

## NEW BOOKS

CANADA. By Alexander Brady. Macmillan, Toronto (Modern World Series) 1932, pp. 374. Price \$4.00.

This is the book of the year for Canadians and all students of Canadian affairs. Like other books in this admirable series, it is a survey of the forces and tendencies of the nation's life. In the case of Canada this has been an exceptionally difficult feat. The history of Canada since federation is still unwritten; though there are mountains of bluebooks on the period, the spade work in the shape of monographs, particularly on social and economic problems, has scarcely begun. And Canada has not yet matured to the point where national characteristics are clearly discernible. None but a courageous and patient thinker, or a journalist, would attempt a comprehensive survey of Canada under the circumstances, and Mr. Brady is not a journalist.

He sees Canada as a nation in the making, a nation just emerging from the colonial stage, with traces of her colonial heritage and of a colonial mentality. The weight of received tradition, and the long shadow which the United States casts over all North America, tend to keep Canadian nationality a "colonial" nationality. On the other hand, in view of the internal barriers due to race and sectional interests and loyalties, "a super-nationality is all that Canada has and can ever hope to have". Such distinctive nationality as Canada is able to achieve is, and will be, largely the result of the adaptation of inherited institutions and modes of life to meet her own needs. Yet such adaptation cannot be done in isolation, as it can in Australia. The distinctive feature of North America is a continental culture, and Canadian nationality can develop only in this rather stifling atmosphere.

It is in the field of politics that Mr. Brady finds most evidence of a distinctive nationality. Yet here too the distinctive features are not original but derivative—the adaptation of the cabinet system to federalism, and the marriage of two racial groups into a single political community. Perhaps the strongest force in promoting and perpetuating national political unity has been the party system. Colourless and artificial as our political parties are, they have been counter-irritants to the disintegrating loyalties of race and sectionalism by attempting to be all things to all men. Such policies and methods have, however, made our parties followers rather than leaders in political thought and action. The driving forces of our politics have really been extra-political organizations, notably the Church, both Protestant and Catholic, and such economic organizations as the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, and the Grain Growers. As for the press, as in other industrialized communities, it is ceasing to stand for party and coming more and more to stand for Big Business.

In the economic sphere Canada is still to some extent an exploitation colony, dependent for markets for her primary products and for capital on more highly industrialized countries. As respects the in-

vasion of American capital, Mr. Brady is little concerned. Far from finding it a menace, Canada has gained from American investment in industry, because through it she has acquired at a single stroke the technical skill most suited to her needs without the long pioneering effort usual in a young country. But there are certain nationalising forces which tend to counteract colonial conditions, notably the great railways which, perhaps more than the tariff, have promoted a diversification of industry within the Dominion, the great banks which are in reality national arteries of credit, whatever their faults, and public policy. Political unity has outstripped economic unity and Governments, both provincial and dominion, have felt impelled to promote economic development directly. Thus have we unconsciously advanced toward the collectivist state much farther than our southern neighbour in order to promote an economic life of our own.

It is in the field of cultural life in its more restricted sense that Mr. Brady finds least evidence of Canadian nationality. In painting alone have we done something distinctively Canadian, notably the work of the Group of Seven. There are Canadian authors but there is scarcely a literature distinctively Canadian. There are Canadian architects and Canadian sculptors, but there is scarcely a Canadian architecture or a Canadian sculpture. And the reason for this general negative result is that Canada is not sufficiently a cultural unit to leave a sufficiently deep national impress upon the artistic sense.

One is inclined to ask at this stage whether there will ever be a distinctive Canadian culture, or whether Canada like Belgium is destined to be merely a separate political unit of a larger cultural area. The fact which most Canadians with sentimental desires for cultural nationalism overlook, and to which perhaps Mr. Brady gives too little weight, is the continental standard of living which Canada shares with the United States. It is this which primarily distinguishes us from Europeans, even from the folk of the British Isles, and which makes us mentally so like our American neighbours. It dominates our economic and social life; it colours our educational policies, our religious organizations, our journalism, our literature. Far from attempting to escape, we seem to bend our every energy to keep up with the American Joneses. So long as this is the case, what hope is there for a separate Canadian culture?

The value of a book of this type depends upon the selection of facts, the interpretation and emphasis placed thereon, and the objectivity of the author. Judged by these standards, Mr. Brady has succeeded admirably. None will perhaps agree with all he has to say, but none can honestly question his fairness. Where interpretations are likely to differ widely he is careful to give both sides, and where he treads on one's toes it is with such cool disinterestedness that no offence can be taken. He writes to please neither Babbitts nor Jeremiahs, neither idolators nor iconoclasts. And in Cromwell's phrase he is concerned with "fundamentals", not "circumstantials". Perhaps the one weakness of the book is its lack of warmth. It is a study in the anatomy of Canadian nationalism rather than its biology. If there is one thing that Canada does not lack it is life, often misdirected and wasted it is true, but yet withal creative life, and it is this which alone can give birth to a real Canadianism. But Mr. Brady has chosen to leave this phase

to others, and perhaps wisely. In any event he has written a book no Canadian who thinks himself literate should neglect.

