

NEW BOOKS

SECURITY. CAN WE RETRIEVE IT? By Sir Arthur Salter. The Macmillan Company of Canada. Pp. XII. pp. 390. \$2.75.

As the world approached economic despair in 1931, Sir Arthur Salter's book on Recovery was regarded in most countries as the understanding letter of comprehension and common-sense. In those days it was not only a good book: it was a good deed. Now he devotes himself to the subsequent complications, and to the more severe form that the malady has taken—the loss of security. The book was written at Eastertime in 1939, but the official declaration of war five months later did in no wise alter the value of his interpretations, nor did it greatly modify his policy for founding a new peace: the latter problem has merely been postponed. Indeed the outbreak of war has perhaps served to increase the importance of this contribution. It compelled the British government to accept many of the measures of organization of national effort which are advocated here. For the remainder of the proposals to become operative, especially those dealing with international relations, the world must wait for the peace, and hope for such sanity as will enable it to see the force of the reasoning in this book.

Few writers are more finely endowed than Sir Arthur Salter with the knowledge that a discussion of security merits. In retrospect, one sees him as having been concerned always with the search for security. His work and ideas have been devoted to the different phases of the subject. As administrator of shipping control in the last war, then as head of the economic section of the League of Nations, he was directly responsible for security measures: as author, he wrote on world trade and recovery as concerned with the economics of security; his *United States of Europe* and his *Framework of an Ordered Society* dealt with the politics of security. It is against this background that he surveys in this new book the economic and political conditions that were leading to insecurity in Europe, the breakdown of collective security as he saw it after ten years in Geneva, the national strength of the United Kingdom and the measures necessary for mobilising it, and what foundations may be laid for a new peace.

Through it all he is fascinated with the apparatus of modern Europe, with its history and present status, the relation of the parts to the whole, and how the whole was conditioned by the last war, the depression, and fascism. It is this apparatus that he takes apart, detaching it with precision, and interpreting it with observation and imagination. All this he does with the caution he acquired as a senior government official, the caution that strength must be there before any step is made or proposed. It may be this characteristic which makes his policy appear to be one that all reasonable persons in Europe might accept. He explains complex situations without unnecessary expansion or congestion, and there follows a ready appreciation of the

matter by the reader, and an almost inevitable acceptance of the proposals.

This is, however, no mere mechanical vision of Europe's politics and economics. The part played by moral forces, and by persons, is duly recognised and balanced. And Westminster teacups must have tinkled when it was known that this arch-observer had measured British national strength partly in terms of the personnel of its government. Each member of the "inner" Cabinet has his own section in this book, and Mr. Chamberlain a whole chapter. Loyal eyes may not care to look at the portraits so vividly drawn, but they do express what so many felt to be true.

S. BATES

WE MUST BE FREE; REFLECTIONS OF A DEMOCRAT. By Leslie Roberts. Toronto, Macmillan, 1939. Pp. xx, 248.

Although this book appears to have been written in the few weeks of tension which preceded and followed the outbreak of the present war, it is remarkable how well it expresses the thoughts and feelings of many Canadians as to the issues of this second war for civilization and freedom. To Mr. Roberts there are really two wars to be waged at the same time, one for the defence of democracy and reason abroad, and the other for defence of democracy and reason at home. In other words, while fighting against Hitlerism in Europe, we must be careful to avoid the adoption of dictatorship principles in Canada even to win the war, and, having won the war, we must continue to struggle with the same energy and intelligence to make Canada a united country in which freemen may live a decent self-disciplined life. While deploring our blunders in the past, he sees no reason for crying over spilt milk, but urges us to avoid spilling any more.

