

## NEW BOOKS

A DRYAD IN NANAIMO. By Audrey Alexandra Brown. Toronto.  
The Macmillan Company of Canada. 1934. \$2.50.

This title links the ancient with the new; it sets a nymph of early Greece—a delicately imagined spirit of grace—amid the woodland beauty of a very young province, British Columbia. So with the whole book. Days long past and life far removed from the pleasant Canadian world live in these pages with a freshness, a vividness and charm that give them an individuality quite their own. They are old, yet distinctly new, and they bear the impress of a remarkable creative imagination.

Miss Brown's poetry, for all its colourful glamour of words and the lithe music of its rhythm, is essentially narrative; it has unusual substance, but not the ethereality proper to pure lyric. The largest poem in the book, both in theme and in treatment, is *Laodamia*, an heroic story of the Trojan War. The current of Greek life, sympathetically interpreted, flows through these seven hundred and twenty-six lines—the restrained grief of Laodamia, weaving among her maidens, the ordered life in her Greek home, the long waiting for news, the coming of the messenger with word of Protesilaus's self-sacrificing death, her prayer to Persephone and its answering boon of her husband's return for a day; that day of quiet joy, and its climax, Laodamia's return with her beloved to the twilight realm of Hades. There, she says,

We shall not walk alone, but hand in hand,  
And Love shall warm our immortality  
With an eternal spring.

The stanza, a dignified six-liner of five pentameters and a final Alexandrine, moves with stately ease.

Another long poem, of between four and five hundred lines, is written in a supple, resilient, somewhat irregular verse, very effective as Miss Brown uses it. A young Russian princess, Nadya Cyrilovna came to the city, "ripe for the suitoring of kings:"

All over Moscow clashed the din  
Of its thousand bells as we rode in;  
Treble and tenor peals and swells,  
And the great bass murmur and clang of the bells  
Hung high in the painted Michael's-tower  
Came glittering down in a Danaë shower;  
And truly, had a Zeus descended,  
Gracious and godlike, fair and splendid,  
To ride in cupola'd Moscow then,  
He had seemed but a man among her men;  
And had he raised me up to ride  
Glinting and gleaming by his side,  
He had found me prouder than all his pride.

That very evening, the Red revolt broke out; invited guests left the Cyrilovna home quietly; and Nadya and her father sat together through the lurid night; before sunrise he died, and she was alone to face capture and a month of "mouldering" imprisonment. Then death opened the door to a purgatorial state, where, she says,

I am laid to be healed  
 In the fair peace of field  
 And hill and pool and star.  
 I am laid where lilies are,  
 Laid to wait for Him  
 Here at Bethesda's rim.

*The Wendigo*, a dramatic monologue of depth and poignancy, is finer than anything else that has been written on this haunting Indian theme. A storied enchantress, who cast her spell on Homer and Milton and many a lesser poet, has inspired *The Wood of Circe*, a poem of real originality, written in a flexible ten-line stanza. *Bird-bride* is prettily told indeed, but seems very slight beside Mr. Hudson's *Green Mansions*, evidently its source.

Though *The Nightingale* cannot compare with Matthew Arnold's magical "Hark, ah, the Nightingale! the tawny-throated," *The Reed* does challenge comparison with Elizabeth Browning's *A Musical Instrument*; it is sweeter and more melodious, if not so strong and deep. *Lucrezia del Sarto* is a new and powerful version of the ill-fated Andrea's story, written almost entirely in fluent blank verse. *To Bethlehem-1933*, a spirited Christmas piece, evokes the first Holy Night with unusual reality.

Most Canadian of these thirty-one poems is *A Dryad in Nanaimo*, spun of rainbow glory to enshrine the spirit of the maple; but most eloquently patriotic are *Harold Infelix* and *The Browns*, one inspired by loyalty of race, the other by family loyalty. Harold the Unfortunate is the Saxon leader who met death on Senlac Hill in the mighty Battle of Hastings, and whose body, refused church burial by the Normans, has ever since guarded the English shore from foreign foemen. The other poem follows the fortunes of unrecorded Browns who gave their lives for England, from the battle of Stamford to that of Ypres. It was at Ypres that Miss Brown's eldest brother received his death wound.

All that Audrey Brown writes is, poetically, substantial; she never stints her theme by omission or by hurry, but develops it to an ample completeness. She is, in an extraordinary degree, mistress of word magic; her verse glints and gleams and shines and charms the mind with jewel phrases. Serious but not solemn, she seldom fails to transmute her subject with "the light that never was on sea or land." Such glow and glamour and buoyancy of spirit pervade her poetry that it is a surprise to find how often the thought of death recurs; not death in gruesome guise, but death that comes with the evening star and knocks for entrance at *The House of Life*. This may be explained by the circumstances of Miss Brown's life.

From childhood, Audrey Brown has been a cripple. No doubt, the thought of death has been a closer companion to her than to others; no doubt, often

Through ivory flowers of meadow-sweet she sees  
 With scarcely stirring breath  
 The faint delicious curve of the bay  
 Up which shall come some day  
 Sleep, and his gentler brother whom men call Death.

