

NEW BOOKS

TREATISE ON VALUES. By Samuel L. Hart. Philosophical Library, New York, 1949, 165 pp. \$3.75.

This book might perhaps be fairly characterized as a tract, from the school of Dewey's "Instrumentalism."

The publisher's blurb announces: "To the expert the scholarly erudition of the treatise will be apparent, to the laymen it will appeal as a dependable guide in solving difficult and timely problems." An expert might perhaps alternatively observe that frequent evidences of an author's learning do not suffice to make of a book a scholarly treatise. In the critical sections, where the author disposes of philosophers with whom he disagrees, the representation of those philosophers' views is often too meagre and the refutation quite inadequate to rank as scholarly, to be truly enlightening to the general reader, or of much real interest to the more versed. The author appears to confuse psychological and ethical hedonism. He tells us that "to have value is not identical with being a value", but a few pages later he declares that Scheler's distinction between "goods and values" is "artificial and untenable", though in and for itself (i.e. apart from further views of Dr. Hart and of Scheler about the differentiated terms) it is the very same distinction. A couple of sentences of somewhat dubious cogency are supposed to refute Perry's meticulously elaborated theory of value. In one or two places Dr. Hart gives excellent lists of the questions which a treatise on values should try to answer. But as to what values are, the text seems rather imprecise. One can find a good deal about what values "spring from . . .", "point to . . .", "express . . .", "stand or . . .", "depend on . . .", "apply to . . .". But to be told that they are "valid generic concepts", "intellectual tools which guide our particular experiences", and that "to find the common denominator" of "things, habits, actions" would be "to arrive at the valid concept of value" is scarcely adequately differentiating. The "expert", it is true, could work out for himself a statement which would be consistent with all, or most, of Dr. Hart's contentions. And his views do comprise a theory which, whether one find it philosophically satisfactory or not, would seem to be coherent so far as it goes, hewing faithfully to Dewey's line.

As for the "layman" it may be cordially granted that, more especially in the second part of the book, he can find a great deal which should be interesting and stimulating to him on the subject of moral aesthetic experience. The flavour tends to be somewhat hortatory and the style often abrupt. The layman might also feel that the author remained in debt to him for satisfactory elucidation of a few terms and phrases employed. But this section is, in the main, legitimately fervent, and fairly lively and edifying reading. It might just be noted that, however far the philosophy of Dewey's in many respects from that of Socrates as transmitted to us by Plato, Dr. Hart plumps hard for the thesis that ignorance is the entire root of evil action.

The author introduces himself as a refugee in the United States. An occasional unusual use of English words is perhaps more often piquant than mystifying. But it is a pity that someone has not looked to the punctuation, which two or three times appears to follow German rules in a way which can become misleading in English. A curiosity of editing is the fact that page references in the index are in most

cases one page out;—a reference listed as page 72 will be found on page 73 and so on.

WINTHROP BELL

BRITISH PREFERENCE IN CANADIAN COMMERCIAL POLICY. By Douglas R. Arnett. The Ryerson Press, Toronto, 1948. Pp. 188.

In 1948 the Canadian Institute of International Affairs observed its twentieth birthday. In two decades this very active organization has done much to make Canadians conscious of their growing importance in Commonwealth and international relations. Mr. Arnett's book is the third in a series being published by the Institute under the general title, *Studies in International Affairs*. The two preceding Volumes, *Canadian Representation Abroad*, and *The British Commonwealth and International Security*, deal with politics and diplomacy. This study shows the place of tariffs and trade agreements in international affairs. Special attention is given to the British preference in the Canadian tariff, and to the Ottawa Agreements of 1932, with the purpose of determining whether under freer multilateral trade the preference might be eliminated from Canadian commercial policy, and at what cost. The conclusions that the author reaches will occasion little surprise. Free trade is a most desirable goal, but since it cannot ensure high levels of employment in all countries, it is unlikely that it will be adopted as an international commercial policy. Canada, like other nations, does not wish to act contrary to her own interests. She is willing to encourage, and even promote multilateral trade, but she is unwilling to sacrifice any preferential advantages she now enjoys without finding compensation elsewhere. The most satisfactory solution to the problem would be to bring the present preferential system into line with multilateral trade. If this proves impossible, the preference is likely to continue and some of the countries of the Commonwealth may find themselves in one of several economic blocs.

