

NEW BOOKS

THE ROMANCE OF THE CANADIAN CANOE, by John Murray Gibbon.
The Ryerson Press. \$5.00.

The Romance of the Canadian Canoe is one of the finest books of its kind ever to have come to the attention of this reviewer. Mr. Gibbon has traced the history of the canoe in Canada from as far back as it is possible to find any records of the craft; he has pointed out the tremendous part it played in the development of the country, the fur trade, and in the almost constant strife between the Indians and the first explorers and settlers. He has pointed out, too, that had it not been for the canoe and the fact that the Indians could construct it speedily and replace it in brief time at the waterway they wished to traverse, many of the less accessible parts of the country might never have been opened up for trade until much later than they were, the vast mineral resources of the north and northwest would not have been discovered for many years, and the entire history of the continent might easily have been very different.

In addition to recording the purely historical side of the invention and use of the canoe in Canada, on all three coasts and in the inland waterways, the author has woven much of the legend that has grown up around the birchbark canoe down the years, has described the construction of the different types of canoe used in this country and has ended his narrative by citing some of the better-known verse of Canadian poets extolling the virtues of the canoe. One of these quotations particularly appealed to me, Laura E. McCully's beautiful *Canoe Song at Twilight*:

Down in the west the shadows rest,
Little grey wave, sing low, sing low!
With a rhythmic sweep o'er the gloomy deep
Into the dusk of the night we go,
And the paddles dip and lift and slip,
And the drops fall back with a pattering drip;
The wigwams deep of the spirit of sleep
Are pitched in the gloom on the headland steep.
Wake not their silence as you go,
Little grey wave, sing low, sing low!

The Romance of the Canadian Canoe combines beauty and information as do few other books on similar subjects. It well merits a place of honour in any library.

C.F.B.

A HISTORY OF THE AMERICAS: FROM DISCOVERY TO NATIONHOOD.
By Vera Brown Holmes. New York: The Ronald Press.
\$5.00 (U.S.)

For many years the great Canadian public utility companies have known, to their profit, of the existence of South America; in

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more recent years, our business firms have been making the same discovery; but with one or two notable exceptions, the Departments of History in our universities are still unaware of the large continent south of the Isthmus of Panama—indeed, only in comparatively recent years have some of them discovered that the United States has a history worthy of study. Yet in recent years a new approach has been made in many American colleges: students are not directed to the study of the history of individual countries in the two continents, but to the study of the history of the continents as a whole. The present book is the first volume of a history designed primarily for such courses, but other readers will find it extremely useful and illuminating, for the material has been so arranged that, for example, a person interested primarily in literature could easily read only the chapters on the culture of the two continents.

To many, unfamiliar with this new approach, the undertaking will seem almost impossible and the results bound to be chaotic, but Dr. Holmes knows that beneath the seemingly endless diversities in the development of the continents there are certain fundamental threads and patterns, and the author has the analytical skill and the gift of presentation to make these common characteristics clear to the reader. The book is divided into five main sections: "Pre-Columbian America", "Discovery and Organization by the White Man," "Colonial Life and Culture", "Secession of America from the Old World," and "The Search for Satisfactory Forms of Government and Recognition." The study begins with a simple examination of the topography of the Western hemisphere. Contrary to general opinion, the Andes are not a continuation of the North American mountain system; a space of 1200 miles intervenes in Central America, and there the mountains run east and west. Again, the Caribbean Sea is the heart of the Americas; from this region the Spanish spread out fanwise and soon saw the need of holding Florida as a protection to their interests in this heart-land. In such ways Dr. Holmes relates geography and history. Then follows a brief but adequate account of the pre-Columbian civilizations in the light of our most recent knowledge. A passage like this gives one food for thought: "To the horror of the artistically minded Indians, Pizarro had all this treasure, except that intended for the Spanish King, melted down to bars of gold and silver of equal weight which he then apportioned to his followers. Pizarro's own share represented an enormous fortune." (p. 122). The first fruits of European civilization for the benighted Americans!

Dr. Holmes points out that though the Age of Discovery was part of the Renaissance, the concepts of the relation of colonies to motherland were feudal in origin. Close control was inevitable in the Spanish colonies since discovery came just when the rather freer mediaeval government of Spain was passing into a strict, despotic form. English colonies reflected political theories and problems of the 17th century; the War of Independence, when it came, was in part the result of the clash between new ideas of the relation of Crown and parliament that had grown up in 18th century England while political thought had remained static in the colonies. Dr.

