

NEW BOOKS

DEMOCRACY IN THE DOMINIONS. By Alexander Brady. The University of Toronto Press, 1947. Pp. 475. \$4.25.

Democracy in the Dominions is a salutary and illuminating analysis of the development and functioning of the political institutions of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. Professor Brady chose as his subject the political systems of these four overseas Dominions because they afford the materials for "a study of inheritance and environment in countries widely separated, colonized since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, and deeply influenced by the domestic vicissitudes of such colonization." As a comparative study in institutions, it presents within the compass of a single volume a lucid delineation of the subject "in its more general features."

The theme of this book is democracy in action. In the evolution and operation of governmental institutions in these Dominions, there are salient points of similarity and significant points of contrast. Alike in the inheritance of parliamentary practices, as well as a mental and ethical legacy, from the British Isles, they underwent much the same colonial development. Differing in environment and circumstances, they adapted British parliamentarism to their own peculiar conditions. The interaction of two dynamic influences, physical environment and cultural inheritance, is always apparent. Similar in all fundamental matters to the institutions of Great Britain, the political institutions of these four Dominions have been conditioned by diverse physical and social circumstances and reveal significant variations.

It is unnecessary here to describe the basic similarity of the governmental systems of the Dominions. Suffice it to say that their immense cultural legacy includes "the varied and delicate rules and procedures of British parliamentarism," the civic and political rights of the individual; the conviction that the state is an organism, the symbolism of a constitutional monarchy; the role of cabinets and political parties, the tradition of free discussion, and the spirit of accommodation. These and other parts of that notable patrimony receive attention in *Democracy in the Dominions*.

Points of affinity among the Dominions may also be seen in the influences of the *Pax Britannica* and of the technical and industrial innovations of modern capitalism, as well as in social environment and in their relationship to the United States.

A perusal of this volume, however, makes patent a marked variety in Dominion democracy. Differences exist in geography and history, and in form and functioning, from the modes of amending constitutions and varying emphases on symbols of nationalism to the efforts to reconcile parliamentary democracy and modern collectivism. Australia and New Zealand are distinguished by their social cohesion. In South Africa, democracy is only for a racial minority; and even in that minority there is a clash of cultures and a conflict of nationalities. Australia occupies a whole continent in relative isolation. Canada, with its "dual nationalism," shares a continent with a powerful neighbour.

Among the Dominions, moreover, there are variants of both federal and unitary state systems. On the topic of the merits and demerits of federal *vis a vis* unitary states, developments in the Dominions furnish an interesting commentary. In New Zealand and South Africa, the careful devolution of administrative responsibility to selected local bodies forms a substitute for federalism. On the other hand, while formal federalism remains in Australia and Canada, its character is being transformed by the impact of finance. Indeed, in all the Dominions, the centralizing trend is evident, although in Australia and Canada "it has been checked by the rigid constitutions and by the tenacious loyalty to federal devolution in the interests of regional diversity." Problems of fiscal and legislative authority receive consideration, and financial agreements are sought. The power of the purse is particularly important in a federation; and in both Australia and Canada regional secession movements have in the past attested to the difficulty of attaining a satisfactory financial agreement. The challenges of war, depression, social insecurity and public health have accelerated the centralizing pressures. In efforts to relate finance to function, the operations of the Commonwealth Grants Commission and the Australian Loan Council merit attention; and the modes and terms of the financial agreements in Canada and Australia deserve scrutiny.

The organization and objectives of political parties differ from Dominion to Dominion. In Australia, for example, light rainfall precluded its frontier from sustaining a large number of small farmers, and pastoralism determined the course of the country's social development. That meant a rural working class as well as several large metropolitan centres. Workers of town and country, possessing a common interest, organized powerful trade unions. The homogeneity of the population gave strength to labour in both industry and politics, and a labour party was formed as a superstructure to trade unionism. In New Zealand, also, "the physical and social environment tended early to foster strong propensities towards Chartist ideals and social legislation." In Canada, however, the "democratic movement drew its vitality from small farmers" who had "no desire for social services in the modern sense." Dominion collectivism was born of frontier necessities and was not primarily due to socialist ideology.

