

NEW BOOKS

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ECONOMIC HISTORY OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE. By C. M. MacInnes. Rivingtons, London, 1935. Pp. vi, 408, bibliography and index.

As its title implies, this little volume is intended to serve merely as an introduction to the economic history of the British Empire, from Robert Thorne's memorial to Henry VIII in 1527, on exploration and discovery, to the Ottawa Agreements of 1932 for the improvement of imperial trade. But though it is concise, compact and selective, each subject is discussed and amplified in a very interesting manner. The author is a Canadian, a graduate of Dalhousie and Oxford, and at present Reader in Imperial History in the University of Bristol. He writes from the imperial or central point of view, and does not pay undue attention to the American colonies as compared with the claims of Africa, India and Australasia. The only indication that the author is not a native of Great Britain is seen in a tendency to scold the British merchant, manufacturer and capitalist for not being more aggressive in the face of American competition for trade and investment. Perhaps this idea may be gathered also from a certain docility in accepting the teachings of his Oxford tutors.

The author begins more or less conventionally with the Tudor background and motives of colonial expansion, discusses the types of people who first went to the American continental and island colonies, the development of trade with these colonies, with Africa and the East Indies, and the problem of currency in the first empire, and he concludes this section of the book with a description of the old colonial system. In Chapter III he has some interesting descriptions of travel on the Atlantic in the 17th and 18th centuries, and makes the rather devastating statement that there is no record of any household furniture having been placed aboard the *Mayflower*.

In discussing the new empire which was built up after the American Revolution, he deals with the effects of the industrial revolution, the transition from sail to steam, British migration in the 19th and 20th centuries, the export of British capital, British trade with Canada, Australasia, India, South Africa and the tropical empire. All these chapters are well supported by statistics and very useful to the student. The last three chapters are more general in matter and treatment, and deal with the triumph of free trade, separatism in inter-imperial fiscal policy, and imperial preference. His conclusion is that "A kind of Neo-Mercantilism has appeared, though the ideal of a self-sufficing self-contained Empire has gone for ever."

Though this book covers a wide range in both time and space, and therefore must be limited as to detail, it will repay a careful reading both for its interesting narrative and for its realistic perspective.

D. C. H.

"BOTT". The Story of a Schoolmaster. By W. H. Husted. Coward-McCann, New York.

The second chapter of this biography opens thus: "It was a bright summer morning in 1858 when a large English merchantman sailed into Halifax Harbour." A book that begins so attractively will interest all Haligonians. They will continue to read with interest the story of the early years of Mather Abbott, son of the Rev. John Abbott, the genial generous rector of St. Luke's Cathedral, Halifax. As they continue, the story will take them to King's College, Windsor, to Worcester College, Oxford, to Groton School, U. S. A., where as Latin master Abbott taught six of the family of Roosevelt, and finally to the scenes of his most creative work as Headmaster, at Lawrenceville, New Jersey.

In places the style of this book approaches dangerously near to the self-righteousness of Dean Farrar's *Eric, or Little by Little*. There are paragraphs and incidents so priggish that they are impossible to read without a shudder. The style is always that of the adoring pupil. Yet the curious impression is left at the end that Dr. Abbott was really a greater man than this picture, drawn by his pupil, makes him appear—that he was really less smug, less domineering, less booming the Victorian headmaster than he is described. In spite of the unhumorous sentimentality of some of the chapters of the book, it is, in the main, a fascinating story of a man of dynamic energy, full of courage and initiative, who brought to his school in New Jersey something of the moralising self-righteousness but also much of the solid strength of the Victorian pedagogic tradition.

B. A. FLETCHER.

JOHN ARBUTHNOT: MATHEMATICIAN AND SATIRIST. By Lester M. Beattie. Harvard University Press. Pp. xvi—432. \$3.50.

BEN JONSON ON THE ENGLISH STAGE, 1660-1776. By Robert Gale Noyes. Harvard University Press. Pp. xii—351. \$3.50.

SHAKESPEARE AND THE AUDIENCE. By A. C. Sprague. Harvard University Press. Pp. 327. \$2.50.

Very wisely Harvard University does not require the publication of doctoral dissertations; consequently, the newly created Ph. D. can continue to work over his material before giving the fruits of his researches to the world. This is probably the reason why the learned works issued by the Harvard University Press are always distinct contributions to knowledge. The present books are no exception.