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R. A. MACKAY.

GOETHE. As Revealed in his Poetry. By Barker Fairley. University College, Toronto. J. M. Dent & Sons, London & Toronto, 1931.

The centenary year of Goethe's death has been the occasion of not a few important books dealing with the life and work of the poet; but it is doubtful if among them any will prove of greater worth to the serious student than the volume Professor Fairley here gives us. By assuming that his readers are familiar with the main facts of Goethe's career and the external circumstances under which his genius developed, he is able to concentrate attention entirely upon his personality and the more intimate sources of his poetic inspiration. To the explication of the dramas and lyrics the author brings a singularly rich imaginative insight, and while he does full justice to the many-sidedness and subtlety of the poet's thought, he also shows us that thought as a unity,—as the essential outcome of Goethe's own personality. All his quotations from the poems are accompanied by prose renderings in English which not only are accurate but convey much of the poetic quality of the originals. No one commentator can exhaust all the possibilities of so rich a theme, but Professor Fairley's book, at once keen in its criticism and enthusiastic in its appreciation, will be a welcome book to all lovers of the genius of the greatest of all Germans.

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E. R.

A HISTORY OF FIRE AND FLAME. By Oliver C. de C. Ellis. The Poetry Lovers' Fellowship. Simpkin, Marshall. London 1932.

The writer has chosen an unusual subject for a book which shows both erudition and imagination. It deals with the superstitions and primitive beliefs connected with fire, and includes also the scientific discoveries directly or indirectly related to it in modern times. Many curious facts are brought together; some of the notions of the early Church Fathers regarding fire are exceedingly quaint.

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E. R.

HEIRS TO HABSBURGS. By G. E. R. Gedye. Arrowsmith, London.

At the close of the Great War, which, strangely enough, was fought "to make the world safe for democracy", the peace treaties dismembered the old, ramshackle Austro-Hungarian Empire and set up a number of new States, or gave large slices of former Austro-Hungarian territory to existing States. These are the "heirs to the Habsburgs" with which Mr. Gedye's book deals.

The government of the Austro-Hungarian Empire was not an ideal one, and the subjects of Franz Joseph were of many races, practising different religions and speaking—when it was safe to do so—different languages. These minorities longed for freedom and for union with other members of their race living outside the Empire. The peace treaties gave them their liberty, so that some peoples that were formerly ill-treated minorities became free to govern themselves and to bully, in their turn, minorities of their own. For minorities still existed: in spite of such high-sounding words as “self-determination” and “the rights of nationality”, which filled all accounts of the Peace Conference at Versailles and of the numerous other peace conferences which followed it.

France wanted to make sure that Germany would never recover sufficiently to become a rival for the hegemony of Europe, and the Succession States—Poland, Czechoslovakia, Jugoslavia, Rumania and the others, have provided fine pawns in the game whose slogan is “Security”! So, at least, according to Mr. Gedye.

They are an odd group of States, those “heirs of the Habsburgs”. Some which were powerful have become very weak indeed, and none weaker than Austria. Hungary is a kingdom without a king, and Rumania is a kingdom with two kings. Financial distress shackles every one of them—it was the collapse of the Credit-Anstalt, Austria’s largest bank, which finally resulted in Britain’s going off the gold standard and the transmigration of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald. Their politics, with the possible exception of Czechoslovakia, are such as to bring a blush to the cheek of the most hardened supporter of Tammany, and to cause recent Canadian political scandals to pale into insignificance. Their press is either inspired or silenced by government censor, and each of them maintains an expensive, but energetic and frequently successful, propaganda. Eastern Europe was Balkanized in order to create them, and their rivalries and ambitions, together with their financial and political instability, make each one of them a running sore from which at any time the infection of war may arise and spread to Western Europe, destroying European civilization.

Mr. Gedye’s intention in *Heirs to the Habsburgs* is twofold. He hopes to interest that ubiquitous but somewhat elusive individual, the Man in the Street; and he wants to warn statesmen of the dangers that lie in a policy of delay and indifference. The breakdown, a few months ago, of a Four-Power Conference on the status of the Succession States is not a good omen of his success as far as the statesmen are concerned. He has, therefore, not attempted a solution of any of the problems these States present. He has merely given them, with such historical details as are necessary to the understanding of the situation. He has tried to be impartial, and if the result of his observations on the ground—he has lived in Central and Southern Europe since 1925—lead him to disapprove of the methods of French diplomacy, he is probably not entirely alone in his opinions. As for the conduct of affairs in the Succession States themselves, he appears to distribute praise and blame with an equal hand.