Dominion democracy has achieved much and, in some instances, has given a lead to Great Britain. Nevertheless, problems remain and threats appear. Anti-democratic groups exist but "they lack political weight." Indeed, according to Dr. Brady, the real threat to the democracy of the Dominions at present "is not from an ideological schism, but from those forces which may undermine democracy in any modern state: public apathy, neglect or repudiation of democratic procedures by organized and self-regarding groups whose interests are involved, concentration of economic power which helps to breed public indifference, and above all those internal social pressures associated with industrialism and which in these states impose on democracy an ever-mounting strain."

To an understanding of the development of democracy in the Dominions, and to an appreciation of the problems confronting it, *Democracy in the Dominions* is a notable contribution.

C. B. FERGUSON

COLLECTED POEMS. By Arthur S. Bourinot. Ryerson Press. Pp. 222. \$3.00.

In *Collected Poems* we have A. S. Bourinot's choice of all that he has written during the last three decades. Ever simple, ever singing, the poet chants the beauties of the seasons, the loveliness of the Ottawa Valley, and his joy in beholding Nature in her varying moods. One observes that in subject matter, imagery, and everything except his favorite metrical form, Mr. Bourinot is akin to the Georgians. Poems of short unrhymed lines, varying in length and arranged in a pattern designed to catch the eye, represent the work of Mr. Bourinot at his most typical. Such lyrics exhibit great skill in varying pace to picture physical movement (as in "I shall take my skis"), and show delicate precision in capturing the irregular motions of a bird, the dancing of flowers, the fluttering of leaves. The use of short, unequal, nervous lines sometimes imposes a strain upon the eye of the reader, however, and, in certain poems more substantial as to subject matter, may even interfere with his grasp of thought content.

We find few poems of social criticism in this volume. Some of Mr. Bourinot's war poems record what he saw, what he felt; a number lament the fallen. "Transients" and "Outcasts" show the effects of, rather than probe into the causes of, unemployment; "Wrestling Match" is apparently the revulsion of a sensitive man who, disgusted by the blood-lust of those who attend such functions, fails to detect the falsity of that form of pre-arranged cavorting now misnamed wrestling.

The narrative and historical poems, having metrical bones closer to those of the English poetic norm, and weightier flesh than most of the lyrics, show no less inventive ability and will provide far keener enjoyment. The almost ballad-like Lincoln poems intimate rather than state the strength and character of "Young Abe." "Pontius Pilate in Gaul" and "An Old Man Remembers," poems concerning the Crucifixion, are effective contrasts to "John Ridd," a tale of jealousy and violence. "The Hermit," with a sympathetic insight reminiscent of Robert Frost, tells of a recluse in life and in death. "Marguerite de Roberval," the story of young love rebellious in the face of fraternal disapproval, is a moving tale of hardship and privation on Anticosti Island in the sixteenth century.

Mr. Bourinot's lyrical poems, which take up two-thirds of *Collected Poems*, are light, graceful, and melodious. Outweighing them in both poetic value and appeal are his narrative and historical poems. Most of the poems in this collection are worth reading, and two or three of them are, indeed, contributions to a lasting Canadian literature.

C. L. LAMBERTSON

JUDGMENT GLEN. By Will R. Bird. Ryerson Press. \$3.00.

Judgment Glen shared with another novel the Ryerson Prize for 1947. It is another fine robust novel of the founding of Cumberland County, Nova Scotia, by Yorkshire men. The time is spring, 1780, to spring, 1781, a trifle later than *Here Stays Good Yorkshire*. The reader feels no repetition of incident from one novel to the other; as a novelist Mr. Bird is blessed with a prolific imagination; one also suspects that Mr. Bird, who is descended from these same Yorkshire settlers, has drawn in both his novels on family tradition. The rich variety of characters in a pioneer settlement is shown admirably in *Judgment Glen*. A centre for all the incidents is supplied by the character of Helger Fallydown, who through his vanity and egotism brings his family to Nova Scotia that he may leave them there while he returns to expected knightly honors in England. Some may feel that this character passes beyond realism, some may think it more suited to high tragedy than to a robust frontier story, but no one can deny its value to the plot structurally. Once again, we find Mr. Bird skilful in depicting the scenery and atmosphere of Nova Scotia. If you enjoyed the earlier novel, you will find this one equally good; if you do not know Mr. Bird's historical novels, you should make their acquaintance now. A friend has suggested to the reviewer that Mr. Bird will find even better material a few years later in Cumberland's history with the arrival of Loyalists and the beginnings of the lumbering industry. Perhaps Mr. Bird will take the hint and give us another splendid, earthy novel for next Christmas.