Professor Beattie's book is not a biography of Arbuthnot; rather it is a re-examination of certain recurring problems of authorship. Read-

ers will remember that about 10 years ago Teerink, a Dutch scholar, sought to prove that the John Bull pamphlets were not the work of Arbuthnot. In an admirable study Dr. Beattie demolishes this theory. This re-assignment is perhaps the most important fruit of Dr. Beattie's researches, but he has also much light to throw on Arbuthnot's other works. Throughout the book the author compares the personalities of Swift and Arbuthnot. This comparison finds its fulfilment in the last chapter "A Humane Critic of Man"; this chapter is as fine as any essay that has been written on Arbuthnot, and might well be republished separately.

Dr. Noyes's book will find a welcome among certain groups. There are in every generation a few choice souls who can enjoy Jonson as he should be enjoyed. Then, students of the English stage and historians of literary criticism will find the book a veritable mine of information. Dr. Noyes seems to have left no document unexamined; he has a mass of material, yet he has succeeded in moulding it to his purpose. A chapter is devoted to each of the plays, giving the stage history, castes, anecdotes, and revisions. Not the least important feature is the frequent quotation of contemporary criticisms from almost inaccessible sources.

Professor's Sprague's earlier books have been favourably reviewed in these pages. The present work is the fruit of long and intimate reading of not only Shakespeare but dramatists of all ages. Professor Sprague seems equally at home in drawing an illustration from the most recent English or American play or from one by Sophocles. His task is to look at Shakespeare's plays as dramas written for actual production. How can I, one almost hears Shakespeare say, catch the audience's attention; or how am I best to impart this information? The scope can best be shown from the chapter headings: "Time and Place", "Some Conventions", "The Beginning and the End", "Preparation and Surprise", etc. Prof. Sprague writes with ease and urbanity; he has deserted the lectern for the arm chair; the result is an eminently readable book.

One has only to add of all three books that, like all books from the Harvard University Press, they are beautifully made. Why does not some millionaire endow this Press so that it might publish at lower prices? Poor scholars throughout the world would be as grateful as was Chaucer's poor clerk of Oxenford.

B. M.

GROUP SETTLEMENT. Ethnic Communities in Western Canada. Volume vii, Canadian Frontiers of Settlement. By C. A. Dawson. Macmillan, Toronto, 1936, Pp. xx, 395.

This is the seventh in a series of nine volumes, under the editorship of W. A. Mackintosh and W. L. G. Joerg, which deal with Canadian frontiers of settlement. This volume describes the historical background and traces the evolution of five groups, Doukhobors,

Mennonites, Mormons, German Catholics and French Canadians, who settled in more or less solid *blocs* in Western Canada.

In the course of Canadian immigration since Confederation, no question has raised more controversy than that of group settlement in Western Canada. The problem is both a political and a social one. On the one hand it has been contended that it is both natural and desirable for people of the same origin, race and religion to form compact communities for mutual intercourse and assistance; and that such communities adhere to the soil, escape the wanderlust that besets the individual pioneer, who is isolated from neighbours, handicapped economically and socially starved. On the other hand, those who are interested in Canadian national unity have maintained that to settle compact groups of one race, language and religion in isolation from other groups of a different race, language and religion is but to raise a deliberate barrier to co-operation and harmony, and to lead inevitably towards Balkanization. But so far the question has been debated in a scholastic manner, without any attempt to study the facts on the spot. Professor Dawson's study, therefore, comes as a welcome contribution to the solution of this vexed problem; and, although he does not obtrude advice as to which policy should be followed in future, he provides valuable data as to the extent to which group settlements tend to maintain their pristine purity and isolation under Canadian national and secular influences.

Professor Dawson and those who have assisted him find that even the most compact groups dedicated to a distinctive way of life respond, however slowly, to the dominating influences of national environment, and tend to be assimilated as units through the children and grand-children of the original immigrants. In producing these results the railway and permanent highway seem to be the dynamic forces, bringing in their train commercial services and schoolmasters as the vehicles of outside custom and culture. But, while such unconscious forces tend to assimilate these ethnic minorities without friction, conscious efforts to hasten the process have all too frequently aroused opposition and recalled the "receding solidarity of these colonies." In Professor Dawson's opinion "Assimilation may be facilitated by extending types of social organization to these ethnic communities, if administrators learn how to work with the inevitable tide rather than against it."

Apart from any conclusions or hints as to policy, this book is extremely valuable as a careful synthesis of both first-hand and secondary information on five very considerable elements in the population of Western Canada. The narrative is generously reinforced by maps, statistical tables and photographs; and the author's statements and conclusions are set down with scientific detachment. The whole volume should be read and re-read with care by all who have the future welfare of the Canadian nation at heart.

