wards*, adding, *and the Transition*. The author feels that her father and mother lived an intellectual life in common, that the mental development of each was so blended with that of the other as to justify treating them together. There is indeed more in this than a daughter's devotion; anyone familiar with *Problems and Persons* who takes up *Out of Due Time* or *One Poor Scruple* will be startled again and again to find the way of thinking made so familiar in the reasoning of the philosophic critic come back in the pictures of the romantic novelist. Whether it is just to find in 1900 a moment of "transition", from the time when Wilfrid Ward felt that his Church was still in a period of struggle to the time when he saw her able to co-operate composedly in British national life, is open to dispute. But all such divisions must be more or less arbitrary, and the year selected has at least given an excellent stopping-place for the biographer.

In a magazine of general interest one cannot take the space needful for comment on the technical problems—philosophic and theological—which are here argued. But one can bid grateful welcome to a book so eminently worthy of its subject and of the writer's intellectual inheritance. To say this in the present case is praise indeed.

H. L. S.

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BRITAIN UNDER PROTECTION—An Examination of the Government's Protectionist Policy. By Ranald M. Findlay. George Allen & Unwin Ltd. London, 1934.

This is an intensive study of Britain under Protection, established by the National Government in violation of the pledges given by the Prime Minister, Mr. Stanley Baldwin, Mr. Neville Chamberlain, Viscount Snowden and the Liberal Ministers when seeking election in 1931, and the adoption of which later resulted in the resignation of Viscount Snowden and the Liberal Ministers. Imposed at first for

six months only, under The Abnormal Importations Act, 1931, the protectionist principle was adopted and remains.

All the arguments familiar in protectionist countries were used as time went on to justify the extension of the new duties, which in the first seven months alone made taxable 579 million pounds worth of goods, more than half of the total imports of 1930. Mr. Findlay impeaches the validity of all the considerations that were urged for the abandonment of Free Trade, and has gathered together a great mass of evidence substantiating his position. His work is not a theoretical discussion of the subject, but a practical examination of the tariff in its working and of the results it brought about.

A Tariff Advisory Committee was set up, but manufacturers were at their wits' end to get action from it, and through the delay and uncertainty, business was lost. While calling a World Conference for the lowering of tariffs, before it met, Britain adopted a protectionist policy. Other nations hit back. France retaliated, Canada imposed a "dumping" duty, and within two months twenty-two nations in all increased restrictions against British goods. Mr. Runciman in 1934 was forced to say these foreign tariff changes imposed "for the most part involved decreases in imports rather than increases." British exports as a result declined. The tariff as a bargaining weapon failed. And when the World Conference met to reduce tariffs, the British government, in contradiction to the Preparatory Committee's recommendations, suggested a series of bi-lateral agreements, a lowering of tariffs by piece-meal. Fifty-seven nations at the Conference meant 2,949 separate agreements—an absurdity. The Conference drifted into futility.

Goods under the new tariff were relatively dearer to the consumer. New factories opened, but others closed, their raw materials taxed, costs rose and, unable to compete, exports fell off, and shipping and allied industries staggered.

Britain had adopted the "vicious compensatory principle,"

the principle which justifies the use of tariffs to neutralize lower costs of production in other countries, thereby compensating home producers for what is adjudged to be unfair competition. This difference in costs of production is the basis of all international trade. Its acceptance involved action which was destructive of the very foundation of world trade. For the first time at Ottawa the British government subscribed to it.

It came to Ottawa, in its own words, "to try to give a lead to the world to break down tariff barriers." Instead of securing "the removal or limitation of existing barriers to trade," its declared object, it ended by raising the barriers higher and giving the rest of the world a wrong lead, defeating its avowed purpose as declared by Mr. Baldwin, leader of the British delegation.

By the Ottawa Agreements Britain secured no material reduction in Empire tariffs against her goods. "The total restrictions in the way of world trade were increased to her detriment as a world trader." Premier Lyons said, "There have been no (Australian) tariff reductions as a result of Ottawa." Premier Bennett said, to reduce tariffs "would bring about a dislocation of business, and we did not do it."