Her life of thirty years has been spent within the borders of British Columbia, almost entirely in Nanaimo and its neighborhood; yet her spirit goes questing around the world and through the centuries. Out of her pain and loneliness, she has woven these dreams of beauty and of high endeavour that delight the mind and heart of the reader. In a diffident mood, she wrote,

There never was a Brown  
 Who rose above the rank and file to gain the world's renown.

That is no longer true. The praise of Audrey Alexandra Brown resounds from coast to coast in Canada, and it will echo across the sea to the loved land of her fathers.

SISTER MAURA.

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MUST PHILOSOPHERS DISAGREE? By F. C. S. Schiller. Macmillan & Co. London, 1934. 12s. 6d.

This new collection of speeches and essays by the well-known exponent of humanism and pragmatism serves to maintain his reputation for clear writing and humorous description, especially as his subjects are not all deep philosophical ones, which, as the author himself says, are apt to bore or exasperate the ordinary mortal.

There is, for example, an exceedingly illuminating paper on the conduct of final examinations at Oxford, which is no less accurate than amusing, and which should be read by all Rhodes Scholars in order to prepare themselves properly for their approaching ordeal under so strange a system. Apparently Professor Schiller played the examining game himself according to all the rules, but with somewhat less seriousness than his colleagues; which recalls a remark of an Oxford don to the reviewer several years ago, that they had all been afraid of Schiller when he was put on the board, but that he had turned out surprisingly well as an examiner.

We are also given sympathetic studies of William James, Herbert Spencer, the poet James Thomson, and Friedrich Nietzsche, who proves to have been almost a pragmatist.

Then we have several papers in the lighter "pragmatic" vein, pleading for a closer relationship of philosophy to contemporary life, pouring scorn on Formal and Symbolic Logic, or enlivening the issue on the nature of truth by a debate between Apollo, God of Prophecy, and his priestess Cassandra, whose fate it is never to be believed. The author's usual modesty puts the pragmatist arguments in her mouth.

When he returns to the old polemic as to whether successful use not only *tests* but also *produces* truth, his explanations seem to be

as wavering and indecisive as ever. However, some of his statements that can be checked seem to transcend ordinary standards of truth. It seems, for example, to be more than a stretch of enthusiasm when he refers several times to Protagoras, the sophist of Abdera, as a martyr; whereas according to our differing authorities, he was, at worst, banished from Athens, and at best, had his book publicly burnt. Again, on page 167, the author criticises as a quotation from Aristotle what is Aristotle's quotation from one of his own contemporary opponents. Further, he selects as a "prince of pedants", Robinson Ellis, the great editor of Catullus, whose manuscript is one of the glories of the Bodleian Library. Perhaps Prof. Schiller would say that such statements as these are true as representing his own state of mind, but he must at least admit that they have not "worked" in the present instance.

With most, however, in this volume, one must heartily agree. Very welcome is the insistence of humanism that experience is the one infallible *test* of truth, and its emphasis on the importance of the psychological factor in all philosophic beliefs and religious dogmas. If the influence of personal individuality were more often recognized, we should have much less heat and more light in philosophical controversies. Finally, one must express gratitude to the author for many brilliant ideas in biology, history, and the forecast of man's future on the earth, especially as given in the Philosophic Survey towards the close of the book.

A. K. GRIFFIN.

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CANADIAN FRONTIERS OF SETTLEMENT, edited by W. A. Mackintosh and W. L. G. Joerg. VOL. VI, THE SETTLEMENT OF THE PEACE RIVER COUNTRY: A STUDY OF A PIONEER AREA. By C. A. Dawson, assisted by R. W. Murchie. Toronto. The Macmillan Company, 1934. \$4.00.

Of the nine projected volumes of this series, the above is the second to come off the press. The high hopes raised by Volume I, which serves as a background to the entire study, have been amply realized in *The Settlement of the Peace River Country*. Although this volume is complete in itself, few readers will be content to confine their attention to any single volume, and no student of Canadian economic problems can afford to do so.

In the two opening chapters the main course of development of a frontier region, from the days of the outpost fur trader to the days when the district is a well settled and well integrated area, is first sketched, and then these generalizations are applied to the special circumstances of the Peace River country. There is little need to comment upon these chapters, except to say that the work is exceptionally well done, and that a great deal of thought and detailed information have been packed into a comparatively few pages. The succeeding eight chapters, which embody a detailed statistical analysis of the development and of the conditions within the Peace River country,

are based primarily upon census data and information gathered from a survey of nearly four hundred farm operators. The census data make possible comparisons between the Peace River country and the Province of Alberta, while an excellent quantitative appreciation of districts within the area is presented from data obtained through the survey which covered information on nearly everything, from the amount of land under cultivation to the number of times the operator or his family visited the local fairs. The frontier nature of the Peace River country is adequately brought out, as are also conditions within the area itself, which range from those of fringe to those of well settled districts. Whenever possible, comparisons have been made with other districts that have been studied in the Prairie Provinces, and occasionally with areas in the Western United States. Chapter XI deals with the more human side of the problem, giving an excellent word picture of how the people live, their social activities, hopes and aspirations, successes and failures. Notes of the field workers are drawn upon to advantage, and it would appear that a more liberal use of them in the earlier chapters would have added much to the readableness of the volume. The concluding chapter is brief, the reader being left to make his own deductions from an exhaustive analysis of pertinent data contained in preceding chapters. It is urged, however, that in the future settlers ought to possess more capital than has been general in the past, and that careful planning ought to precede future settlement.