B. M.

BEFORE THE CROSSING. By Storm Jameson. Macmillans. Pp. 279 \$2.00.

This book is concerned with a spy and his search for a murderer, but it is not a "thriller". The author is attempting to show the decadence of pre-war England. The story is a meagre device for showing the psychological chaos of a group of people: although the plot is a very simple, uncomplicated one, the people of the book are complicated and devious.

The most important character is Renn, the spy, and his characterization is the most complete. His friends think him honest, kind, generous and modest; he finds himself unpredictable, cruel and faithless. The author fails to reconcile these two points of view and Renn is merely a puppet, a symbol, not a person. His search for the murder of his friend brings us in contact with the other characters. These include a labour leader, a professional gentleman of adventure, a newspaper editor, a nymphomaniac, a society climber with a stupid but useful husband, and a young man of eighteen. None of the characters are attractive or normal, with the exception of two minor ones and the young man.

The story of this young man, Arthur Coster, is interwoven with that of Renn. Arthur is marking time until the war begins and is only intent upon avoiding his mother's plans for his safety in the com-

ing holocaust. Through him the reader experiences all the waiting, hesitating and first unfolding into maturity of the late adolescent. His two romantic adventures are typical and true of his age. One is with a little girl—a fairy-tale meeting and parting that shows us the chivalry and pity of a young man. The other is his first adventure with an older woman, and we feel his excitement, bewilderment and aftermath of disgust. This character is done by Storm Jameson at her best, and her best is very good.

LOIS K. LAMBERTSON

THE DIARY OF OUR OWN PEPYS: E. W. HARROLD'S RECORD OF CANADIAN LIFE. Edited by Norman Smith. Ryerson Press. Pp. 296. \$3.50.

This book consists of extracts from the weekly column conducted in the *Ottawa Citizen*, by E. W. Harrold, from 1930 to 1945. Though the comparison with Pepys is somewhat misleading, since this is not an intimate journal, the book is very interesting. Harrold had a flair for seeing the significant in the little things of life, in noticing the curious or remarkable in common happenings, and he commanded a graceful prose style. The book is admirably designed for idle browsing; one can pick an item here or an item there: a description of a walk with his family, or a day on Parliament Hill, an account of R. B. Bennett and the unemployed in 1932, or Colonel Ralston and the conscription issue in November, 1944.

DAVID FARR

ATOMIC ENERGY. CBC Press and Information Service, Toronto. Pp. 24. 50c.

We all have become familiar with neutrons, protons, electrons, atoms and atomic bombs through the press. So much has been written for popular consumption that another such work would seem unnecessary, but the particular value of *Atomic Energy* is that out of this chaos of semi-scientific material is brought, in compact, orderly form, the whole story as told by the men who played the leading roles. Fifteen of the foremost scientific, military, political and philosophical minds have contributed to this booklet. Those who heard the material as a broadcast series from April to June, 1947, over the CBC, will remember how impressive was the treatment of the subject. The booklet begins with the story of the first discoveries of the secrets of the atom; the planning for the production of a bomb and the difficulties of keeping complete secrecy. Then the description of the dropping of the bomb, the damage caused, and the strategic significance of the bomb follows; then come discussions about control and further atomic research, (especially in Canada), a picture of the uses to which atomic energy may be put, and finally a section entitled "The Outlook for Mankind" by Bertrand Russell. Some parts of the

booklet are particularly gripping; for example, Dr. J. Bronowski's account of his entrance into the bombed Nagasaki; other sections are interesting in that they debunk many of the wild ideas so widely published as to possible uses of atomic energy and defenses against the atomic bomb. All in all, the booklet is worth reading.