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Holmes traces the part that religion and religious bigotry played in all the settlements. South American Indians were fortunate in that they were not mentioned in the Bible, for the Spanish kings took them under their protection against exploiters, whereas negroes had little protection anywhere since the Old Testament showed them as destined by God to be slaves. Had New England been less Protestant she might have won over French Canada at the time of the Revolution. On the other hand, if Richelieu had not reversed the earlier trend of allowing Huguenots to migrate, French colonies would have been stronger and shown more initiative.

The treatment of the Independence movement is excellent. The author is not devoted to any single cause in any one state, but examines disinterestedly the various causes of the separation. Again she shows real balance in apportioning responsibility to mother countries and colonies. In this section the author is especially good in showing how close were the relations between general European conditions and developments in the colonies. Many Canadians will discover how important a part Britain played in the Independence movement in South America. The work closes with the recognition by the United States of the chief South and Central American countries—to be followed soon by Great Britain—and the promulgation of the Monroe Doctrine, which introduced the theory of the "Two Spheres", which the present century has tended to break down.

And what is the underlying thought of the study? Despotic government in state and church is bad for both the governing and the governed. The English colonies had from the beginning opportunities for self-government and in the range of the colonies a growing faith in religious tolerance. Consequently they were able fairly quickly to work out a *modus vivendi* after the Revolution, whereas South America is still immature politically and religiously.

A word should be said about the excellent illustrations, which alone represent much patient research in many libraries and museums. Again, the concluding chapters of the various sections are admirable summaries and comparative studies of the material presented in the sections.

Canadians may take pride in the fact that this admirable history is the work of a native of New Brunswick. Dr. Holmes, wife of the Dean of Divinity of King's College, Halifax, is a graduate of the University of New Brunswick and did her graduate work at McGill University; she is now Professor of History, Smith College, Mass., and is a regular contributor on South American subjects to the learned journals. On other grounds, however, the book is strongly recommended to Canadian readers: they will not only learn much about their neighbours, but they will also profit from seeing their own history set in proper perspective against developments both in Europe and on the two Western continents.

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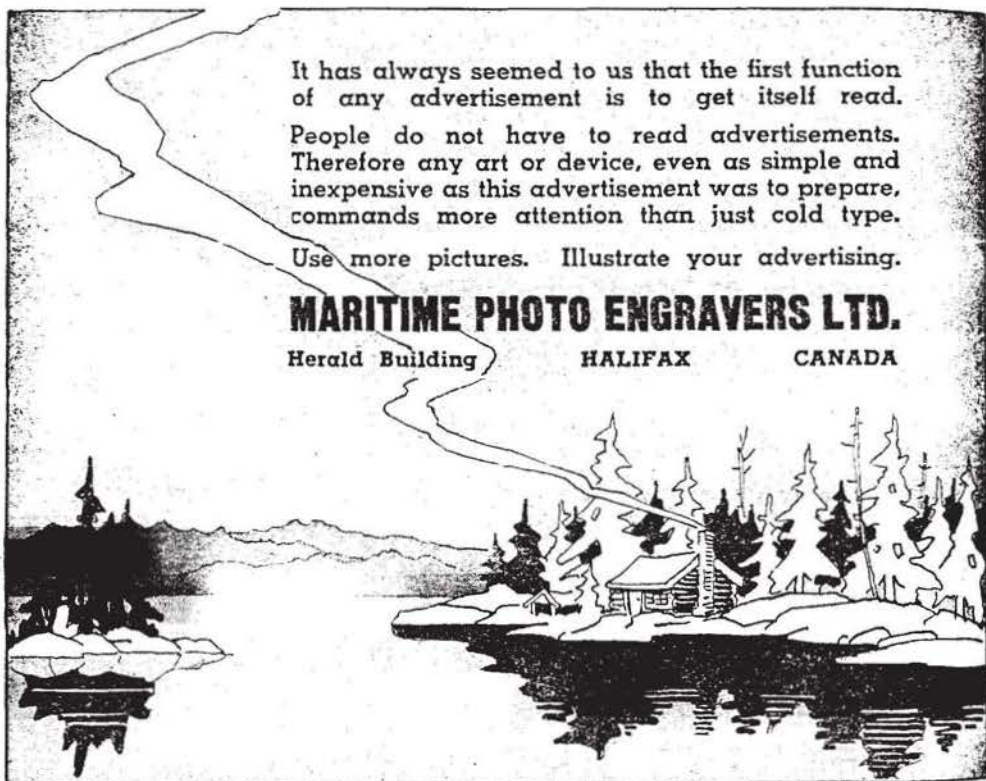
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CANADA