If a general criticism may be ventured upon such an excellent piece of work, it is that the statistical analysis has not been accompanied by sufficiently broad interpretations. Perhaps the dual authorship is responsible for the introduction of two terms, "customs work" and "adult-unit", before they are eventually defined on pp. 92 and 261 respectively. In Appendix A, page 260, occurs a curious error in elementary accounting. In arriving at the amount of net additions to capital, negative investments or a reduction of capital account are taken as zero. The justification for this procedure is given as follows:

If the minus quantities (negative investment, or reduction in inventory) are included in the average investment expenditure for districts or groups, and then this cash investment item is added to the cash family living and farm expense to make the total cash expense, there will be a duplication or rather a negative duplication.

Clearly, this is a confusion of capital and expense accounts. Since there was no expenditure on capital account, this negative quantity could not be added to show total cash expenditures, but would appear in the cash account as a source of funds from which expenditures on living and operating expenses were made.

A work of this nature affords little scope for the literary abilities of the author; but despite the occasional ambiguous sentence, Professors C. A. Dawson and R. W. Murchie have done well in treating a difficult subject. One passage is quite worth quoting:

The chronic pioneers are met almost exclusively in transitional and fringe districts. They are farmers, doctors, lawyers, and storekeepers who are perennially

adolescent in their community relationships. Their level of satisfaction is fixed in a condition of unsettlement. To them the entry of the railway is a symbol of the constraints of civilization. Their feet itch to tread rough ways once again.

The volume is exceptionally well printed, copiously illustrated, contains sixty-two statistical tables in the main part of the work, and has five maps and seven charts or diagrams. In addition, there are three appendices containing explanatory notes, and twenty-two supplementary tables.

S. H. SAUNDERS.

DOWN IN NOVA SCOTIA. By Clara Dennis. The Ryerson Press. Toronto.

Several writers in recent years have "discovered" the pleasant land of Acadie, each after his kind. In *Ambling Through Acadia* Charles Hanson Towne gave us a prose idyll of his swallow-flight through the orchard blossoms of the Cornwallis Valley. The delightful essays of Dr. MacMechan bring forth the inner spirit of the Province—"the Nova Scotianess of Nova Scotia", as he found it in the romance of its history and the epic story of its ships. Now comes Miss Dennis with a different approach, an intimate, leisurely, chatty book on things Nova Scotian, past and present, strung along the road from Halifax to Shelburne by way of the "Happy Valley". It is a voyage of discovery that she sets before herself:

How little I really knew about my own Province! How much I did not know! Then and there was born the resolution to seek and find Nova Scotia. I would travel over her highways and byways. I would know her cities, her towns, her villages. I would visit the remote and but little frequented islands of her coast. I would talk with the men, women and children I might meet. In their lives would be unfolded the soul of Nova Scotia. I would learn, too, about those who had gone before, the pioneer men and women who shaped the policies and moulded the destinies of Nova Scotia. I would pause in silent tribute at their pioneer graves.

So off she starts, along the road the Clockmaker took one bright May morning around the Basin and across country to Windsor. History fairly crowds in upon her. Winslow, the Uniackes, Haliburton, William Black the circuit rider, and many another, step from their niches, each to take his place in the pageant. Of an earlier day are the French—D'Anville, Ramezay, and the peasantry of Grand Pre. By the time Blomidon is sighted we are in a world of legend, the land of capes and islands where Glooscap wrought his mighty works. Then the apple orchards, intermingled with more history made real through lively anecdotes and fresh sidelights on the actors in our rough peninsular story. And, as a setting for it all, here is a landscape of magical beauty. The shore road along the North Mountain, for instance, suggests a new trail:

It should be called "The Fundy Trail". The wonders of it are yet with me. I see still the marvellous blue of the waters and the picturesque sculpturing along the shores. I descend suddenly into the wonderful vaults and just as abruptly ascend them. . . . Sometimes sheltered in the crotch of the V, at other times perched on its apices, are the villages—little fishing hamlets with wharves, boats, weirs, and traps, all the gear of the fisherman's ilk.

It is surprising what contacts with great personalities of the past one finds in the Province. When Napoleon was landed in St. Helena, Phillip Goodrick (of Sandy Point) rowed the stroke oar, while the following document, still preserved, released the good ship *Harmony* belonging to Gideon White of Shelburne:

These are to certify that I took the schooner *Harmony*—Nathaniel Carver, Master, belonging to Plymouth, but on account of his good service have given him up his vessel again.