Mr. Baldwin asked what he got at Ottawa, said, "I answer quite frankly, I do not know. Nobody knows." Yet Britain was bound for five years.

Disputes arose with Australia, South Africa, Canada. Australia, after Ottawa, made 400 tariff increases against Britain, of course raising them at the same time a little higher against the world, as did other Dominions. In Canada duties mounted by means of dumping duties, etc. until they became prohibitive. "The Ottawa Agreements" says Mr. Findlay, "must be counted as part of a gradual damming of world trade through means of economic nationalism."

British Protection raged on. Quotas were adopted, the Marketing Board was set up, wheat and beef were subsidised, the price of milk was fixed, cheese-makers were given a subsidy in the form of a loan of which there was no prospect of repayment, prices rose, the burden fell upon the people, export trade fell off, and shipping declined. In 1934 there were 1,687,167 gross tons shipping in England less than 3 years before. British international trade fell in 2½ years after the adoption of protection by 160,000,000 pounds. The new tariff shutting out the goods of debtor nations made it more difficult for Britain to play the part of a creditor nation with profit, and "the whole range of new tariffs failed to produce so much revenue as was sacrificed by the reduction in the duties on two commodities only, sugar and tea."

Quoting the words of Mr. Hugh Lewis, an authority on insurance and finance, the author concludes that

Brutal physical war will follow the economic war we are now engaged in, which has brought starvation and bread queues and unemployment to tens of millions of our fellow creatures; ruin to traders and shippers: and such fear into the lives of men and women that only those without the capacity to think can view the morrow without concern. . . Every nation arming itself with every conceivable device against buying from its neighbours—whilst itself indulging in hectic efforts to become self-sufficing. The situation thus is one in which all want to be sellers, and none buyers.

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To avert the ruin of the producing section of the community, attempts are made to force up prices by tariffs, quotas, restrictions on production, and other barriers to trade, in an effort to get more out of the consumer, who is by these very acts being impoverished.

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Great Britain is taking a lead in this madness of economic nationalism. . . seeking economic self-containment by the maddest of mad-hatter devices.

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We have spent 40 million pounds on the artificial production of sugar; we are spending 30 million pounds on an experiment to produce petrol by artificial methods; and millions more to grow wheat—at a time when the sugar-producing countries and the petrol-producing countries and the wheat-growing countries are so over-stocked that vast quantities of these and other commodities vital to the very poor are destroyed, or rotting on wharves, or warehouses abroad, or thrown into the Mersey at home.

It would be criminal if it were not the result of blundering folly rather than of intention.

This is a book which badly needed to be written. The theoretical argument for Free Trade may need restating, but Mr. Findlay has

given us a practical demonstration of what has been happening before our eyes with the refusal to follow it. The work is carefully done, the author citing chapter and verse for the facts he sets forth with such lucidity. It is a book deserving the serious consideration of every man who would understand the present economic situation in the British Commonwealth and the world.

The book is admirably printed, well divided and sub-headed, and easily read.

G. FARQUHAR.

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CREATION AND EVOLUTION IN PRIMITIVE COSMOGONIES. By Sir James George Fraser. Macmillan and Co., London, 1935. Price \$2.50.

This is a collection of essays and speeches published and delivered at various times and here given more permanent form. They maintain the general level of excellence and attractiveness that we have learned to associate with the name of their illustrious author; further, they serve to reveal something of the breadth of his sympathies and the variety of his interests.

The essay which stands first and gives its title to the book is copiously illustrated from the views of savage peoples, as we expect from the author of *The Golden Bough*. In it he seeks amid primitive accounts of the origin of man the rôle which creation plays, e.g., in the making of man out of clay by the gods, and also the rôle played by evolution, e.g. in the coming of man from the lower animals as exemplified by the totemism of all lands. He shows us that the rival theories championed by the writer of the first chapter of *Genesis* and by Charles Darwin have each a history as old as human reflection about the beginnings of human beings. Such a thought may raise our estimate of primitive intelligence, or perhaps humble our pride in modern progress.

We find also enthusiastic accounts of the work of Spencer and Roscoe as anthropologists. Such we might have expected. As charming as unexpected are an appreciative picture of the great Gibbon in his last years at Lausanne, and a sympathetic account of the life and labours of Condorcet, that inspired philosopher thrown up by the French Revolution.