DOUGLAS ROGERS

ADAM BECK AND THE ONTARIO HYDRO. By W. R. Pewman. Ryerson Press. Pp. 497. \$5.00.

Adam Beck and the Ontario Hydro is the history of a man in an era, in an area. It is not only a biography of a great Canadian, but is a political and municipal history of the Province of Ontario during four provincial government regimes. It is a very readable book, not only for its historical interest, but also for the picture it paints of Canadian democracy in action. To most readers, however, the main interest will be in the story of a great experiment in municipal ownership of utilities and the life story of the man who was responsible for that development.

The author is most forthright in his description of Adam Beck, the man. Although he was knighted by the King and honored by his fellow citizens, he is shown as a normal human being with a vision and an idea that he was determined to carry out, even if at times the methods used were not on the highest plane; to Adam Beck the end justified the means.

Starting as the son of a rather humble German immigrant who came to this country in the pioneer days, by hard work and determination Adam Beck founded the largest municipally-owned power empire that the world has ever seen. While the author gives credit to the hero for having reduced the cost of electricity by fantastic percentages, there may be some questions as to whether this credit is all due. It must be remembered that during this era tremendous strides were made in engineering development in the generation and transmission of electric power and energy, which did result in much cheaper electricity than was available at the beginning of the period. The author makes no allowance, either, for the fact that as a municipal undertaking this system was free from taxation, which in the case of privately owned utilities, during the same period, was an ever increasing element of the cost of energy delivered to the consumer.

Another interesting phase of the book is the story of Sir Adam Beck's fight for radial railways. Because of changes in transportation methods and equipment, time has proved him wrong. To anyone who has lived through this period, particularly those engaged in public utility work, the story told will be of intense interest.

Broadly it may be said that the story is an illustration of what anyone with the imagination to see and the will to do may accomplish in our own country. The book also reveals that not only was Sir Adam Beck interested in the development of his one idea, but

he gave of his time and talents to charity and contributed much in this field.

The book is educational and interesting. The author is to be congratulated on having prepared this record for the benefit of future Canadian citizens.

IRA MACNAB

RUTH AND OTHER POEMS. By Alexander Louis Fraser. Carillon Poetry Chap-Book.

FROSTY-MOON AND OTHER POEMS. By Margot Osborn. Ryerson Poetry Chap-Book.

COMMUNITY AND CULTURE. By Arthur L. Phelps. Founder's Day Address at the University of New Brunswick.

LETTERS IN CANADA: 1946. Edited by A. S. P. Woodhouse. Reprinted from the University of Toronto Quarterly.

The carillon chapbook maintains Doctor Fraser's reputation as a sonneteer—"one of our best sonnet writers", Sir Charles Roberts said of him—and includes also several hymns of singing quality. The finest poem in the collection is the well sustained Scripture sequence that gives the title, *Ruth*. Mrs. Osborn writes a flexible free verse and is at her best in interpreting Indian thought and feeling.

Mr. Phelps' Founder's Day address presents his view of humanity "on the edge of a world culture". His advice to Canadians is to keep inviolable their British heritage and spirit while cultivating American friendship and increasing their knowledge of the best American tradition. *Community and Culture* is a thought-provoking pamphlet.

Letters in Canada, as published by the *University of Toronto Quarterly*, is an annual encyclopedia on the subject. Mr. Woodhouse, the general editor, deserves sincere congratulations on the success of what must have been a laborious task. The survey almost exhausts the field of current Canadian literature, almost . . . It does not completely penetrate the remote and inaccessible Maritimes. This year, Mr. Woodhouse had six collaborators, each with his distinct sphere of investigation—poetry, fiction, drama, French-Canadian letters, new-Canadian letters, and remaining material—and each an authority in his own field.

SISTER MAURA

THE FRENCH-CANADIAN OUTLOOK. By Mason Wade. New York: The Viking Press. 1946.

THE QUEBEC TRADITION. Edited by Seraphin Marion. English Translations by Watson Kirkconnell. Montreal: Therien Freres.