D. C. H.

ANTONY: A RECORD OF YOUTH. By the Earl of Lytton. Charles Scribner's Sons. \$3.00.

This is a biography of the late Viscount Knebworth, who was killed in an aeroplane accident in his 29th year. His father has wisely allowed him to speak for himself through his letters. It is an interesting and valuable picture of post-war youth. If only the Elizabethan Earl of Essex had left us such letters, how valuable they would be! According to one's political philosophy, one will approve or disapprove of Viscount Knebworth's views; but there can be only agreement that he was most fortunate in his parents. For those who may think Butler's *Way of All Flesh* or Gosse's *Father and Son* the only true picture of English domestic life, this book will be a revelation of perfect confidence between parents and son. If the son's letters show immaturity, the father's are vessels of wisdom.

B. M.

THE APPRECIATION OF POETRY. By P. Gurney. Oxford University Press. Pp. 120. \$1.00.

For any one familiar with contemporary theories of poetry this little book has nothing new, but for others it will serve as a very useful introduction. Teachers especially should find it of value. One need not, however, subscribe to all the enthusiasm for contemporary theorists, whether critics or poets.

B. M.

PROBLEMS IN EDUCATIONAL SOCIOLOGY. By C. L. Anspach and W. H. Congdon. The American Book Company. Price \$2.00.

This book is arranged for the student rather than for the general reader. It consists of the consideration of a series of problems that need to be answered by all interested in education and the changing social order. At the same time, the problems cover a very wide field, and are of such general interest that they will be found of value by all students of public affairs. The arrangement of the book is new and practical. First a definite problem is stated in such a way as to challenge thought. Then a real or fictitious "Case" is described to illustrate and to give concreteness to the problem. Finally, a series of questions based on the case are carefully framed so as to stimulate discussion of the general issues involved. Most of the questions involve further research, and to assist the student, at the end of each problem-case a list of sources is given for further reference. My only criticism of the book concerns these lists of source books and articles. Many of the problems suggested are universal in character; yet the sources are, almost without exception, purely American. In many cases a piece of really creative thinking in a particular field

has been done in Europe; in not a few cases a book of great importance has been produced in Great Britain. Yet they remain unmentioned. If these bibliographies at the end of each chapter were revised by a scholar with some knowledge of European contributions in this field, it would be a valuable addition to a useful work.

B. A. FLETCHER.

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL FOUNDATION OF EDUCATION. By J. S. Gray.
The American Book Company, New York. Price \$2.35.

This book is a valuable contribution to Educational Psychology. Part I deals with the nature of man; his behaviour, intelligence and individuality. The most valuable aspect of this Part is the clear and critical analysis of many modern schools of psychology, and in particular of the behaviourist and gestalt schools of thought.

In Part II the concepts of objective psychology are used as criteria by which the principles of education are to be evaluated and interpreted. Here the writer develops his own philosophy. This may be criticised as being too narrow. The school, he says, "should teach the child what he needs to learn in living his life of problem-solving." But surely life is more than problem-solving. The educated man is one who is sensitive to beauty, happy in his personal relationship, who loves, hopes and creates. None of these activities necessarily involves problem-solving. Experience is more than the untangling of the threads of life; it is the appreciation of its pattern and harmony.

B. A. FLETCHER.

GREEK IDEALS AND MODERN LIFE. By Sir R. W. Livingstone.
Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass. Price \$2.00.

We are indebted to the author for one of the ablest and most powerful presentations that have appeared of the value and necessity of Greek studies for our civilisation of today. The President of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, has given a clear, logical statement of what was most enduring in Greek life. He has vividly appreciated that spirit which introduced into this world real enquiry, whether scientific, historical, or philosophical, and which in a world of commerce, conquest, luxury, greed, superstition, and barbarism brought to its full bloom those ideals that lead to man's highest development.

He takes the ills of the present world, in our attitude to science, to politics, to economics, ethics, in short to our whole modern civilization, and shows how vital it is for us to keep fresh and pure the Greek outlook which first inspired them and alone can correct their aberrations and keep their strength unimpaired. All the chapters are packed with suggestive ideas, attractively presented. Even the sceptics will have to admit that the writer has made his case. The layman can enjoy reading the book, and it brings novel perspectives to the scholar.

A. K. GRIFFIN.

CAESAR'S MANTLE, *The End of The Roman Republic*. By Ferdinand Mainzer. Translated by Edon and Cedar Paul. The Viking Press.