Of course, Mr. Roberts does not put it as simply as that. In fact, he has a marked fondness for bizarre and somewhat labored phraseology, but that is his thesis throughout a very elaborate analysis of conditions in Canada on the eve of war. Conscious that our freedom had been won at a great price, he deplores the fact that this generation seemed unaware that much of this freedom had been lost. Specifically, he deplores the *Padlock Law* of Quebec, and the not very dissimilar legislation of Ontario; and he contends that Canadians are too moderate and law-abiding to need any such arbitrary restrictions upon freedom of speech or association. He deplores also inaccuracies in the press or on the air, due to the dictates of speed and sensationalism, but he looks to the editors or directors of these channels of public information to correct their own faults from enlightened self-interest. His inevitable discussion of the relations of French and English speaking Canadians reveals a more profound knowledge of human weakness than of constitutional law, but otherwise throws much light upon a difficult problem. To him the two great problems which will have to be met after the war, apart from restoring the balance between personal liberty and regimentation, will be those of railway transportation and unemployment, the latter being the greater, but both being capable of

solution, if we apply the same energy and intelligence to them which we are applying to war. In regard to both problems he makes suggestions that are worthy of careful consideration.

D. C. H.

UNDER THE SUN: POEMS. By Arthur S. Bourinot. Macmillans in Canada. Pp. 69, \$1.50.

Lovers of Mr. Bourinot's poetry will welcome this new volume, and will not be disappointed. The poems are characterized by simplicity and music. Some of them are of scenes in Canadian history; these are pleasant, but they are not the best in the volume, as they suggest at times a too great facility in versifying. Far better are the poems of social significance, such as "Outcasts" and "Transients". Because of their simplicity and traditional technique, they are much more powerful than poems on the same theme written in free verse. Space will not permit quotation of a whole poem, but a stanza may suggest the new power that Mr. Bourinot has developed:

We are the outcasts
we of the young but grim creased face
battered with grime
the hopeless search the final lurch
and thrust of impetuous crime
to a barren grave.

Even the lack of punctuation helps to increase the effect.

B. M.

A JOURNAL OF REPARATIONS. By Charles G. Dawes. With forewords by Lord Stamp and Dr. H. Brüning. The Macmillan Co. of Canada. Pp. XXXIII. pp. 527. \$7.00.

The outbreak of new wars has made us all historians of the last: now we know that the peace which followed it was little more than a cessation of military hostilities. Economic warfare never really ceased, and indeed it grew intense after 1930. But we can look back with some envy to the period after 1924, to the years when even the economic field was becoming quiet. And that quiet had come rather unexpectedly: at the end of 1923 the German economy was broken with inflation, France had troops in the Ruhr, and the economy of every European country was still short of breath after the war efforts. In that economic despair, the Dawes Committee on Reparations was established. It reinstated the German economy, and restored life to part of the organism of international lending. It was the first "substantial step away from lunacy", as Lord Stamp puts it. The Committee's actions were not, and could not be, a palliative for all of Europe's economic ills, but they represented an achievement which, as post-war achievements go, wears so serene an air of accomplish-

ment now that we can scarcely refrain from asking whether their task was less severe than the others that confronted European diplomacy.

This book gives us the journal that General Dawes wrote as chairman of the committee of experts. It is a daily account of the incidents and impressions of the chairman, and the reader can follow him gradually into his growing understanding of his problem. His task was not easy: time was limited and the report, to be successful, had to be acceptable to all the countries that had been belligerents. But public opinion in each country had divergent views as to what ought to be done about reparations. In the diary we can trace the steps the chairman took to reconcile the opposing forces, and to get results quickly. The journal is a sort of chart of successful diplomacy, important not only for the historian, but for the statesman in years to come.

The diary comprises half of the book. The remainder is made up of appendices, the main one containing the official reports of the various expert committees.

S. BATES

SHAKESPEARE IN AMERICA. By Esther Cloudman Dunn.
Macmillan (New York). Pp. 310. \$4.00.