In historic perspective, Mr. Wade sets forth the ideas and ambitions of the French-Canadian as he understands them. He writes with clearness, force, and the detachment of an American, against a background of knowledge gained by a period of research in Canada. The book is valuable reference.

The author quotes a number of facts and figures unknown to the average citizen. Occasionally he slips. For instance, it was William Lyon Mackenzie, not Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who first made clear to Canadians in general, and those of Quebec in particular, the radical difference between anti-clerical Liberals of France and Godfearing Liberals of Canada.

Mr. Wade's most significant statement is probably this: "The French-Canadians are no longer an agricultural people; Quebec has now the highest percentage of urban population of any Canadian province, and with Ontario it is the centre of Canadian industry. "Progressive" Ontario has more farmers than "backward" Quebec, whose urban population increased thirty-seven per cent from 1921 to 1931, and sixteen per cent from 1931 to 1941. The figure for the last five years is not yet known, but is probably larger than that for 1921-31, thanks to Canada's great war-time industrial development."

Tradition du Quebec enshrines the pastoral charm of the old province and the spirit of its children. Love of the land is here, especially of the woodland, of the maple grove, of the family elm. The voice of patriotism is sincere, and sometimes rather strident; the religious note is strong. Watson Kirkconnell's prose and verse are a triumph of the art of translation.

SISTER MAURA

EDUCATION AND THE NEW AGE. Edited by W. C. Graham. Ryerson Press. Pp. 81. \$1.50.

This volume consists of several public lectures given at the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of United College, Winnipeg, ranging in matter from "Higher Education in the Atomic Age" to "The Function of a Theological College To-day". The heart of the book is to be found in three stimulating lectures on the relationship of historical studies to the problems of the modern world, by the distinguished, Canadian-born historian, Professor Brebner, of Columbia University. These lectures alone would have justified the publication of the series.

DAVID FARR

THE MAKING OF A CANADIAN: J. F. B. Livesay. Edited with Memoir by Florence Randall Livesay. Toronto: The Ryerson Press. Pp. 181. \$2.75.

This is the winnowing, by a loving and devoted wife, of the literary remains of one who left his mark on co-operative news gathering in Canada. That it does not fully express the stature of the man or tell the whole story of his achievements is perhaps not to be wondered at. The book will be read with interest by all who knew the subject intimately, and they are legion scattered throughout the length and breadth of North America. These will find it stimulating and provocative of additional enrichment. Students of journalism will also find it of interest and value.

ANDREW MERKEL

THE PORTABLE CONRAD. Selected and Edited by M. D. Zabel. Macmillan Co. Pp. 760. \$2.50.

The volume of selections from Conrad is a valuable edition to the Portable Library, one of the truly fine undertakings by modern publishers. Included are the complete texts of *The Nigger of the Narcissus*, *Typhoon*, three long tales (one of which is "Youth"), six short stories, an anthology of brief passages, and a judicious selection from Conrad's letters. Each section is preceded by an editorial note; there are a very illuminating general introduction, a chronological list of Conrad's life and works, and a short bibliography of modern articles on Conrad. For the person unfamiliar with Conrad, this volume forms an ideal introduction, and to the long-standing admirer the volume offers a chance to compare his judgment with Prof. Zabel's. In the last few years there have been signs of a renewed interest in Conrad the artist and thinker; the present volume should help restore Conrad's reputation from the slough into which the cynicism and disillusionment of the period between the wars had consigned it.

B. M.

WHO MAKES OUR FOREIGN POLICY? By Blair Bolles. New York: Foreign Policy Association. Pp. 94. 35c.

ATOMIC CHALLENGE. By W. A. Higinbotham and E. K. Lindley. New York: Foreign Policy Association. Pp. 63. 35c.

Here are two brief guides to current thinking, published in the Headline Series. *Who Makes Foreign Policy?* discusses the various influences that determine American foreign policy and estimates the people's share in moulding foreign relations. The author concludes with a plea for more co-operation between administration and Congress, and between parties in the shaping of American foreign policy.

Atomic Challenge comprises a popular introduction to the basic ideas of nuclear physics and a discussion of the political significance of atomic energy. Both essays are readable and stimulating.