This book has been written with a respectful attention to historical evidence, and a minimum of imaginative conjecture. It is not on that account a better story, but it does inspire confidence in the integrity of the author's mind. The note on the legionary soldier and his equipment on page 53, and the generalization about the ancients on page 159 "As a rule they led a dog's life," are examples of the natural products of an intelligent and comprehensive acquaintance with the subject-matter. The author is perhaps not quite fair to Octavian. But all the characters of the great drama appear in a natural and easy manner. They are perhaps to the general reader a little dull; but for the student who knows the facts they are very well done, and an agreeable variety from some more sensational recent works of fiction dealing with the same period.

E. W. N.

GUIDE TO PHILOSOPHY. By C. E. M. Joad, London, 1936. Victor Gollancz Ltd. Price 6s.

There are so many good introductions to philosophy being written today, and the most abstruse theories are being put into such simple, non-technical language, that the way would seem to be made easy and straight for the beginner. Thus in spite of the fact that there are continually more philosophical systems being constructed, which the student must eventually master, he would appear to be progressively better equipped to tackle them; and the good old-fashioned method of starting a student of philosophy by throwing him into the midst of a difficult author and letting him sink or swim seems to have gone entirely out of fashion.

The demand that calls forth these introductions must be increasing. Although philosophy has never been an inhabitant of the market-place, but has dwelt in a region apart, the number of its devotees seems to be growing. Perhaps it is because physics and the natural sciences in general have lost their complacent materialism, and are groping after fresh philosophical explanations of their latest discoveries, that the man-in-the-street has followed the example of the scientists and become a philosopher himself. We are told that Kant's explanation of the universe has never been more popular, in the hundred odd years since he wrote than it is today in the light of the most recent pronouncements of physical science. Moreover, Professor Whitehead informs us that the whole European philosophical tradition consists of a series of footnotes to Plato. So that the old as well as the new are receiving their meed of attention.

Of all who have written elementary treatises none has been better equipped than Professor Joad, both through his remarkable gift of lucid explanation and by his imposing array of previous philosophical

works. The result is very attractive. He has made a difficult subject-matter, if not exactly easy, at least as simple and direct as possible. By limiting himself to two branches, Epistemology and Metaphysics, he has been able to treat them more extensively than is usual in a work of this kind, and these two abstruse and recondite fields have become alluring, even exciting.

He has made no attempt to give a consecutive history of philosophy, nor to detail the lives of philosophers, but has sought rather to raise the questions and describe the problems that philosophers discuss and show why they discuss them. This means, of course, that in the course of treatment there appear statements of the views of the world's most significant philosophers, such as Plato, Aristotle, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Kant, Bergson, Whitehead. The whole is so fairly done, and the frank avowal of personal prejudice is so disarming, that the book is better than any similar exposition which the reviewer remembers to have read. It is a very satisfying work.

A. K. GRIFFIN.

THE DAINA: AN ANTHOLOGY OF LITHUANIAN AND LATVIAN FOLK-SONGS. Translated by Uriah Katzenelenbogen. Chicago: Lithuanian News Publishing Company. Pp. 165.

To anyone who delights in the English and Scottish ballads, this volume of folk poetry will be very welcome. It should be of value to young poets, for it brings us into contact with simple, natural verse. The translator has supplied valuable historical and critical introductions. To this pioneer volume one can wish a very successful and influential life.

B. M.

EARTH CALL: A BOOK OF POEMS. By Alan Creighton. Macmillans in Canada. Pp. 67. \$2.00.

With this volume we welcome another Canadian poet. The work is uneven. At times the rhythm is wanting; at times Mr. Creighton indulges needlessly in neologisms. What are we to make of such lines as "All high pictures, all warm musicianings" and "You radiate a horizon holt"? On the other hand, Mr. Creighton has some very fine lyrics: one might mention "Barbarous Epoch", "Fences", "Unemployed" and "Conference". In these there is the poignancy springing from the modern economic debacle.

UNEMPLOYED

We came with pulses clear and strong
 And gay winds rippling fleet,
 With dancing hope and running song—
 We came on eager feet.

Still as the land, without a sigh,
 Dark images, uncouth,
 We stand against a light May sky—
 The living-dead of youth.

B. M.

FOUR PLAYS BY LOPE DE VEGA. Translated by John G. Underhill. Charles Scribner's Sons. \$2.75.