As in *The Revolver Republic*, Mr. Gedye has described events in a vigorous manner that sometimes smacks a little of his profession, journalism. His account is very clear and forceful, in spite of the necessity he has been under of crowding a great mass of information

into a fairly limited space. By no means a profound study, *Heirs to the Habsburgs* is an interesting story told by a trained observer skilfully, quite impartially, and with the saving grace of humour. It is not a cheerful book, as the author himself admits, because it deals with a situation which is far from cheerful; but it is none the less timely, and it deserves a wide circulation among the general public if only for the sidelights it throws on the methods by which the opinions of that public are guided in the press.

V. P. SEARY.

THE NEW BRITISH EMPIRE. By W. Y. Elliott. McGraw-Hill, New York and London. 1932, pp xv, 520. Price \$5.00.

This is an interpretation of the present British Empire by a sympathetic American scholar, who is personally acquainted with much of the Empire and with many of the men who are remodelling it.

Professor Elliott sees the present Empire as something of a counter-reformation of capitalist imperialism against the new political and economic religion of Soviet Russia. At home communism has been turned back by humanitarian policies of social welfare; in the British Commonwealth an attempt is being made to reconcile national self-determination with the wider political unit of Empire; in the dependent Empire the age-old policy of exploitation is giving way to the new policy of trusteeship of native peoples; among the satellite States of the Near and Middle East the policy of direct government is being supplanted by a policy of control by influence; and in world politics the Empire is taking the lead in developing a new technique of international co-operation instead of the old policy of arms and alliance.

For students of the constitution the most provocative section will be that devoted to a discussion of the characteristics and functions of the Crown. The Crown this writer regards as a great adventure in myth-making, a peculiarly British prototype of Plato's "royal lie" (from motives of delicacy Mr. Elliott refrains from using Plato's term directly) upon which the whole imperial constitution hangs. It is the Crown which enables the British Commonwealth to be at the same time one and several. It has, moreover, the theological quality of a trinity. It is at once a strictly Imperial Crown the powers of which are set in motion on the advice of its British Ministers alone, a Confederate Crown acting on the joint advice of the Ministries of all the units of the Commonwealth, and a Co-ordinate Crown acting on the advice of the Ministry of any single unit. The analysis is suggestive, but it describes the conventions rather than the law of the constitution, a distinction which should be kept in mind, and one which non-British scholars find it extremely difficult to understand.

The new policies of the Empire, and the complex rôle which the Crown is called upon to play, lead Mr. Elliott to conclude that the Empire is badly in need of a new symbol. The lion may still do for the dependencies and the Near East, provided he is understood to be a very tame and very kindly lion, but for the Commonwealth a much better symbol would be the unicorn, that gentle beast which never was on sea or land or in the air. We commend the idea to the next Imperial Conference. If a change in symbols would wean those

modern Don Quixotes, Mr. de Valera and Mr. Gandhi and their erstwhile colleague Mr. Hertzog, from their windmill-tilting, by all means let us have it.

In the matter of economic relations Mr. Elliott concludes there is really no such thing as a Commonwealth at all, in the sense of shared economic benefits, nor does he see much hope of creating one by tariffs or trade agreements. Indeed he is inclined to think such a policy exceedingly dangerous to the Empire. It can live only by trade and the best of relations with the rest of the world. Tariff barriers against the rest of the world might quickly ruin the economic life of the Empire, and at the same time create hostility on the part of other nations.

Other interesting chapters deal with the ties of blood and culture in the Empire, with British socialism and its imperial effects, with the dependencies including India, and with the territories in the "lion's shadow" in the Near and Middle East. These last two chapters will perhaps be the most informing for Canadian readers since they deal with imperial problems about which we in Canada know virtually nothing and perhaps care less. Yet they are of vital importance to us.

In a final chapter Mr. Elliott raises the interesting question, What of the future of the Empire? He declares he is hopeful of its continuance, but, it would almost seem, in spite of the evidence he has produced. He postulates, however, certain essential conditions:

- (1) A world neither too peaceful nor too torn by war, in which a British League is essential to supplement the World League;
- (2) a League of British States in which the dominant partner is not too involved in its own difficulties or too exhausted by them to be useful to the rest;
- (3) a willingness and a need on the part of the other partners to concede as essential the necessity of joint action and to assume the consequent liabilities.

Above all, the Empire "must stake desperately on peace", since it probably could not stand another war, and even if it did survive it would almost inevitably be at the cost of such exhaustion that an early decline would be certain. It is the stake which the Empire has in peace, and the fact that it is so scattered that any war anywhere would seriously affect it, which makes the Empire "the world's stoutest bulwark for peace."

Professor Elliott has written an eminently sound and stimulating book. It is the more valuable because it is by a non-British scholar. His courage in attempting such a stupendous task, and his grasp of the whole problem of Empire, are to be commended. The general reader who wishes to inform himself on the complex problems of the Empire as they appear from the imperial point of view, or to understand the background of the coming Imperial Conference, could perhaps do no better than read this book and ponder it well. The specialist will be grateful for the generous appendix of valuable documents and the good index. If the reader is inclined to be worried by the author's excursions into mysticism or heraldry, or by the numerous Latin quotations, let him be tolerant. After all, the book consists of lectures delivered to a Boston audience. We shall look forward expectantly to Professor Elliott's more extended work on the British Commonwealth promised in the preface.