THE RIME OF THE ANCIENT MARINER, by Samuel T. Coleridge. Clarke Irwin & Co., Ltd. 50c.

One in the series known as the Zodiac Books, published by Clarke, Irwin & Company, Limited, Samuel Taylor Coleridge's best-known poem, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, is here presented a small format, with seven very vivid illustrations by Mervyn Peake. The artist's work is strongly reminiscent of some of the illustrations done by Gustave Doré for Dante's *Divina Commedia* and very greatly accentuates the tragic atmosphere of Coleridge's poem. Indeed, it gives to the "Rime" an entirely new emphasis that is lacking in the ordinary unillustrated editions.

This is number eight in the Zodiac series which now totals twelve titles and embraces the work of such well-loved authors as Lewis Carroll and Edward Lear among others. The series provides convenient, yet permanent texts between hard covers, each sized for carrying in the pocket.

THE PORTABLE COLERIDGE, edited, and with an Introduction by I. A. Richards. (Viking Portable Library Series). Macmillans in Canada. \$2.95.

Professor I. A. Richards, who describes himself as "a teacher, semanticist, and critic", has, in preparing this edition of Coleridge, created what will doubtless become the authoritative one-volume edition of Coleridge, according to his publishers,

Coleridge himself presents the phenomenon of a writer who intentionally built about himself, "a myth of sloth and wasted talent", while at the same time making what are now looked upon as the greatest contributions of his time to the body of English poetry and criticism in the form of his *Biographia Literaria*, other literary criticism, political essays, notebooks and letters.

In addition to the very able and scholarly biography of Coleridge contributed by Professor Richards in the Introduction to this latest addition to the Viking Portable Library, the reader will find most of Coleridge's shorter poems, as well as "Kubla Khan", "Christabel," and the very well known "Rime of the Ancient Mariner."

The Portable Coleridge is a volume worthy of a place on the shelves of any library, public or private.

C.F.B.

THE ROADS FROM THE ISLES by D. D. C. Pochin Mould. Oliver & Boyd (in Canada, Clarke Irwin & Co.). \$3.75.

This book deals with the North West Highlands of Scotland, that is the area north and west of Strathmore or the Great Glen in which the Caledonian Canal runs. To the present reviewer this area is better known (or perhaps he should say was better known) than any area of similar size. He has cycled very nearly all of its made

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roads, has climbed several of its peaks and walked several of the bypaths described in Miss Mould's book. The stark beauty of its natural scenery, the variety and complexity of lake, sea and mountain, its sheer solitariness have never ceased to enthrall him since the day nearly a quarter of a century ago when he first began to explore it. He is therefore somewhat surprised and disappointed to find so little of this magic come through in "The Roads from the Isles". He feels he would like to recite Swinburne's "Loch Torridon" to Miss Mould and watch the reaction:

"From the gorge we had travelled by starlight, the
sunrise, winged and aflame
Shone large on the live wide wavelets that shuddered
with joy as it came;
As it came and caressed and possessed them, till
panting and laughing with light
From mountain to mountain the water was kindled and
stung to delight
And the grey gaunt heights that embraced and constrained
and compelled it were glad" . . .

But this is unfair. If Miss Mould's writing is sometimes pedestrian, it is always sincere, honest and level-headed. This is something to be grateful for when we remember how much affectation, false sentiment and romantic nonsense has been lavished in the past on the Western Highlands. The book is not a guide book; nor even a general description. It is exactly what the sub-title suggests, a study of some of the old tracts in the N. W. Highlands. Some of those are now absorbed in modern roads, many are not. Miss Mould has been over every one of those she describes and has been at pains to collect from the original sources the available historical, archaeological and geological information concerning each. As her bibliography shows, this has meant careful searching of the volumes of the Geological Survey (the N. W. Highlands incidentally are classic geological ground), and of archeological societies such as the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, and consultation of many other volumes including both Boswell's and Johnson's accounts of the famous Journey to the Hebrides. Miss Mould successfully takes the starch out of the geological and archeological records and everywhere gives us a very readable account of her travels. This reviewer found particularly interesting the chapter on St. Maebhrubha, his sanctuary at Applecross, and the strange rites celebrated in his name even up to the 17th century.