DAVID FARR

ESSAYS ON ANTISEMITISM: Jewish Social Studies No. 2. Koppel S. Pinson (Ed.) 2nd Edition. Conference on Jewish Relations, New York, 1946.

Eleven of the essays in this book were published in the first edition of 1942. New material consists of "Antisemitism in the Post-War World" by the Editor; "From the Dreyfus Affair to France To-day" by Hannah Arendt; and "Antisemitism in Modern Germany" by Waldemar Gurian.

The fact that nine of the essays are listed in the historical section—and at least two others could be classed as historical—indicates that the Editor and his associates agree with the warning of Dr. David Roth a few years ago that "the attack on Judaism has moved from the religious to the historical field," and that new defences must

be prepared. The historical essays are the result of careful research and most of them are well documented. In the opinion of the reviewer the arrangement of the material could be improved; a brief introduction, followed in order by the historical and analytical essays, and the Editor's "Antisemitism in the Post-War World" would make a connected study rather than a series of essays.

In his study of the "Defenses Against Antisemitism" Jacob Marcus declares that a belief has long existed in certain parts of the world "That the Jews are a pernicious influence in the entire structure of modern life, and must be effectively removed." The majority of citizens in democratic countries do not hold this belief. Whence did it originate and why is it held? The book attempts, quite successfully, to answer these questions. Some of the writers find a political origin to antisemitism; others stress the economic, religious, social, and psychological background.

In the early Hellenistic-Roman world many towns and provinces contained small but influential Jewish minorities, whose aid was valued by ambitious factions seeking political power. As converts to Christianity increased, chiefly from among the Gentiles, the Jew and the Christian became rivals and often enemies. The Jew was clannish and held himself apart; to the Christians he was a stubborn opponent of the true religion and a descendant of the men who put to death the founder of their religion. The enmity increased during the Middle Ages; the Christians, being in the majority, persecuted the Jews and ridiculed them in literature, art and sculpture. With the growth of the European nations the Jew sometimes found protection with a powerful or needy prince; in return he gave his patron goods and money, or made loans, which often remained unpaid.

In the Modern Age the Jews have been subject to persecution in central and eastern Europe, especially in Russia, Poland, and Germany. In Czarist Russia persecution began with the motive of making all residents of that country conform to the Greek Orthodox Church; later it was inspired by a nationalistic dislike of minorities and by economic competition. The same forces operated in Germany under the Kaisers and reached unspeakable depths under Adolf Hitler. Added to this, as one of the writers points out, there has been a tendency, because of certain racial characteristics of the Jew, to make him serve the recurrent human desire for a scapegoat. In France, Jewish domination of the political and industrial life of the late Republic led to unfortunate divisions, of which the Dreyfus Affair is an important and lasting example.

With the evidence of past persecutions before him, the Editor undertakes to view the future. He sees some hope for the end of Antisemitism in the fact that Jew and Gentile shared common sacrifices and dangers in the recent war, and in the darkest hours of that struggle learned the value of co-operation. Further, the frequent accusation of the past that Jews have been the leaders in spreading Communism is no longer tenable, and the work of the United Nations may bring about greater freedom, justice and world brotherhood. On the other hand, the disloyalty of certain unassimilated groups during the war has made the nations of central and eastern Europe

unwilling to tolerate minorities, and the Jews have been, and will continue to be, minorities. Moreover, any effort to seek the restoration of Jewish property seized during the war is certain to create new problems. Both Jews and non-Jews see these difficulties and hence they hope for a new spirit of understanding and co-operation.

The format of the book is excellent, and typographical errors are remarkably few. There is no index.

RONALD S. LONGLEY

A BOOK OF CANADIAN STORIES. Edited by Desmond Pacey. Ryerson Press. Pp. 295. \$3.50.

Twenty years ago the late Raymond Knister selected and published a book of Canadian short stories. Since then many new writers have arisen in Canada, and old reputations have been subject to reevaluation. It was time, therefore, for a volume such as the present, and it can be said that on the whole Prof. Pacey has done his work well. The volume is quite representative of all periods and parts of the country. In the introduction Prof. Pacey has given a brief account of the short story in Canada and has attempted to evaluate anew certain writers. He has supplied biographical and other data for each author. Unfortunately there are signs of careless writing; for example, on p. 262, we read: "His father died when he was a boy of twelve, and he did not have an opportunity to attend university." There are rules for pronouns and the use of auxiliary with *have* that a professor of English might reasonably be expected to observe.