R. A. MACKAY.

THE WORKS OF SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN, VOL. IV. By H. P. Biggar. Translated by H. H. Langton. The French Text collated by J. Home Cameron, Toronto, The Champlain Society, 1932. Pp. xvi, 373.

The Champlain Society, which is widely known for its scholarly editions of historical and descriptive works dealing with Canada and Canadian history, has a limited membership of 500 to whom it furnishes copies of its publications. Generally speaking, these publications are not for sale; but in regard to the works of Samuel de Champlain the Society has made an exception. His works are to be re-published progressively in six volumes, with a portfolio of plates and maps, and 600 extra copies of this edition are to be printed for sale to the general reading public. The first volume in this series appeared in 1922, and it has been followed in the interval by the portfolio of maps and plates and two other volumes. These three volumes comprised: *Brief Narrative; Of Savages; The Voyages 1613; The Fourth Voyage 1613; The Voyages 1619 and The Voyages 1632, Part 1, Books I and II.* This volume, which is the fourth in the series, continues *The Voyages of 1632* and deals with Poutrincourt at Port Royal, De Monts and Champlain at Quebec, Champlain's encounters with the Iroquis, his deception by Nicholas de Vignau, "the most impudent liar that has been seen for a long time", and his views of the Tobacco Indians and the Neutrals.

The whole series is under the general editorship of Mr. H. P. Biggar, assisted by other Canadian scholars, who carefully collate the various texts, translate and annotate the works. French texts and English translation appear on the same page, the French above and the English below. The books are carefully printed on good paper, but bound in material that is more attractive than lasting—an unnecessary reminder that truth and beauty are not equally constant. This volume maintains the high standard of scholarship set by the Society in the beginning, and is of special interest to students of the founding of Quebec, the destruction of Port Royal, and the exploration of the Ottawa.

D. C. HARVEY.

HELLENISTIC QUEENS: A STUDY OF WOMAN POWER IN MACEDONIA, SELEUCID SYRIA, AND PTOLEMAIC EGYPT. By Grace Harriet Macurdy. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press; London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press, 1932. Pp. xv, 250. Figs. 12. \$4.

After the untimely death of Alexander the Great in 323 B. C., his vast Empire continued to retain, nominally at least, its original outlines. But with the murder of his and Roxana's son, the legal heir to this huge fabric, all masks of pretence were straightway discarded, and the veteran lieutenants of Alexander seized each his share of the spoil. Notable among the new kingdoms that thus sprang into

existence were a greatly enlarged Macedon, a Syria which included much of Asia Minor and Mesopotamia together with various insular possessions, and the old Egypt which was now mistress of Cyrenaica, Cyprus, and Palestine.

Mrs. Macurdy has here attempted to trace the fortunes of the queens of these three monarchies, who were indeed in far the greater number of instances consorts rather than rulers. Originally of good Macedonian stock, they continued to retain, in general, their purity of race, particularly in Egypt where the (to us) ungodly practice of brother-and-sister marriage soon came into use, adopted from an ancient Pharaohic custom occasionally observed. It says much for the vigour of the Macedonian race, or else little for the truth of the glib pronouncements of the eugenists, that the passage of generation upon generation shows no apparent degeneration in the offspring of these incestuous unions. Whatever deterioration is manifest among them may easily be attributed to the enervating effects of the southern climate, and to the sensuality in which almost all the Ptolemies were wont to steep themselves. Certainly, there were few physical or mental "wants" in Cleopatra VII, the last of the unhallowed line.

In all the Hellenistic courts, the dagger, the noose, and the poisoned cup play their part with melancholy frequency. The victims are, in the main, dangerous rivals or else irritating pests. It is easy to understand this callousness in oriental Syria and largely oriental Egypt; it appears more strange in Balkan Macedon. Historians do not trouble to attempt to explain this latter phenomenon. One wonders whether the Macedonians learnt the art of court-murder from the Persians in the course of their domination of Macedon in the late sixth century. Or was the court of the Macedonian princes like that of the Zuluz Chaka and Dingaan—wholly barbaric?

Hellenistic queens are found to stab a mother, a sister, a child, with the same hardheartedness and lightheartedness that is seen in the case of the kings. Many historians have elevated their hands in horror at the atrocities of these women. Mrs. Macurdy champions the cause of these representatives of her sex; in the end, she is forced to acknowledge that they are very nearly as wicked as their husbands and brothers, but they are no worse. Where she shows a good deal of impatience with her predecessors in this field of enquiry, she forgets that these historians, while not necessarily Victorians, are possessed of a distinctly pre-war outlook. They maintained, whether rightly or wrongly, that more was to be expected of a woman, especially of a lady, than of a member of the other sex. Mrs. Macurdy is all for the single standard of conduct. *Satis verborum.*

A. D. FRASER.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF LORD DALHOUSIE IN NOVA SCOTIA.  
Being a Master of Arts Thesis. Written under the direction  
of Professor Chester Martin of the Department of History,  
University of Toronto, by G. D. H. Hatfield, B. A. (Acadia  
University). University of Toronto, 1931. pp. xiv, 108, xiii.