For fifty years, Mr. Arnett points out, the Canadian tariff was determined by fiscal needs and a desire for moderate protection. The National Policy of 1878 was born of an economic depression, and was prompted by a desire to protect Canadian industries from American competition. The British preference was introduced partly in reply to the protective nature of the McKinley and Dingley tariffs of the United States, and partly to find additional markets for Canadian exports. The Ottawa Agreements had much the same objectives, but like the Hawley-Smoot tariff of the United States, had the effect of stimulating "the impossible quest for national self-sufficiency." A new Anglo-Canadian Agreement in 1937 removed a number of trade barriers by permitting Canada to extend "the list of concessions with duties below the intermediate tariff." Since then Canadian-American trade has become more normal. With the increasing use of the income tax as a source of national revenue, it is possible to adjust tariffs with the sole object of promoting trade. As Canada is so closely associated, financially and commercially, with Great Britain and the United States, (Brebner's North Atlantic triangle) her relations

not agree are labelled in advance, "dullards", "blindsters" and "quacksters."

What I tell you three times is true was the maxim of Lewis Carroll's Bel'man. Dr. McCrossen's amazing historical judgements are well substantiated by this test. Lewis Carroll is possibly the best guide to the whole book which draws (we are told) on the literature and thought of three thousand years and thirty languages, and which contains one instance of the quality of imagination—the intriguing surmise that, if Oswald Spengler had had the vision of a medieval churchman, he might have been the Thomas Aquinas of his age. "I can't believe that", said Alice. "One can't believe impossible things". "I daresay you haven't had much practice," said the Queen in a pitying tone; "when I was your age, I always did it for half-an-hour a day. Why sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast." There is a pleasing Wonderland inconsequence, too, about the lists that bespatter the pages, almost in the manner of Rabelais. In these, Bach may be sandwiched between Newton and Hannibal, and followed by Caesar, Euclid, Lincoln and Rembrandt; St. Teresa of Lisieux may be found in the company of Baudelaire; and liberal Protestants may be accused in one breath of supporting 'euthanasia, relativity of thought, birth-control . . .' Like the Snark, the *New Renaissance of the Spirit* evidently needs to be sought with thimbles and care, and charmed with smiles and soap. But, since it is "already a-borning", we should be wary. For, like the Snark, the probability from the start is that it will turn out to be a Boojum after all.

KENNETH M. HAMILTON

COLLECTIONS OF THE NOVA SCOTIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Volume 28.
The Allen Print Limited, Halifax, N. S. Pp. xvi and 158.

The Nova Scotia Historical Society has made a permanent contribution to the history of Nova Scotia by the intermittent publication of papers read at Society meetings; the present volume comprises contributions from several well-known Canadians.

A third of the volume is devoted to Dr. Thomas H. Raddall's "Tarleton's Legion." Dr. Raddall relates with characteristic lucidity the adventures of Tarleton's Legion, prominent in the American Revolution, many of whose members settled in Queens County, Nova Scotia. An appendix includes a list of Legion officers, military engagements, and grantees at Port Mouton in 1784.

In "Cooperative Newsgathering in Nova Scotia", Andrew Merkel discusses newsgathering in Nova Scotia before and after the inception of the Canadian Press, and observes that "The Canadian press as we know it today is merely a blue print of the Associated Press in the United States."

Dr. George E. Levy examines the activities of Nova Scotia's first, ordained, native-born, Baptist clergyman in "The Diary of the Reverend Joseph Dimock", and gives many sidelights on the disheartening experiences of a religious pioneer.

"Immigration to and Emigration from Nova Scotia 1839-51" by Mrs. R. G. Flewelling, is a well-documented study of the "... final decline of the largest movement of immigration in (Nova Scotia's) history." Pathetic expectations and bitter disappointments in the New World are set forth, and some of the reasons for emigration from Nova Scotia.

"A Halifax Boyhood of One Hundred and Twenty Years Ago" by Dr. Winthrop Bell, is a treatment of an unpublished autobiography of John A. Bell, which gives an intimate view of the education, living and working conditions of a young man who belonged to "a strict and Godfearing (Halifax) household" in the early nineteenth century.