Dated on b'd His Majesty's Ship *Albemarle*, August 17, 1782, in Boston Bay.

HORATIO NELSON.

And so on. *Down in Nova Scotia* (a characteristic title, by the way) is perhaps the most vivid book yet written on the Province, as full of interest, in Sam Slick's phrase, "as an egg is full of meat." The tourist will find it a fascinating *vade-mecum*, and Bluenose himself, as he reads it, will learn to appreciate still more the storied past and the indefinable charm of his native land.

H. F. M.

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DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE NORTH-WEST COMPANY. Edited with introduction, notes and appendices by W. Stewart Wallace, M.A. Toronto. The Champlain Society, 1934. Pp. xiv., 528. Five illustrations.

Though the North-West Company was one of the most powerful influences in the life of Canada during the fifty years prior to 1821, the details of its origin, organization and activities have hitherto been very obscure because of the fragmentary nature of the materials that were available to the student of history. In this volume Mr. Wallace has attempted to rescue from oblivion many of these details, and to provide a connected story of the Company, from its first attempt to organize by pooling the resources of a few rival traders to its final merger with the Hudson's Bay Company in 1921. To this end he has brought together in one volume not only the historical fragments hitherto known and published, but also much new material that he has unearthed in the archives of the Hudson's Bay Company in London and in the Sulpician Library in Montreal. Most notable of these discoveries are the minutes of the North-West Company at Grand Portage and Fort William, 1801-14, those from 1801-07 having been obtained from the Sulpician Library, and those from 1807-14 from the Hudson's Bay House. Together they cover one hundred and twenty pages of this volume.

In an introductory chapter of thirty-six pages he has given an excellent summary of the facts and incidents necessary to an appreciation of the documents that follow, and in Appendix A, which comprises eighty pages, he has provided a biographical dictionary of the men mentioned in the text. This in itself is an achievement that can be appreciated only by those who have worked in the period or have tried to distinguish between obscure characters, often with identical names, and to build up a connected account line upon line,

gathered here and there from widely separated times and places. Appendix B affords a select bibliography relating to the history of the North-West Company, and is followed by an adequate index. The illustrations include Simon McTavish, the two McGillivrays, John Ogilvy and William McKay.

The volume as a whole is intensely interesting, and takes one deep into North-West lore. It helps one to understand the interest of Upper and Lower Canada in the West at the time of Confederation, as well as to understand the basis of Canada's claim to that vast hinterland from Lake of the Woods to the Pacific, over which the Nor'-Westers had roamed, traded and left a half-breed population that in the fulness of time, and when legitimized by the Church, would claim vested rights in the land and argue that these rights could not be extinguished without their consent.

Curiously enough, the story is linked at one point and for a moment only with Nova Scotia, through Patrick Small, a grand-nephew of General John Small, Lieutenant-Col. of the 2nd Battalion, 84th Regiment, who inherited his uncle's estates in Hants county, on conditions that he did not fulfil. It is also linked with Prince Edward Island, through Lord Selkirk, who planted settlers there as in the Red River valley, and for a few stirring years was a potent influence on the course of events both east and west.

It is fitting that these documents should appear in the publications of the Champlain Society, since without the work of Champlain there might have been no Quebec as a base of operations for the westward drive and organization of that company which involved in its destinies the future of such a large part of Canada.

D. C. H.

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THE PLATONIC LEGEND. By Warner Fite, Stuart Professor of Ethics, Princeton University. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1934.

THE ARGUMENT OF PLATO. By F. H. Anderson, Professor of Philosophy in the University of Toronto. J. M. Dent & Sons, 1934.

These two additions to the mass of Platonic literature give evidence of the continuing interest in Plato's work, whether that interest be favourable or the reverse.

Professor Anderson aims at giving in brief compass a connected statement, logically ordered, of the different phases of Plato's teaching. He omits, as a matter of course, the dramatic coloring, the controversial points, and the various Platonic problems that lead into fascinating by-paths. What is left is a sober, composite description, collected from the different dialogues, of the substance of their doctrine, put as far as possible in Plato's own words, and kept free from technical discussion. Such an account should prove useful to the student who comes for the first time to the study of Plato, especially in translation. The author represents the traditional position.



Professor Fite, on the other hand, has given us a book that is alive with all the enthusiasm of attack. Its title, its advertising, and its general tone proclaim it a new addition to the school of "de-bunking". The idea that Plato should be detected at long last and shown up to the world is stimulating; one had supposed that everything in his life and writings that could possibly be assailed had long ago been attacked by the numerous line of his critics and detractors, who began in his life-time. So one commences to read with high expectations. It turns out, however, that it is not so much Plato as the Platonic legend that is to be deflated. Various admirers, such as Paul Shorey, Paul Elmer More, and A. E. Taylor, have suggested in moments of enthusiasm that Plato was and is perfection itself, and that his works contain, at least in essence, the wisdom and sanctity of the ages. Hence the legend of infallibility.