Unfortunately, this thesis has not yet been printed, and so made available for all students of Nova Scotian history. But the author



has generously presented a type copy to the Dalhousie College Library, and, as the subject is of prime importance, no excuse is necessary for noticing it in this review.

Lord Dalhousie's administration extended from October 24, 1816, until June 2, 1820, a period of acute depression following a long, exhausting war. Mr. Hatfield treats of it in five chapters;—Nova Scotian Agriculture under Dalhousie; Roads and Settlement; Trade, Commerce, and Fisheries; Religion and Education in Nova Scotia; the Government of Nova Scotia under Dalhousie. He adds an introduction, a bibliography and four appendices. The thesis is carefully documented. Each chapter is followed by several pages of notes. It is a sound, informative piece of work, throwing much light on the period. At the same time, room is left for discussing the broad constitutional question of the relations, theoretical and actual, between the home government and the government of the colony, with the lieutenant-governor as the active intermediary. The rights, duties, functions of the official heads in the different colonies, their conceptions of their office, and the way they worked them out in practice are matters which have not yet received from our historians the attention they deserve. Justice has not yet been done to a long line of conscientious, high-minded servants of the State, chiefly soldiers. They have nearly always been judged by entirely modern, post-Reform standards.

Short as was Lord Dalhousie's administration, it showed a record of distinct progress, especially in agriculture and in education. The *Letters of Agricola*, backed by the governor's interest, stirred the farmers of Nova Scotia to grow their own wheat. Of his own initiative, Dalhousie founded a seminary of higher learning on a new principle,—toleration. These are notable achievements, and quite beyond the scope or power of any modern lieutenant-governor. In the final survey, Dalhousie is very much the hero. Mr. Hatfield justifies the high estimation in which he was held both by friends like Scott and by the people of Nova Scotia.

Good use has been made of the authorities, primary and secondary; but books like Murdoch should be used with great caution. It is hardly safe to take any of Murdoch's statements without verification. There are a few errors. The term "Bluenose" as applied to Nova Scotians was an election cry long before Dalhousie imported a special kind of potato (p. 12). The "richly carved library" (vi) in Province House was originally the court room, and came into existence only when the new Court House was built in Spring Garden Road. The "Nova Scotian troops" (ii) who went to Castine were details of British line regiments. But corrections can be made when the thesis is being printed, and then such phrases as "sycophant catering to his superior" (p.88) can also be revised.

ARCHIBALD MACMECHAN.

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BEN JONSON AND KING JAMES, Biography and Portrait. By Eric Linklater. Jonathan Cape, London. 1931.

It is difficult to see why Mr. Linklater has sought to combine a portrait of James I with the biography of Ben Jonson. The

result of so doing is the total eclipse of the King of England and Scotland behind the truculent and dominating figure of "royal Ben". The author, it is true, believes that as regards both character and intelligence James was superior to what has been generally supposed, but there is little in the present volume to support this judgment. And in truth whoever wants such a portrait can find it drawn by a master artist who worked in no unkindly spirit, on opening the pages of *The Fortunes of Nigel*. It is no disparagement to the writer before us to say that his picture lacks something of the lively colour and perfect draughtsmanship of Scott's work. But the real hero is admirably portrayed, and his figure is sufficient to fill any canvas. Jonson, the bricklayer's apprentice, the stout soldier, the ardent scholar, the learned dramatist, master of comedy, tragedy and the masque, and the maker of lyrical poems that for sweetness and charm are excelled only by those of Shakespeare,—this is indeed a notable personality. Impulsive, combative, obstinate and self-sufficient, he is always great. It is no wonder that in his old age the younger men of talent were proud to be enrolled of the Tribe of Ben, and to share in the hard drinking and vigorous talk of the last of the great Elizabethans. This biography is written with a scholarship, energy and wit worthy of its subject; it is seldom that we find a book of the kind at once so informative and so amusing.

E. R.

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STUDIES IN ENGLISH. By Members of University College, Toronto. Collected by Principal Malcolm W. Wallace. The University of Toronto Press. 1931.