The reviewer took up this book with much reluctance, expecting another burden of well-meant research. Within a few pages he was agreeably surprised, for the book proved to be interesting and readable. Professor Dunn has hit on the happy idea of using Shakespeare as a barometer of American culture. We start on the Atlantic Coast in the 17th century, and traverse the whole country and nearly three centuries. Shakespeare had to overcome the Puritan opposition to the theatre, but fortunately politics bred an interest in rhetoric, and he could set young men on the lowest step leading to the White House. Shakespeare's reputation and theatrical troupes went West with settlers, prospectors, and gamblers; perhaps one of the best stories is of the local actor who, when taking a minor rôle with the professional troupe, had difficulty in enunciating his lines because of the problem of rolling a large "chew" of tobacco from one side of his mouth to the other. (He was, by the way, a son of the Methodist minister of the frontier town!) Professor Dunn is undoubtedly right in seeing resemblances between these western audiences and the audiences of Shakespeare's own robust London. Then, too, the study brings out the desire of Eastern cities to ape English culture, and their fury at the least suggestion of English patronage. Had Professor Dunn studied the 18th-century provincial theatres in England and in Edinburgh, she would have found many parallels to her story. Sometimes the author is a little over-subtle; for example, "The military gentlemen (note the resentment in the phrase) amuse themselves with trifles and diversions." But surely that is the phrase that would come most naturally to an 18th-century writer, for officers were gentlemen and would have resented, in no doubtful manner, any other appellation. The task was well worth doing for light on Shakespeare and America, and Professor Dunn has done it very well.

B. M.

THE SPIRIT OF CANADA. By Ian F. Fraser. Columbia University Press, New York, and the Ryerson Press, Toronto, 1939. Pp. x, 219.

The Spirit of French Canada is a pioneer study, in the English language, of the national spirit in French-Canadian literature. The author, a Scot by birth, came to Montreal in 1912 at five years of age, attended the schools there, and continued his education at Columbia University, where he is now teaching French. He sees the themes of national inspiration in the history of the French Canadian "race", the mother country, the Roman Catholic Church, language and folklore and the cult of the soil, and devotes a chapter to each, in which he offers liberal extracts from a number of writers, and provides a running commentary upon these extracts to emphasize the close adherence of the writers to their themes. The casual student of French-Canadian literature will find this sympathetic treatment of the subject very satisfying, and the more careful student, though he may not discover anything new to him, will recognize this organization of the material as more or less inevitable and therefore extremely useful. Canadians who speak French and those who speak English may both infer from this study that there are grave obstacles in the path of a vigorous national literature, which has to find a middle way between its imperial and parochial heritages, in a world that no longer permits leisurely experiments with ancient civilizations transplanted to American soil, but fills the air with new and alien ideologies.

D. C. H.

RAIN UPON GODSHILL: A FURTHER CHAPTER OF AUTOBIOGRAPHY. By J. B. Priestley. Macmillans in Canada. Pp. 331. \$2.75.

In this continuation of his autobiography, Mr. Priestley covers the years 1937 and 1938; at this rate this new work will outdo even the longest of our novels. He rushes about three continents, writes innumerable plays and articles, answers millions of letters, and superintends production of plays. In between times he airs his views on all matters in general, being able to devote only half a page to the Collective Unconscious, and an equal space to the fact that on one jaunt he and his friend and family giggled and giggled until finally the friend had to put his head on the table and laugh heartily. Mr. Priestley has many harsh words for dramatic critics who cannot see eye to eye with him. We yield to no one in our admiration for his best work: *The Good Companions*, *English Journey*, and *I Have Been Here Before*. But successful authorship does not mean that a man must detail for a presumably expectant world every minute of his life and every stray thought. How a man who wrote so sensitively as Mr. Priestley did in *I Have Been Here Before* can write at the jog-trot of this book, is puzzling; never once does the author evoke the atmosphere of Egypt or Arizona. And the pity is that there is good

matter scattered through the book. Mr. Priestley might have written a collection of stimulating essays; considerably condensed, Chapter XIII, which deals with England and the English, would have been a most stimulating essay, equal to the best of *English Journey*.

B. M.

SIR THOMAS RODDICK. By H. E. MacDermot. Toronto. The Macmillan Company, 1938. Pp. x, 160.