In refutation of this, we are told in indignant terms, amongst other things, that Plato treated women very unsentimentally, not to say brutally; that Socrates in his death was the victim not of "freedom of speech", but of personal unpopularity and his aristocratic associations: that both Socrates and Plato in their political views were aristocratic and anti-democratic; that they both succumbed too much to the prevailing weakness of their time, devotion to the charm of handsome boys.

Anyone who has ever read Plato himself (as distinct from those who have written about Plato) might well exclaim in disappointment, "Is that all? So much I knew already."

Professor Fite, however, is quite honest, and claims to be enlightening not those who have read the Greek, but those who have met Plato through the medium of translators and commentators. He urges that the best translators (and one would suppose that Plato has been particularly fortunate here) are misleading. Indeed, rarely have the advantages of reading a classical author in the original been so strongly and ably stated. Professor Fite's main conclusion seems to be "If you would read Plato, do so in the Greek."

Some small imperfections and slips mar the work. There seems to be no defence for quoting the Greek language in the Latin alphabet. Those who don't know Greek won't understand it, and those who do won't like it. (Is it possible that the decay of Greek is such that even the printer couldn't produce the type?) Again, the author in his crusading zeal occasionally rushes into positive mis-statement. For instance, we are told that the women in the death scene were summarily dismissed, whereas the text of the *Phaedo* says explicitly that they were with Socrates "a long time" just before the last. Also, one might ask when Pericles was driven into exile, as stated on page 152.

However, I should not like to give a false impression. The book is better than its title. It is, in the main, clear, honest, and penetrating. The figure of Plato emerges all the better for a little scrubbing and without serious impairment, at least for those to whom it is not news that the Athenian democracy had its faults, and that the social condition of women in contemporary Athens was not all it should have been.

A. K. GRIFFIN.

**PRESIDENT MASARYK TELLS HIS STORY.** By Paul Capek. Nelson, Toronto. 1934. \$2.25.

President Masaryk is one of that select company of world figures who emerged from the Great War, and of that still more select company of war-time statesmen in whom a fickle democracy has kept faith during post-war years. Born of peasant stock, he gradually made his way through school and university, and the straitened circumstances of a private tutor, to a professorship in the new Czech university at Prague. His academic duties failed to satisfy his intellectual energies, and he embarked from time to time on various journalistic ventures, chiefly on literary and philosophical subjects; but his independence of mind, his hatred of shams, and his belief in religion made him the target alike of ardent nationalists, clericals and liberals. He seemed to be ever in some kind of intellectual combat. When the Great War broke out, he was but a moderately successful professor, with a penchant for journalism and politics, and almost at the age when university authorities on this side of the Atlantic retire their professors. But Masaryk, the man of action, was yet to begin his career. Slipping out of Austria-Hungary, he became the head of the Czecho-Slovak revolutionary movement, a leader without an army, an ambassador without a country. Yet fortune, in the shape of the Allies, smiled on him. In 1918 he organized the Czech army of prisoners in Russia, and then preceded them on their epic march, across Siberia and round the world, home. Ere he reached home, he had been elected President of the new Czecho-Slovak State.

This charming volume of reminiscences reveals him as the student who perforce has left his books to do a job that must be done, a job he frankly enjoyed as he did his books. Ostensibly it is the story of his life from boyhood to presidency, but dates and events are but pegs on which he hangs ideas. Here are his views on religion, on education, on Plato, on Kant, on marriage and sex, on socialism, on politics, and so on, interspersed with matter-of-fact accounts of his courtship and marriage, his teachers and his students, and the historic events in which he played so great a rôle. The book adds little to the knowledge of facts either of Masaryk's career or of the rise of the Czecho-Slovak State, but it will be a mine for the biographer who some day or other will reconstruct his intellectual life. Incidentally, it emphasizes the fact that Czech nationalism was decidedly the cultural fruit of much planting and digging and watering by poets and historians, by philosophers and journalists.

ROBERT A. MACKAY.

**THE IDEALS OF EAST AND WEST.** By Kenneth Saunders, Litt. D. Macmillans in Canada—\$3.50.

This volume, which is dedicated to H. H. the Maharajah Gaewar of Baroda, consists of lectures delivered at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California, and at the University of London. Dr. Saunders provides for two leading interests of the modern mind. There is a

world-wide search for a way of life, and there is also a new hospitality to guidance from all the great masters of mankind. This new emphasis on ethics as the ultimate test of what is valuable reflects itself in six chapters, which form the main substance of the book. These consist of admirable short sketches of the Ethics of India, of the Chinese, of the Japanese, of the Greeks, of the Hebrews, with a chapter on Christian Ethics to conclude. No attempt is made at comparative evaluation. The treatment in each case is positive and appreciative, at once historical and modern. The reader is left to come to his own conclusions, although he is helped to do so by a delightful Prologue and Epilogue, the former of which is placed at Ephesus during the first century of our era, and the latter at Changan in the Ninth century. The book is greatly enhanced in value by a well chosen anthology, placed after each of the chapters, illustrating the ethical teachings which are discussed in the preceding pages. The Index of Subjects might have been expanded. It is too short to be useful. However, the book is at once delightful to read and profitable to study.