B. M.

THE CANADIAN ALPINE JOURNAL. Published by the Alpine Club of Canada at Banff. 1947. \$1.50.

This journal deserves a wide circulation. The articles on recent climbs in the Canadian Rockies are very interesting, there are one or two articles on climbing outside Canada, and the photographs are excellent. This yearbook would be an admirable aid in the teaching of geography.

B. M.

THE JUDGE'S STORY. By Charles Morgan. Macmillans. Pp. 218. \$2.25.

Though much shorter, this novel is worthy to stand with the same author's *The Fountain* and *The Voyage*. Once again, Mr. Morgan is interested in the problem of values and in exploring those regions of spiritual experience where indirectness and nuances are a better method than definite words would be; often it is what his characters or Mr. Morgan himself does not say that is important to the reader's understanding of the theme and the point of view. The Judge has

always desired to write a great work, but even in retirement he seems unable or unwilling to begin; only when he has lost his meagre wealth can he dedicate himself to the task. In contrast with him is Severidge, who has no sense of spiritual values, but only a sense of power: he longs to be accepted, but he also longs to show his power by destroying the integrity of people who have what he lacks. The story is really the clash of these temperaments, although it also involves the fate of the Judge's ward. No outline of the action or of the thought could do justice to this subtly told story; the fullness of the thought is not revealed until the last pages. *The Judge's Story* stands out from the ordinary run of best-sellers and club selections; it is not to be missed by any reader who is interested in ultimate problems of life or can be stirred by beautifully written English.

B. M.

EN AVANT! By George Klinck. Ryerson Press. Pp. 195. 85c.

Two or three years ago Mr. Klinck published *Allons Gai*, an anthology of French-Canadian literature for school use. He now follows with a companion volume. The extracts treat of many subjects and are taken from a wide range of sources. They are admirably grouped. Not only should the volume find a very warm welcome from teachers of French throughout Canada, but it also offers a fine way for the ordinary English-speaking Canadian to brush up his French, and at the same time learn something about the life and thought of some four million other Canadians.

B. M.

THE PORTABLE JOHNSON AND BOSWELL. Edited by Louis Kronenberg. Macmillans. Pp. 762. \$2.50.

The Portable Library has made an enviable name for itself since its inception about three years ago. This volume is a worthy member of the series. Mr. Kronenberg has written a valuable essay on Johnson and Boswell—he really has something new to say—and he has shown great wisdom in his selections. Particularly noteworthy is the inclusion of "Dialogue with Rousseau" and the "Journal . . . to the Hebrides" from the Malahide papers. Lovers of Johnson will not be disappointed in this book, and others should find it a very good introduction to both men.

B. M.

THE MIRACULOUS BIRTH OF LANGUAGE. By Richard Albert Wilson; Preface by Bernard Shaw; J. M. Dent and Sons. Pp. 188. 30c.

This inexpensive reprint of a book first published in 1937 is an excellent compendium of the history of comparative philology from Genesis to the present day and of the theories of the origin of languages. The present edition is considerably enhanced—"baited

for the British book market"—by a preface by Bernard Shaw. It is this Preface, rather than Professor Wilson's treatise, that will engage the attention of the reading public.

It is the function of bait to divert attention from, as well as to attract prey into, the trap. The reason for Shaw's recapitulation of the Darwinian theory of Natural Selection and its effects on our thinking only becomes clear on reading *The Miraculous Birth of Language*, so that, although in a sense the Preface is an introduction to that book, actually, as in the case of most of Shaw's Prefaces, the introductory pre-amble is more enlightening when read as an epilogue to the work it purports to introduce. Shaw's main purpose in writing this Preface is to air his grievances in regard to the state of the English language and to suggest a vigorous remedy.