This book, which contains six essays on literary subjects, is dedicated to "W. J. Alexander, Professor of English Literature, University College, Toronto, 1889-1926", and it forms a not unworthy tribute to that distinguished teacher and man of letters. The essays are all scholarly in tone, and deal with subjects of interest to students of literature. That by G. S. Brett on Shelley's relation to Berkeley and Drummond is an interesting study of the sources of the poet's idealistic philosophy; though by ignoring the influence of Spinoza on his thought the writer omits one of the most vital of the elements that inspired it. In "The French Reputation of Matthew Arnold", by E. K. Brown, we are shown why Arnold, himself the most Gallic in sentiment and taste of all the Victorian writers, was appreciated by only a small circle in France, though the criticism his work received there was often appreciative and discerning. The paper by J. R. MacGillivray on Coleridge's and Southey's "Pantisocracy Scheme", of emigrating to America and founding there a new form of society, shows that the youthful poets were not quite so crazy in their plan as is usually supposed, far as it was from being practicable. All these essays are readable and informative.

E. R.

THE LEGACY OF ISLAM. Edited by the late Sir Thomas Arnold . . . . and Alfred Guillaume, M.A., Principal of Culham College, etc. Clarendon Press, 1931.

This volume contains a preface by Sir Alfred Guillaume, and thirteen articles: Spain and Portugal, by J. B. Trend; the Crusades, by Ernest Barker; Geography and Commerce, by J. H. Kraemer; Islamic Minor Arts and Their Influence upon European Work, by A. H. Christie; Islamic Art and its Influence on Painting in Europe, by the late Sir Thomas Arnold; Architecture, by Martin S. Briggs; Literature, by H. A. R. Gibb; Mysticism, by R. A. Nicholson; Philosophy and Theology, by Alfred Guillaume; Law and Society, by David de Santillana; Science and Medicine, by Max Meyerhof; Music, by H. G. Farmer; Astronomy and Mathematics, by Baron Carra de Vaux.

The Preface states that the work "seeks to give an account of those elements in the culture of Europe which are derived from the Islamic world". "It is a provocative title, the meaning of which is only fully explained by the book itself. . . . the language of Arabia lies behind all that has been written in this book. . . . Arabic is the Greek of the Semitic world".

Everyone knows more or less vaguely about the Muslims in Spain, but it is perhaps surprising to read that "Cordoba in the tenth century was the most civilized city in Europe, the wonder and admiration of the world, a Vienna among Balkan States. Travellers from the north heard with something like fear of the city which contained 70 libraries and 900 public baths". How many remember that this city, famous for its leather, give us the word "cordwainer"? It is said of the conquerors of the Moors that "they seemed to regard every decency of Muslim life—even washing—as a heresy and therefore a capital offence". It is interesting to reflect that the custom of bathing was reintroduced into Western civilization by the returned Anglo-Indians, and has now become common even in some parts of the continent of Europe.

The Crusades "affected the Christian commonwealth of Western Europe in some four ways". "In the first place, they affected the Church, and particularly the Papacy. In the second place, they affected the internal life and economy of each of the several States; . . . In the third place, they affected the external relations of the different States; . . . Finally, they affected the relations of Europe to the continent of Asia". And we do not easily realize that "about the middle of the tenth century of our era . . . by far the greater part of the inhabited world which the Greeks called the 'oikoumene' was occupied by countries possessed of an Islamic government and Islamic civilization".

Quotation might easily be endless, and each student will find his own peculiar interests represented. Perhaps the chapter on Philosophy and Theology, dealing with the deepest of human interests, is most fundamentally attractive to those who are anxious to understand the relation between Arabic and European civilization. Remarks seemingly casual offer fruitful ground for thought: "Avicenna's contention that the subject of logic was second intentions by which one proceeded from the known to the unknown was taken over by Albertus Magnus

and became part of the scholastic tradition". The story of Hallāj in the section on Mysticism raises one's opinion of human nature. Towards the end of the chapter on Law and Society, a section that conveys much interesting information in a short space, we are told: "What was lacking in Muslim law is what has been wanting in every other respect, viz. a more synthetic spirit. A tendency to anarchy, and a fundamental incapacity for organization and discipline, the causes of the political incapacity of the Arabs, have been intellectually a source of weakness within their legal system". It was not, however, the Arabs of whom it was said that they had shaken all States and founded none.

"In Vienna in 1520, and in Frankfurt on the Oder in 1588, the medical curriculum was still largely based on Avicenna's Canon and on the ninth book of Almansorem of Rhazes". "Looking back, we may say that Islamic medicine and science reflected the light of the Hellenic sun when its day had fled, and that they shone like a moon, illuminating the darkest night of European Middle Ages". These are suggestive comments from the section on Science and Medicine; and in the section on Astronomy and Mathematics the matter is summed up succinctly: "The Arabs were before all else the pupils of the Greeks". Perhaps on this continent we are too busily occupied in cultivating various forms of polysyllabic ignorance to realize the full implications of that statement.

The book suggests at once the desirability of re-reading Spengler. It suggests also, and much more emphatically, the necessity of a smattering of Arabic for anyone who wants to read it with entire comprehension. One realizes that the Arabic in one's possession consists chiefly of "al" with a fading recollection of "tarif". One realizes, too, what the person without Greek or Latin has to face in dealing with any serious work in a modern European tongue. And, so far as one can tell in entire ignorance of Semitics, *The Legacy of Islam* deserves its place in the series to which it belongs.