J. S. THOMSON.

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THE REVOLUTIONARY EMPEROR. By S. K. Padover, Ph.D. London, Cape, 1934. Pp. 414.

This book contains the story of a man who, in his last sad days, reckoned himself a failure. Joseph II, Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, was born on March 13th, 1741. His mother was the celebrated Maria Theresa, Archduchess of Austria and Queen of Hungary. His father was Francis of Lorraine, Grand Duke of Tuscany, and afterwards the Emperor Francis I. At the time of Joseph's birth his mother's fortunes were at their lowest ebb. Ringed around by enemies, of whom the chief was Frederick the Great of Prussia, the young and beautiful queen owed the preservation of her throne to the loyalty and devotion of the Hungarian people, and to her own courage and indomitable will.

Imperious in all her relations in life, Maria Theresa ruled her son with relentless severity. Although he had inherited her high-spirit and self-will, he was obliged to submit to her scheme of education, which was rigorously carried out. She laid great stress on his religious training, with the result that he grew up hating all "pedagogues" as he called them, especially those wearing the priest's garb.

On the death of his father in 1765, Maria Theresa associated her son with herself in the government of the country under the title of co-regent, but Joseph soon found that this promotion was merely nominal. The only direction in which he was permitted any real power was in the army. Unable to cope with his mother's will, the young man sought escape in travel. He visited in turn the chief countries of Europe; Italy first, then France, and, later, Russia where he became the friend and ally of Catherine the Great. In Paris he found his young sister, Marie Antoinette, then at the height of her

bloom and beauty. He pronounced her to be "a charming and honourable woman," but did not fail to lecture her on those faults which were afterwards to prove her ruin.

Maria Theresa died in 1780, and the way was then clear for the Emperor to carry out the reforms on which his heart had long been set. He was sincerely anxious for the improvement of his country, but his ideas were too far in advance of his time, and he carried them out too ruthlessly, thus raising up enemies for himself on every hand. In order to reform abuses in the Church, he suppressed over 700 monasteries, thereby rousing the anger of the Papacy. He liberated the Jews, but at the same time obliged them to serve in the army, an action resented by Jews and Christians alike. He made education compulsory in public schools for all races and creeds, an intolerable trial to devout Catholics, pious Protestants and orthodox Jews. He alienated the Freemasons by regulating their societies; he humiliated the nobles by depriving them of their privileges, and by ennobling the rich bourgeois.

The way of the reformer, like that of the transgressor, is hard, although, of course, for very different reasons. Too often the people whom he is trying to raise and improve have not the slightest desire to be reformed, and thus he meets with opposition, disappointments and reverses. So it was with Joseph II. His last days were embittered, and his death was hastened by the knowledge that he had failed in what he had believed to be his mission, and all his empire was in revolt against him. He died in Vienna on February 20th, 1790.

Mr. Padover has accomplished a valuable piece of work in this biography. He is not a Strachey or a Guedalla. There is neither wit nor brilliance in the book. It is sometimes heavy and often wordy. But instead of being merely a charming impressionistic sketch of a little-known man, it contains a full-length portrait, in which every feature is faithfully delineated, every characteristic noted with care and impartiality, and yet with sympathy as well.

M. JOSEPHINE SHANNON.

#### ENGLISH LITERATURE AND CULTURE IN RUSSIA (1553-1840).

By E. J. Simmons, Harvard University Press. \$3.50.

There was room for a book on this subject, and Dr. Simmons is the ideal author. He has stolen a march on most young university instructors, for this, his first book, is not his doctoral dissertation, and so is very readable. Dr. Simmons has had an eye for the amusing as well as the serious in his field, and the ability to impart his delight to the reader. The present reviewer hardly laid the book down until he had completed it.

Until the latter part of the 18th century, English literature played little part in Russia. But traders, merchants, physicians, and artisans introduced English culture and methods. Czars were greatly in love with English ways and methods, and Ivan was enamoured of an

English match despite seemingly insuperable obstacles. "Since Ivan already had a wife, his seventh to be exact, the ambassador was ordered to say, if any objections were raised on this score, that his sovereign would put aside his present wife, and that any children by his English bride would receive every recognition, except a claim on the throne." Ivan was a resolute lover, but he had to deal with the greatest of English diplomats, Queen Elizabeth; so with relief one learns that the seventh wife was left in the palace.

In Catherine the Great's time English literature became a factor in Russian culture. Dr. Simmons traces this influence in clear and interesting fashion. To the student of English literature it is of importance to know what authors, and which of their characteristics, appealed to the Russians. A reviewer cannot do justice to this phase of Dr. Simmons's investigations; it is best, then, for him merely to urge the readers of the DALHOUSIE REVIEW not to miss this volume.