The last two chapters are autobiographical, and welcome as throwing light on the family and early life of a man we have come to admire.

This is a book not to increase a reputation but to round out a personality.

A. K. GRIFFIN.

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THE ROMANCE OF REALITY. By Janet Chance. George Allen & Unwin Ltd., London, 1934. \$1.50.

Mrs. Chance claims the name "realism" to denote a belief in scientific thought that ventures to erect itself into a complete philosophy of life. "Realism", which is inspired by a strong reaction from trad-

itional religion and morality, bears some likeness to the American brand of "humanism", and like that creed is akin to ancient Epicureanism. The author is a strenuous but unfortunately not very serene preacher of "serenity", which is to be won through disillusionment and resignation. After the illusions are all gone, the real romance of the universe will appear.

About Chapter V "realism" begins to become interesting. It proves to be not the speculation of a quiet garden, but a battle-cry for more frankness and honesty in health, work, society, marriage, and social relations. So far all readers might follow. There ensues an impassioned plea for greater freedom in achieving beauty of sex-life, but alas! the author withholds the details. Education is next overhauled, and is to be given a more pragmatic and experimental turn. Only, no religious instruction! This is the dogma that casts out dogma.

Then follows a stern warning to the comfortable and possessing class to discover a little more reality before the revolution comes, and finally we have an assertion of the rôle of the imagination in the scientific pursuits of realism. The emphasis on imagination was really unnecessary.

A. K. GRIFFIN.

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WINDS OF PITY. By Nell Hanson. London. John Murray. 1935. \$2.00.

This is the first novel by a writer of obvious promise. It is of special interest to Canadian readers because Miss Hanson is the daughter of one who spent a good many years of fine service in Montreal, so that—although not Canadian-born—she is Canadian in the experience of a long period just before she entered upon authorship. The memory of Dr. George Hanson, minister of Erskine Church, Montreal, remains and will long remain precious to very many.

It is an exceptional and striking novel that we have in *Winds of Pity*. The characters are taken from surroundings which few novelists have chosen to present, and in which the interplay of dispositions and characters is drawn with an arresting freshness. Here is indeed the old, old topic of marriage, but the central figure is unusual; the fascinations set forth are those of a young bachelor clergyman, who does not cease to attract romantic interest after he has ceased to be a bachelor, and whose moral collapse is of the kind which recalls the drift of *Elmer Gantry*. But Miss Hanson has a delicacy of touch which one misses in Mr. Sinclair Lewis, and the development here set forth, while necessarily unpleasant, is quite redeemed from the coarseness which drew down such censure from the Boston clergy. *Winds of Pity* will hold the reader's attention throughout, by its skillful drawing of human types which have seldom been shown before, but which wait for the artist's brush. The *denouement*, too, so different from what most writers in this field would have imagined, is true to that human nature at its best which they either so little know or so rarely care to describe. One may add that in its tenderness of feeling it is worthy of the spirit of Miss Hanson's father, to whom the book is so appropriately dedicated.

H. L. S.



WORDSWORTH'S ANTI-CLIMAX. By W. L. Sperry. Harvard Studies in English, XIII. Harvard University Press. Pp. ix, 228. \$2.50.

It was high time for such a book as Dean Sperry's. In recent years many theories have been advanced to explain why about 1807 there should have been such a lamentable falling off in Wordsworth's poetry. These theories are to be found in many books, which not every Wordsworthian and every small library can afford, or are tucked away in learned journals or university publications. Fortunately Dean Sperry is not satisfied with any one theory, and writes the present work. The book falls into two sections. In the first Dean Sperry examines in turn each theory: the break with Coleridge, the loss of a liberal creed and the growth of toryism, the "desertion" of Annette and her child, and the influence of Jeffrey's hostile criticism. Quietly but effectively the author shows the shortcomings of each explanation; here the ordinary reader has a resumé cream of recent Wordsworthian studies. Then Dean Sperry advances his own theory: Wordsworth was the victim of his own system. He had adopted Hartley's associational psychology and Allison's aesthetics. These served him well for the golden decade, but in them were the seeds of artistic decay. The thesis is worked out clearly and, given the man that Wordsworth was, convincingly.