It is a pity that Lope de Vega is so little known among English-speaking people, especially among students of the Elizabethan drama. This volume should find the great Spanish dramatist numerous readers, even though at times the translator's verse is a little pedestrian. There is also a delightful, paradoxical essay on the Spanish drama of the Golden Age by the Spanish dramatist Jacinto Benavente.

B. M.

THE AMARANTHERS. By Jack B. Yeats. Ryerson Press. \$2.00.

How can a reviewer suitably describe a so-called novel by a painter who is brother of a poet? Call the book a novel, and then you feel it is better described as a fantasy. Call it a satire on Ireland, but then you feel it is too good-humoured and laugh-provoking for satire. Try to follow a plot as in a well-made work, and you will throw up your hands. Call it freakish, but you must confess that it contains humane, dispassionate wisdom. At least read it, and enjoy it for yourself.

B. M.

GREEK PHILOSOPHY, THALES TO PLATO. By John Burnet. The Macmillan Co. of Canada, Toronto. Price \$3.75.

This is a reprint of Burnet's well-known work. It is perhaps not as popular as his *Early Greek Philosophy*, which has long held its position as pre-eminent in its field; but it has the great advantage of including in the same book not only the author's views of the early philosophers but also those of Plato's work. Burnet made his especial study both the fragments of the Pre-Socratics and the dialogues of Plato. He has embodied his main conclusions on both in this volume, so that it will long remain one of the standard works on Greek Philosophy.

As is well known, Burnet was inclined to read Plato's dialogues as literally as possible, and thus to ascribe to the historic Socrates doctrines that have usually been assigned to Plato himself, e. g., the Theory of Ideas, and the Identity of Goodness and Knowledge. In this he has the support of that other great Platonist, Prof. A. E. Taylor. They put the case as strongly perhaps as it can or ever will be presented. Burnet, moreover, is an attractive commentator, sober, simple, and precise. This is a book that should, of course, be on the shelf of every classical man and philosophical student.

A. K. GRIFFIN.

VERENDRYE; A Poem of the North World. By A. M. Stephen.
J. M. Dent and Sons, Toronto and Vancouver, 1935.
pp. 66.

In his foreword to this poem, Mr. Stephen has made some wise remarks about the verse of to-day. Without decrying the value of the realistic school in literature, or the prevailing fancy for free verse, he asserts that romantic poetry still has its place, and an important one, wherever the chosen theme seems to require it. "The best modern poetry, in common with that of all ages," he says, "is romantic in its approach to the problems of life and art."

The theme of this present poem is, indeed, a romantic one. It is the story of an adventurous Frenchman who, fired by the tales the Indians had brought him of a vast Western Sea, spent his life and his fortune in the search for it, and in the end, after much toil and many hardships, died without ever having beheld the object of his quest. Mr. Stephen has treated his subject in the spirit of high romance, making use as he weaves his tale of a grave and stately narrative form for the main body of the poem, breaking the monotony at intervals with light and graceful lyrics, one of which, by the way, is faintly reminiscent of a well-known poem by Kipling, and again varying it with passages of blank verse in which the rhythm alone carries the reader along like the swift flow of a river. The poem as a whole contains many verses full of beauty, many enchanting descriptions of Canadian scenery in summer and winter, but the third Episode, *En Voyage*, is perhaps the finest in the whole book. Here the hopes and fears of Verendrye, the uncertainties and hardships of the voyage, hold the reader in suspense, and he seems himself to be journeying with the heroic Frenchman and his equally heroic sons up "Utawa's stream" or through the perils of the "Inland Sea".

With so much to praise, it seems unfair to suggest that Mr. Stephen's rhymes are not always faultless, and that he offends the sensitive ear with an occasional use of that ugly word "sensed". These are but trifling blemishes on a really fine production.

M. JOSEPHINE SHANNON.

ANNALS OF THE POETS. By Chard Powers Smith. Scribners.
Pp. xxv 523. \$3.00.

This work is in the direct line of descent from Nichols's *Literary Anecdotes* and Disraeli's *Curiosities of Literature*. Like those works, it is to be enjoyed, not by borrowing from a lending library, but by owning, so that it may be picked up at odd moments or when the occasion requires. All sorts of facts concerning poets, from heredity to death-bed behaviour, may be found fully classified; anecdotes there are in abundance. He must be well read in the annals of literature who can think of a stray fact that has not been included. On points of interpretation most readers will find room for occasional disagreement; but then interpretation is not the great end of such work. An eccentric, but an amusing, book.

B. M.