E. W. N.

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RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT IN CANADA. By Rosa W. Langstone, M. A. J. M. Dent and Sons, London and Toronto, 1931. Pp. xii, 241.

This volume is a thesis that was prepared in the University of Birmingham, and has had the approval of Sir Raymond Beazley, who contributes a laudatory preface. In the treatment of the subject the word "Canada" is strictly confined to the old Canada of pre-Confederation days and, consequently, there is no discussion of the corresponding movement in the Maritime Provinces. As a piece of historical research into the sources used by Miss Langstone, it is worthy of praise. The footnotes are carefully made; the bibliography is classified as to official documents, newspapers and periodicals, letters and memoirs, contemporary sources, and general works; and the style is straightforward. But the point of view is entirely that of pre-war British imperialistic historians, and takes no account of the revisionist history that has been written by Canadians in the last 25 years. Pro-

fessor New's *Durham* has been mentioned, but Sir Charles Lucas's *Durham* has been used. Professor Martin's *Empire and Commonwealth* is not even referred to, and his point of view has been ignored, if it was known. On the whole it may be said that Miss Langstone has mastered and elaborated a conventional thesis, and has done this reverently; but she has not mastered the literature of the subject subsequent to 1913, and therefore has been unable to aid in re-interpreting the movement.

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D. C. HARVEY.

THE FOUNDING OF CHURCHILL. Being the Journal of Captain James Knight, Governor-in-Chief in Hudson Bay, from the 14th of July to the 13th of Spetember, 1717. Edited with a Historical Introduction and Notes, by James F. Kenney, M. A., Ph.D., F.R. Hist. S., J. M. Dent & Sons, Toronto, 1932. Pp. x, 213. Five illustrations.

The title of this book might have been misleading, had it not been for its subtitle which describes it exactly; for, though dedicated to the Minister of Railways and Canals, and published as the Hudson's Bay Railway is nearing completion, it contains the merest reference to the railway and to Churchill as a future grain port. An introduction of 108 pages sketches the history of the Hudson Bay in general and of Churchill in particular from 1610 to 1931. The journal itself, with notes, covers 81 pages; the bibliographical note, 10 pages; and the index 13. *The Founding of Churchill* is a personal account by the founder, Captain Knight, a shrewd, fearless, furtrading gold seeker, of the hardships which he endured in constructing a wooden fort, at Churchill, in 1717. His supplies had miscarried; food was scarce; assiduous fishing and hunting barely kept him and his men alive; mosquitoes, horseflies and sand-flies took their turns in making life miserable, and the Eskimos were a constant dread. The timbers for the fort were as scarce as the food, and had to be carried 2300 yards on the shoulders of the men through almost impassable mud or over irregular rocks. It is a moving story, and should strengthen the hands of Government in not permitting a real estate boom at Churchill. The editorial work has been done with the characteristic thoroughness of Dr. Kenney.

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D. C. HARVEY.

A BOOK OF LONDON ENGLISH, 1384-1425. Edited by R. W. Chambers and Marjorie Daunt. With an Appendix on English Documents in the Record Office, by M. M. Weale. Clarendon Press, 1931. 395 pages.

This is a collection of 75 documents, most of them never before published, written by Londoners during the period when the dialect of London was becoming the standard speech of England and when Chaucer was writing his *Canterbury Tales*. It provides invaluable

material for the student of the English language, and is a source-book for the student of the history and social life of the period.

When all uncertainty as to the issue of the struggle for supremacy between English and French was finally removed after a period of some three hundred years, during which time a multitude of dialects had flourished and at least one—the West Midland—had almost attained the dignity of a standard literary language, linguistic conditions were ready for the appearance of a new standard with the weight of political, cultural, and commercial supremacy behind it such as had upheld the old West Saxon. It was inevitable that the rapidly growing city of London, the centre of government, law, and commerce, “the commune concours of this land,” as a Petition of Schoolmasters put it in 1447, should impose its speech on the rest of England; and the situation of London at a point where the three chief dialectal divisions came together was likewise peculiarly favourable. This dialect, generally called the London dialect, is the ancestor of the “King’s English.”

The view that Chaucer, by picking and choosing from various possibilities afforded by the dialects he heard spoken around him, created a standard that was accepted and spoken by his followers has long ago been abandoned.

As early as 1888, Morsbach showed in his *Ursprung der neu-englischen Schriftsprache* that it is an error to believe that Chaucer put his stamp upon the English literary language and assured its adoption over England. Chaucer’s language has not yet been satisfactorily determined; after reading Wild; *Die sprachlichen Eigentümlichkeiten der wichtigeren Chaucer-Handschriften*, one suspects that it never will. Chaucer’s literary influence was immediate and of far-reaching significance, but the origin of standard English must be sought, not in the *Canterbury Tales*, but in these long forgotten documents here reprinted, in which we read the confessions, wills, appeals, accounts, letters, memoranda, of Londoners written when, after due consideration, the Brewers were deciding to keep their records in English because “our mother-tongue, to wit the English tongue, hath in modern days begun to be honorably enlarged and adorned” and because “there are many of our craft of Brewers who have the knowledge of writing and reading in the said English idiom, but in others, to wit, the Latin and French, before these times used, they do not in any wise understand”.