The second section is entitled "The conduct of Life." The first chapter is the most valuable. Here the author offers an explanation of the crisis in Wordsworth's life that occurred about 1793. The trouble, according to Dean Sperry, was not a political disappointment, but an intellectual perplexity; Wordsworth found a great difference between the world of fact and the world he had created in his own fancy. With the help of Nature and Dorothy, Wordsworth survived the ordeal, but "The disease left its mark on Wordsworth. There runs through all his poetry thereafter a shrinking from submitting his ideas to the verification of fact." The other chapters treat of Wordsworth's "Nature," religion, and ethics. All told, this is a very useful and stimulating book.

B. M.

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CANADA, AN AMERICAN NATION. By John W. Dafoe. Columbia University Press. New York, 1935.

This little book is made up of three lectures delivered by Mr. Dafoe at Columbia University in the Spring of 1934. In view of the place and the audience, it is not strange that the speaker should have

undertaken to develop the thesis he did. Canada has become not only an important nation, but is essentially a North American nation, closely akin to the United States in its origins, in the forces that have moulded its destiny and in the problems that face it at the present day.

In view of the magnitude of the subject and the brevity of the time Mr. Dafoe has done his task well. A more exact title for the book might, however, be suggested. It would not only describe the contents with greater precision, but it would remove almost all excuse for criticism. This new title might be: "Three lectures delivered by a Canadian Liberal in New York with the purpose of bringing about a better understanding between the United States and Canada." Then no questions need arise in the reader's mind as to whether history is being used with a purpose or not, and he will not be surprised to find a discussion of the Reciprocity treaty of 1911 or of the Hawley-Smoot tariff of 1930. He may still object to finding two of Wordsworth's most famous lines quoted incorrectly (p. 104), but this is a slight fault in what is an extremely interesting and stimulating study.

G. WILSON.

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THE CONCISE OXFORD FRENCH DICTIONARY. Compiled by Abel Chevalley and Marguerite Chevalley. 928 pages, illustrated. Clarendon Press, Oxford. \$2.25.

A good foreign language dictionary must look well, behave well, and contain the first strange word which comes to your mind when about to review it. This extremely attractive-looking and up-to-date French-English dictionary doubled back in perfect obedience and "stayed put" on the table as we challenged it to give us the English for *poste a galène* ("crystal set") and other radio paraphernalia. A lover of handsome books could wish for nothing neater in binding and print, and a college student of the French language may face his French treatise, even though of a specialized or technical nature, with the assurance that he will find here the English equivalent of any French word he encounters. The Oxford French Dictionary is a French-English dictionary only; we have often wondered why half the space in a "French" dictionary should be devoted to "English-French," inasmuch as very few people ever use this half of the volume.

C. H. MERCER.

THE GOLDEN CHALICE. By Ralph Gustafson. London, Ivor Nicholson and Watson, pp. 105, 2sh.

With this volume another young Canadian poet makes his formal bow to the public. It is a hard volume to review: the defects stand out so clearly and annoyingly that the reader is in danger of shutting his eyes to the merits and promise. Mr. Gustafson has a very fine ear: almost never is the reader offended by a false rhythm or a bad rhyme. Technically the author handles various forms with skill. But there is too much talk of Beauty and too much protesting against the ugly gods of contemporary poetry. Mr. Gustafson is too easily moved to write a sonnet of no startling originality whenever he visits a literary or historic shrine. His greatest fault is an overloading of his verse in an endeavour to create a beautiful picture. We need not be examagists to know that the clean-cut image is the most successful, that adjective-sheathed nouns do not reach the reader's imagination. To some the following lines are hyperaesthetic, but to most they are nonsensical:

Like music coloured with heavy scent  
Of evening flowers, his words with vibrant stress  
Unloosed within her heart rich ravishment;

To write like this, however, one must have something of the divine afflatus. Keats had the same defects, and overcame them not because of the critics, but by his power of keen self-criticism. If Mr. Gustafson has a similar critical faculty, he will become an important figure in Canadian letters.

B. M.