This is a straightforward story of a distinguished medical practitioner and organizer. He was born in Newfoundland in 1846, attended Normal School in Truro, N. S., under Dr. Alexander Forrester, was apprenticed to Dr. Samuel Muir of Truro, attended McGill Medical College, where he had a brilliant record as a student, commenced his medical career as assistant surgeon in the Montreal General Hospital, and by 1875 was full surgeon in the hospital and professor of clinical surgery at McGill. Becoming interested in Lister's antiseptic methods, which he studied first-hand at Edinburgh and London, he played an important part in introducing them into Canada. In the Riel Rebellion of 1885 he was made director-general of the army medical services in the field. During the next decade he devoted all his energies to teaching and medical practice, but in 1896 entered the House of Commons and interested himself in public health and in raising the standard of medical education. To this end he supported the first bill for the establishment of a Dominion Medical Council to further the cause of uniform medical registration throughout Canada; but it required another decade before the complete cooperation of all the provinces could be obtained. As a tribute to his work, he was elected first President of the Council in 1912, and also Honorary President for life of the Canadian Medical Association. In 1914 he was knighted, and he lived to enjoy the honor and esteem of his profession until 1923. Even the layman will find interest and pleasure in this little biography.

D. C. H.

MIXED COMPANY. By J. C. Robertson, Professor Emeritus of Greek in Victoria College, University of Toronto. J. M. Dent and Sons Limited. Pp. 200. \$2.25.

AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY. By R. G. Collingwood, Waynflete Professor of Metaphysical Philosophy, University of Oxford. Oxford University Press. Pp. 167.

Here are two truly notable books. I put them together perhaps because I have recently read both, and because they both stand out among the books I have read in many years past. But they fall together for other reasons. Each is the work of a scholar and philosopher,

and both men, it happens, are markedly practical and have left their imprint on many minds in other ways than authorship.

Mixed Company is a collection of articles and addresses modestly assembled and modestly presented to the public in the belief that "the ancient and the modern world throw light each upon the other". That statement in itself may dissuade some persons from reading the book, but once a reader takes the book in his hand, he will read it from end to end with growing interest and admiration. He will find himself led over a great range of subjects, each of them having a perennial interest, but all these subjects are dealt with in a fresh, unhackneyed way, and in a prose style that is rarely matched for lucidity and wit. It is a sober style, suitable to the great subjects dealt with, and only occasionally invaded by humour, but wit appears on every page. To give a table of its contents, or to relate the subjects treated—English poetry, Socrates, Plato, William Morris, Job, Christ, Canadian education, the ruthlessness of modern Germany—would give but a faint idea of the large humanity and nobility of the book.

It may be that many "general" readers will find a chapter called "The Growth of Legends" the most fascinating in the book. The chapter opens with allusions to that extraordinary enlargement of knowledge which has come to our age by the new methods of historical investigation. With his wonted restraint and understatement, Professor Robertson rates this as doubtless less important than recent scientific discovery; but there are those who think that this enormous widening of our historical knowledge is not only the greatest accomplishment of our age, but that it may, in time, increase man's power to control human affairs, which his enlarged scientific knowledge has signally failed to do.

In the third chapter of the book, "Some Greek Prejudices", there are only unobtrusive references to history, but the scholarly reader will find it a good illustration of the methods of approach employed by the newer historians.

And this brings me to the second book, which, at first sight, is much more difficult reading. Yet I venture to think that any general reader who begins with the last chapter of it—a breath-taking exposition of the disintegration in British, as well as in European, political life in recent decades—will sit down resolutely to master the whole brilliant little book.

In the year 1939, overtaken by a severe illness and nearing the age of fifty, the author takes up his pen to review his mental experiences since he was four years old. Any reader will be fascinated by these experiences of the author between the ages of four and thirteen. Every reader who knows something of Oxford University in the last generation, and all those, the world over, who have tried to understand the thought and politics of the last half century, will find this book a master-key in the maze and labyrinth from which so many of us have half admitted, in our hearts, there is no escape. This, too, is a modest book, and unlike the other, written in an uneven style. At times it rises to brilliant eloquence, but again the author, as if in apology, lapses into odd colloquialisms; with this, there goes an alternation between sincere humility and a devastating criticism of some of the

author's most notable contemporaries. But perhaps that is the way in which the autobiography of a mind must be written.