"John Alexander Barry and His Times" is an account by Dr. George Cox of the sensational career of a Nova Scotian who "... was a candidate for the House of Assembly no less than six times ... expelled from the House and sent to jail by that body, all in the course of seventeen years." Genealogical notes are appended.

"Three Chief Justices of Nova Scotia" by the late Chief Justice Sir Joseph Chisholm, consists of factual biographical sketches of Charles Morris, Jeremy Pemberton, and Sampson Salter Blowers.

DONALD F. MACLEAN

THE DEMOCRATIC MONARCHIES OF SCANDINAVIA. By Ben A. Arneson, Toronto, D. Van Nostrand Company, 1949. (2nd ed.) Pp. 294. \$3.00.

Since the appearance of the first edition of this monograph, a decade ago two of the three Scandinavian countries whose Governments are described herein, underwent a five year period of Nazi occupation, an event that tended only to strengthen the faith of the Scandinavian peoples in the democratic philosophy. Though Professor Arneson's treatment is brief, it nonetheless represents "a happy apportionment of description, detail, generalization and judicious deduction." Here is made available to students in political science a comprehensive description of the governmental systems of the Scandinavian countries, while for the general reader the volume possesses both interest and value.

JOHN P. HEISLER

GOETHE THE POET. By Karl Viëtor. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Published in Canada by S. J. Reginald Saunders and Company, Toronto.

GOETHE. By Albert Schweitzer. Adam and Charles Black, London. Macmillan's in Canada.

It would seem that the world itself would not contain the books that have been written on Goethe, and now we have two more. These works approach Goethe from decidedly different points of view and taken along with the work by Dr. Fairley—"Goethe as revealed in his poetry"—they form a sort of trial—Fairley dealing with Goethe as seen in and through his poetic compositions; Viëtor showing how

acquired in England about ten years ago by the Toronto Public Libraries. It deals with the period from January to September 15 of the year 1839. Parts I and II were published earlier, while documents relating to the later part of Arthur's term of office will appear later, and a preface and other introductory aids will be provided.

Arthur's term of office in Upper Canada was a troubled time. The uprisings of 1837 brought an aftermath of bitterness in the province, and the appointment of Lord Durham to investigate and report upon conditions. Meantime Arthur's difficulties persisted, and to deep internal discontent was added the menace of border incidents, caused by "Patriots" and Hunters' Lodges. After the events of 1837 the Reformers were, for a time, discouraged and sullen, while the governing group and its supporters were relatively satisfied and intensely loyal. Soon, however, there was a reversal of feeling. Rumours of the nature of the changes to be proposed by Lord Durham caused the "Family Compact" party to become fearful, and the Reformers to take heart. When the Report itself appeared, it surprised Arthur "not a little", caused many of the Constitutional Party, as he described it, to despair of maintaining the British connexion and to meditate whether a separation from Great Britain would not be most conducive to their peace and future welfare, and resulted in the Reformers taking "Lord Durham and a responsible Government" as their slogan.

These documents throw considerable light on public affairs in the period. Comments are made about the aims of colonial policy and the relations between Colonial Secretary and Lieutenant-Governor, about conditions in the colony and Anglo-American relations, and about Durham's Report and other proposals for improvement in and development of the colony. Especially interesting are Arthur's views about the needs of the colony, his descriptions of the parties there, and his comments on Durham's Report. Equally important are the opinions of Colborne, and Chief Justice J. B. Robinson's analysis of Durham's recommendations. Robinson was in England when Durham's Report was published. To him it was "that vile Report", which "ought to excite the greatest possible contempt for Lord Durham in the mind of every man who saw & conversed with him in Canada, for assuredly he carefully forebore to lead any one to imagine that such were his views". Regarding the union proposal Arthur stated that Durham had expressly told him that "it wd. endanger the Upper Province & do no good to Lower Canada—No Statesman," he said, "wd. think of proposing such a course"! "The truth is—all his other projects must have failed & if he has resorted to the Union, it must be because he has been driven to it." At the request of Lord Glenelg for his remarks upon Durham's Report, Robinson gave Normanby, Glenelg's successor, "a Commentary almost as long as Coke's upon Littleton . . ." A copy of that document is included in this portion of the Arthur papers, which is a useful collection.

BRUCE FERGUSON