C. L. LAMBERTSON

FRANCOIS MAURIAC: IN SEARCH OF THE INFINITE. By Elsie Pell. N. Y., Philosophical Library. 1947. Pp. 93. \$2.75.

Mauriac has been called the greatest of living novelists. This estimate may or may not appear excessive, but it is not hard to perceive the qualities that have inspired, and may be thought to justify it. There is first the great seriousness of aim: "I am a metaphysician who works in the concrete." Appearance and Reality, the Finite and the Infinite, the One and the Many, Natural and Supernatural, God and the Soul, Good and Evil, Sin and Grace, the Spirit and the Letter, Freedom and Necessity, Mind and Matter, Integrity and Disintegration: these are the high themes that Mauriac embodies in the lives and actions of his characters. Yet his books are not specimens of that type of literary curio, the philosophical novel, of which it is so often hard to say whether it is worse as novel or as philosophy. Mauriac's novels are true works of art; they are literature and not tracts. The incidents are not pegs on which to hang a moral. His characters remain people and not dummies. The intention becomes evident without being explicitly stated. Yet the satisfaction we derive is not only intellectual or imaginative or artistic, but something more. It might be called mystical or integral or "existential." Perhaps we might call it simply personal, in the deepest sense of the word.

In second place we must put Mauriac's sincerity, a sincerity so uncompromising that it has been taken sometimes for pessimism, sometimes for cynicism, sometimes for prurience. His moral realism is painfully aware of the deep corruption of human nature, of the thinness of civilization's covering, of the pitiful devices, the illusions and the phantasies, by which men seek to hide from themselves the real nature of their desires. Certainly the picture is not pleasant. Sin and tragedy are not pleasant facts, and in Mauriac's novels we see sin incarnate. Avarice, hatred, the loneliness, the frustration, the inadequacy of sexual love, the dissonances and miseries of family life, the selfishness of mother love become terrifying realities. His characters are seldom "nice people". Yet, while he may select, he

does not distort human nature to make it the stuff either of irony or of comedy. Such views are external and Mauriac sees human nature too clearly from within. He is the inheritor of St. Augustine and of Pascal.

Skill in psychological analysis is the third quality of his work. The inner life is dissected with an acute penetration and a rare subtlety. He sees that even when our actions conform outwardly to the usages of society, we may sin in our minds so that our actions are often better than we are. Indeed we might say that Mauriac is interested in motive more than in action, and in action only in so far as it is the expression of inner state. Above all, he makes us aware of the complexities and contradictions of the inner world, and of the impotence of the human soul to rise by its own efforts above nature to grace.

This dark view of human nature may put us in mind of contemporary Continental Protestant theology. Yet in fact Mauriac writes from the Catholic centre, and indeed such theological realism is essential Christianity. It is just here that the inborn Pelagianism of the English reader is almost certain to rebel and to find expression in the complaint that in Mauriac's stories nobody has a good time and that his characters would be much happier if only they would find more to do. Such criticism betrays the almost invincible British obtuseness to the requirements not only of metaphysical, but of artistic, truth. For without a perception of the reality of sin, and of the hidden drama in which the forces of good and evil wrestle for possession of the human soul, there can be no genuine sense of the tragic. If we look, for example, at the novels of the English psychological school, of Dorothy Richardson or Virginia Woolf, we see the portrayal of the random association of ideas, of the stream of consciousness, of the layer upon layer of relatively autistic and unconscious phantasy, over all of which the personality itself has little, if any, control and remains, accordingly, incapable of choice or decision. As a result we scarcely feel that we are in touch with a human mind, but rather are encountering a wraith, a mere mental mechanism, stripped of personality, for which sin can never be more than a state of mind, a reaction-formation, an aberration of the mental machinery. Our impression is one of impalpable emptiness, of triviality, of impersonality, but not of tragedy. Only the writer for whom sin is not a state of mind but a primordial reality of the human spirit can create a profound sense of the tragic.

Collected editions of Mauriac's works, in English translation, are now beginning to appear both in England and in America. Many readers will welcome the portrait of Mauriac, and the exposition and estimate of his ideas, contained in this little volume. There is a useful bibliography but no index. Though the printing and binding are good, the price seems high for a book of under one hundred pages.

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