Here the reference to the new historical investigation is by no means unobtrusive; in fact it is an avowed purpose of the author to deal with that subject. Professor Collingwood had already made original contributions of the most significant kind to logic and to the archaeology of Roman Britain. Like Professor Robertson, he will be remembered by an untold number as a stimulating, provocative teacher. He says somewhere that all great books are addressed to the authors' contemporaries. In this book he invites his contemporaries to consider whether a certain bankruptcy in the teachers of young men is not connected with the immorality which now stalks through the world.

To the present reviewer, at least, these two books, so unlike and yet so like—the first austere, witty and confident of the triumph of truth, the other intimate, groping and sometimes abashing in its revelation of the multitudinous possibilities of human error—have brought a strange consolation:

For the world, which seems
To lie before us like a land of dreams,
So various, so beautiful, so new,
Hath really neither joy, nor love, nor light,
Nor certitude, nor peace, nor help for pain;
And we are here as on a darkling plain
Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight,
Where ignorant armies clash by night.

In these books, it may be, there is light.

CARLETON STANLEY.

PIERRE DU GUA, SIEUR DE MONTS. Records: Colonial and "Saintongeois" collected and edited by William Inglis Morse. Bernard Quaritch Ltd. London. Pp. xiv, 118. Illustrated.

Those who have sailed up or down the St. Croix River, or those who have stood on the fortifications at Annapolis Royal, gazing over the wide tidal inland sea, hear echoing the sonorous name of Sieur de Monts. A dim, uncertain echo, as compared with the names of Champlain and others. Dr. William Inglis Morse, continuing his original researches in the history of Acadia, has not only collected all the material and bibliography of previous investigations into de Monts; he has searched the archives in Paris, Honfleur, and other places in France for new materials.

It is for the historical expert in this field to pronounce on what additions Dr. Morse has made to previous knowledge. At the least he has produced a work which can never be neglected by future investigators of French Canada, and has shown the futility of the mere guesses in which some previous writers have indulged. Certainly, he has justified the prophecy of Marc Lescarbot that the name of de Monts would be immortal.

CARLETON STANLEY.

JOURNAL OF OCCURRENCES IN THE ATHABASCA DEPARTMENT
BY GEORGE SIMPSON, 1820 AND 1821, AND REPORT.
Edited by E. E. Rieh, M.A.; with a foreword by Lord
Tweedsmuir, P.C., G.C.M.G., LL.D.; and an intro-
duction by Chester Martin, M.A., LL.D. Toronto,
The Champlain Society, 1938. Pp. lix, 498. Frontis-
piece and four maps.

This is the first in a series of volumes in which the Champlain Society and the Hudson's Bay Record Society have joined hands for simultaneous publication of the valuable records in Hudson's Bay House in London. Such cooperative policy has been signaled by the selection of important documents which deal with the period immediately preceding the union of the two rival companies in the fur-trade and were written by George Simpson, who at the time was a special agent of the Hudson's Bay Company, in the most fiercely contested area of the fur-trade. In a characteristically reticent introduction of almost fifty closely printed pages, Professor Martin traces the rivalry of the North West and Hudson's Bay Companies prior to the union of 1821, and sets the stage for this *Journal and Report* of Simpson, now made available for scholars. In the last paragraph of the introduction he compares Simpson with other governors of the British North American Province, and concludes with the striking statement, "Sir George Simpson is perhaps the greatest figure yet to be essayed in Canadian biography."

The *Journal* itself covers 350 pages of the volume and, besides giving a day-by-day record of Simpson's activities during that period, includes all the letters he wrote or instructions he issued in the interests of both the trade and policy of the Company. The *Report* is a detailed description of the problems faced by the Company in the ordinary course of events or through rivalry with the North West Company, and it offers realistic suggestions as to policy in the future.

The *Journal and Report* are admirably edited by Mr. E. E. Rieh, Fellow of St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, who, in addition to a full set of notes, adds one appendix of fifteen pages on posts and districts referred to in the documents, and another of forty-seven pages on biographies of the employees mentioned. This vivid volume will excite the most lively anticipation of further publications.

D. C. H.