B. M.

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HALT AND PARLEY. By G. H. CLARKE. Macmillans in Canada. \$1.50.

Lovers of poetry will welcome this slim volume by the Professor of English at Queen's, for it sounds the note of real poetry. The two leading characteristics are emotional richness and fine restraint. Prof. Clarke uses many metres, usually with great success. The title poem has a finality of beauty; it must surely take first, or almost first, place in Canadian poetry. Two stanzas from *Eclipse* will suggest some of the quality of these poems:

So there we were on the height,  
 Waiting the great God's word,  
 But we heard  
 Nothing in that tense night,  
 Nothing . . . Then dawning light  
 Brought the sweet note of a bird.

And a symphony straightway outbroke  
 From sky and meadow and tree,  
 Until we,  
 Hearing those rapturous folk,  
 Stirred from our stupor, awoke,  
 Resumed mortality.

B. M.

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PLAGIARISM AND IMITATION DURING THE ENGLISH RENAISSANCE.  
 By Harold Ogden White. Harvard Studies in English,  
 XII. Harvard University Press, pp. x : 209.

The titles of the four chapters that this book contains give a good summary of the contents. Chapter I, Classical and Continental Renaissance Theories of Imitation; Chapter II, The Theory of Imitation before Sidney; Chapter III, The Theory of Imitation from Sidney to Jonson; Chapter IV, The Theory of Imitation from Jonson onward.

The classical theory of literary production "encourages imitation, avoids independent fabrication, and holds the subject matter of literature as common property. But it insists that imitation is not enough, and demands that individual originality be shown by choosing and using models carefully, by reinterpreting borrowed matter, and by improving on those models and that matter." After the Middle Ages, "The Continental Renaissance exhumed the ancient principles but . . . at first set up a new dictatorship of classical laws. And as dictators the classical laws came into sixteenth century England. Their day of absolutism was brief. Year by year, man by man, grew the steadily increasing demand for liberty, for originality. With the appearance of an English critical canon, the ancient insistence on the individual contribution was asserted as a cardinal point". But "They did not damn imitation outright, even though its abuse was evil. They did not demand independence alone, even though its right use was good. . . English writers from Sidney to Jonson . . . restored in its true form the classical doctrine that originality of real worth is to be achieved only through creative imitation."

It will be seen that the book has been allowed to review itself; a convenient practice, and possible because Dr. White gives in the proper place intelligible brief summaries. He has given the public a sound piece of work, scholarly rather than popular, but containing in easily accessible form much knowledge of interest to all students of the history of literature. The book is clearly and carefully written.

E. W. N.

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A SHORT HISTORY OF ENGLISH WORDS. By Bernard Groom.  
Toronto. The Macmillan Co.

"There is a peculiar tedium, a special kind of boredom, which seems inseparable from books on words".

Mr. Groom has escaped the tedium and boredom by the selection and arrangement of his material. But even the general reader, for whom the book is written, expects something more than a review of the ground adequately covered by the popular works of Greenough and Kittredge, McKnight, and Jespersen; and although the author's reliance on the authority of the Oxford Dictionary guarantees the general accuracy of his statements, one misses the independence and scholarship of Ernest Weekley whose delight is to prove that august authority in the wrong.

The author is to be commended for his timely insistence that the study of language cannot be divorced from the study of literature, that poets are the makers of language, and that an intelligent appreciation of English literature, especially of the 16th and 17th centuries, is impossible without a knowledge of the linguistic background. This he has clearly shown in his two chapters on the historical development of the English vocabulary.

A. R. JEWITT.

LE CULTIVATEUR AMERICAIN: Etude sur l'oeuvre de Saint John de Crèvecoeur. By Howard C. Rice. Paris. 1933.

This work is a doctoral dissertation; but, written for the Sorbonne, it has all the merits of French dissertations. It is an excellent, comprehensive study of *Letters from an American Farmer*, first published in London in 1782, and of its author. Dr. Rice traces the work from the MS. form, through the English edition, and the two enlarged French versions; he shows clearly how life in France after 1782 changed, consciously and unconsciously, Crèvecoeur's opinions. To current French ideas can be traced his now definite anti-British bias, his growingly idealistic presentation of America and Americans. Always Dr. Rice seeks to get behind the work to the man and the forces playing upon him. Never does he try to make Crèvecoeur a world figure. The work is a model of well conducted research, and a book that can be read with real enjoyment.

B. M.

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THE ART OF THE NOVEL. By Henry James. With an Introduction by Richard P. Blackmur. Scribners. Pp. xxxix —348. Price \$3.00.

To Henry James the novel was almost a supreme act of intelligence. It was not an obvious transcript from life, but a careful selection and arrangement of material to embody a point of view. It was eminently an expression of our social life, which is based on intelligence. The novelist must be artist, social observer, and thinker. Of the reader something can be asked: attention, intelligence, intuition, and appreciation of style. Perhaps James demanded too much of the reader; certainly he is not the most popular of classics to-day—to the reading public's own loss.