Of special interest to the general reader are the extracts from the Brewers’ records (over 50 pages) and the documents concerning the quarrel between the Grocers and Fishmongers, led by Sir Nicholas Brembre, and the Drapers and Mercers led by John of Northampton. Here is the well-known Appeal of Thomas Usk. Usk revealed the conspiracies of his former benefactor Northampton, but like Bacon he eventually suffered for his treachery. He was executed for treason by “nearly thirty strokes of the axe”. He deserves to be remembered for his praise of London, “the citee of London, that is to me so dere and swete, in whiche I was forth growen; and more kyndely love have I to that place than to any in erthe”.

There are some notes historical and linguistic, a useful glossary by Miss Daunt, and an index of persons and places.

A. R. JEWETT.

THE HOUSE OF TEMPTATION, by Versus Carleton (Graphic Publishers; pp. 345; \$2.00.

Bobby Falconer, the newly elected young Member of Parliament for Hinterland, arrived in Ottawa full of ideals of public service and with a naive faith in the dignity of the Canadian Parliament. He had scarcely emerged from the railway station when he collided violently with a person who proved to be a brother Member of Parliament, and forthwith invited him to have a drink of whiskey. Bobby, firmly virtuous, scorned the offer and enquired the way to the Y. M. C. A. During the course of the Session, Bobby discovered how far the Parliament of Canada, as he had imagined it, differed from the reality, and he found consolation for his shattered illusions in the company of a young woman who was, like himself, a model of all the virtues. The tender sentiments which this companionship naturally aroused were prevented from having their natural culmination by the self-denial of the lady, who refused to marry the man she loved, because she was several years his senior. She fled to China under pretext of writing a novel about the Chinese, leaving the hero disconsolate.

The reader may judge from this how realistic is the account Versus Carleton gives of the House of Temptation and the people associated with it. Some of those who are disappointed may find consolation in the fact, stated on the title page, that this book was "produced entirely in Canada". Thus in the literary, as in the economic field, is nationality offered as a substitute for quality.

W. R. MAXWELL.

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FRENCH MERCANTILIST DOCTRINES BEFORE COLBERT, by Charles Woolsey Cole, Ph.D. (Richard Smith, Inc., New York, 1931; 243 pp.)

This is another book of the paste and scissors variety. Dr. Cole, perhaps in the interests of what he conceives to be historical accuracy and the scientific method, has carefully abstained from introducing anything of his own which would give point and meaning to the whole, and has contented himself with colourlessly summarizing the works of several authors. This is undoubtedly done faithfully, but the literary quality is that of "The Literary Digest". The pictures with which Dr. Cole presents us in dreary succession are not out of focus; they have no focus.

The authors with whom Dr. Cole deals, in spite of having lived, most of them, in the 16th century, had remarkably modern views. For example:

"When one can do work for oneself, should one let it be done by others? (enquired Montchretien). Is he economical who puts his hand in his purse to buy what he can gather from his own lands, who to cultivate the fields of others leaves his own barren, who having arms cannot find them to work with and turns to his neighbour? Your Majesties have enough men in this kingdom, as industrious as foreigners

or more so? Give them an opportunity to show what they can do, and they will accomplish marvels. This opportunity is to prevent their labours from being stifled any more by those of others, to assign to them on the contrary the whole manufacture of iron and steel, so that henceforth they should not merely live, which they barely manage to do now, but that they should live making a profit from their work, and this will doubtless have as a result the glory and the wealth of the state."

The recent trend in matters of trade policy does not reflect the displacement of the views of the 19th century by those of the 20th century, but by those of the 16th.

W. R. MAXWELL.

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OVER THE GANGPLANK TO SPAIN. By Madge Macbeth, Ottawa: Graphic Publishers Limited, 1931, pp. 359. \$2.50.

The author of this work disarms criticism by stating that what she has written is not a guide-book; nor history; nor memoirs; nor fiction. "It's just a book". So far from being none of the things enumerated, it may better be described as a mixture of all of them—or at least all but fiction, for it would be uncharitable to suppose that any of the numerous anecdotes are unverified. The book offers a lively and discursive account of a recent and comprehensive tour of Spain, pleasantly enough related in a hap-hazard and over-emphatic style. There are some excellent photographic illustrations, and a superfluity of more or less amusing stories. Although the avowed intention is to halt the stream of tourist traffic, the book will provide encouragement and useful information for those who are fortunate enough to be able to make a visit to Spain, and it may do much to satisfy the longing of those who are able only to think about it.

C. L. B.