In his later years James wrote a series of prefaces for the limited New York edition of his novels. In these prefaces he did more than give the genesis and development of each novel; he gave explicitly his conception of the nature and function of the novel. Consequently, these prefaces constitute one of the finest critiques of the novel in English. Unfortunately only millionaires and rich libraries could afford the New York edition. The reviewer remembers his envy whenever he looked at the set in the Harvard Library. Thanks to Messrs. Scribners and to Mr. Blackmur, who has contributed a helpful introduction, the ordinary reader can possess these prefaces. This volume should be on the shelves of every reader of the novel, be he or be he not a Jamesian. If the study of these pages will turn a person to the novels themselves, the volume will have proved doubly rewarding.

B. M.

PAPERS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CANADIAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION. Volume VI. Montreal, Quebec, May, 1933. Kingston, Ontario: The Jackson Press. 1934. Pp. 284.

Economics and Political Science are enriched each year by the contributions made at the annual meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association. These cover a wide range of subjects, represent a great deal of laborious research, and make accessible much invaluable material. Moreover, the discussions are invariably on Canadian topics, or of especial Canadian interest; and although the shelf which holds the meagre store of Canadian economic and political studies is still pitifully short, the Political Science Association has done much to overcome the deficiency by adding six or seven very valuable inches.

A few of the contributions may be mentioned to give an idea of the scope and nature of the topics discussed in this volume: Stephen Leacock, "The Revision of Democracy"; J. A. Maxwell, "Provincial Conferences and Better Terms"; H. A. Innis, "Economic Nationalism"; Reports of Round Table Conferences on "The Status of Aliens in Canada", "Interest Rate and Price Fluctuations", "Agricultural Credit", "Canadian Constitutional Amendment".

R. MACGREGOR DAWSON.

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THE NEW DEAL IN CANADA. By Major Eric Harris. Toronto. The Ryerson Press, 1934. \$1.25.

It is difficult to treat this little book seriously, although the author is undoubtedly sincere in his convictions. Major Harris appears to be a business man with sufficient leisure to become aware of many of our social and economic problems, but who lacks the time to acquaint himself with the best literature upon these questions. Consequently, one reads that "More and more, people who know are beginning to tell us that this is no ordinary depression, but a major breakdown of the capitalistic system. As intelligent an economic commentator as Stuart Chase says that he is not sure whether it will be over in twelve months, or in 1950." An excursion into Canadian economic history reveals the fact that "the depression of the early seventies resulted in the cancellation by the United States of the reciprocity treaty. . . ."

After a survey of present economic conditions—a description which might well have come from the pen of a radical Socialist—the question is raised as to what is to be done about it: Communism? No. "The climate of Canada is not suitable to the growth of extreme radicalism, and the people of Canada will have none of it." Socialism? No. "We are not ready for it." No, the way of escape is through neither Communism nor Socialism; indeed, the old system has not been



so bad after all, but there are "some serious leaks in our economic roof," and "probably it will prove to be better just to repair our present roof."

The roof is to be repaired, first, by replacing a few of the present monetary shingles with new ones. The price level must be raised, and this can easily be done by reducing the gold content of the dollar. However, gold does not seem to be essential, for, according to the recollections of the Hon. Ian MacKenzie, the Prime Minister of Canada had stated in the House of Commons that \$71,000,000 of the currency of Canada was "covered by the security, character, and integrity... of the Canadian people." Apparently these "character" dollars are to be so controlled as to maintain a stable price level.

Another large hole in this economic roof is the reckless abandon with which our producers sell goods to outside markets. Our foreign trade must be controlled; but not because, as might be assumed, the growth of economic nationalism abroad is restricting the markets for our raw materials and foodstuffs, but because it is necessary for us to accept goods in payment, and we may be obliged to take such a quantity of goods as to cause economic indigestion. One is surprised to find, a little farther on, that "the foremost and first necessity of our national policy is the decrease of our tariffs to the point where they will allow sufficient imports to balance the exports we must make."

The taxing machinery of the country, it appears, is to be used primarily as a means of redistributing wealth. Nor are the high taxes which are anticipated to be deprecated, for they will amount, not to a diminution of national income, but merely to a transference of part of it from those who have to those who have not. High taxation "is good for the country as a whole, good for the mass of citizens, and good even for the group which holds the wealth."

There are a few other minor nail-holes which need stopping up, such as amendments to the constitution and the revivifying of the old Liberal Party or the creation of a new one; but the reader must seek out these surprises for himself. The economists may be consoled by the suggestion that they ought to be called upon by the state to treat our economic ills as the citizens of the state call upon medical practitioners; but the layman would be well advised to read such a book as *Economics in a Changing World*, by H. V. Hodson, before accepting wholeheartedly the recommendations made by Major Eric Harris.

S. A. SAUNDERS.