At one time the popular writer on the Highlands of Scotland might have been described as "lad wi' the philabeg" who whistled through his chosen territory in an automobile or was domiciled in a hotel or shooting-lodge in pursuit of the deer, the grouse or the salmon and who embellished his accounts of "adventures" with a few sighs for the good old days and a few romanticized and inaccurately reported local legends. He drooled about the heather and forgot about the midges and was infuriated by hydro-electric schemes (which the practical Miss Mould regards with equanimity). Meanwhile a steadily increasing array of facts was being patiently, diligently and

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accurately recorded by archeologists, geologists and historians and just as diligently hidden away in official proceedings and papers which few people have the opportunity or inclination to consult. Luckily, however, there have occasionally appeared authors who were scientists, scholars or artists as well as "gangrel-bodies", loving tramping for its own sake, and whose books combine first hand experience with lack of sentimentality. J. B. Salmond's book on General Wade is an excellent example.

In this succession Miss Mould's book takes a worthy place. She has used her sources wisely whether dealing with brochs, crannogs, ancient iron workings, coffin roads, military roads and barracks, deforestation, social customs or church history, and generates in a receptive reader a warm feeling of confidence and thanks. The book, which is illustrated by a number of interesting photographs, will naturally appeal most to Canadians of Scottish origin and particularly to any who have already some knowledge of the North West Highlands whether acquired directly or indirectly.

A.S.M.

A HISTORY OF CANADA, by Jean Bruchesi. Translated from the French by R. W. W. Robertson. Clarke, Irwin & Co. (Canada) Limited. \$3.50.

It is an extremely difficult task for a layman to assess a volume of history by a writer of such note as M. Jean Bruchesi, a writer with no fewer than fourteen books on a wide variety of subjects, a majority of them Canadian, to his credit. It is even more difficult when the book to be assessed is read, not in the original French, but in a translation. However, the present translation is of so excellent a calibre that it is far easier than with the average interpretation of meanings of an author writing in a foreign language by the run-of-mine translator. And Mr. R. W. W. Robertson, who is Editor of Clarke, Irwin & Company has done a really outstanding piece of work in making it available to English readers.

This is the only history of French Canada which has been written from the viewpoint of the French for an audience outside the province of Quebec. In penning it, therefore, both the author and the translator have broken ground in a new territory. Canada has yet to encounter a problem in the fields of politics or economics that it has been unable to solve, and it is that ability that has contributed largely to making this country a leader among those lands comprising the British Commonwealth of Nations, as well as an independent nation whose opinions are being listened to with increasing respect by the leaders of other countries. Despite her success in the directions noted above, however, Canada has been less fortunate in her efforts to solve her greatest internal problem—that of reconciling the two diverse elements that have gone to make up her population. And Mr. Bruchesi believes this problem is identical with that of national unity. No complete solution will be possible, in his opinion, until certain realities of a moral and spiritual nature are admitted by all Canadians, and respected by them, too.

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Apart entirely from the ethical problems raised by *A History of Canada*, the book makes particularly fascinating reading for both student and average reader. The panorama of discovery and development is spread before both in a particularly arresting manner, and none of its peculiar merits have been lost in the translation. Both eloquence and humor (something comparatively rare in a work of this type) are to be found in the pages of this volume, which in 1950 won the Prix Duvernay and was honored by l'Academie des Sciences Morales et Politiques in Paris.

C. F. B.

THE YOUNG SHELLEY. By Kenneth Neill Cameron. The Macmillan Co. of Canada. \$7.50

During the last ten years we have had nine or ten major works on Shelley. One wonders how there can possibly be room for another one, this time by the first winner of the annual Modern Language Association-Macmillan Award for a book "which through sound research contributed significantly to general understanding of English or American literature." Professor Cameron has not made any new discoveries of Shelley material; the justification of the book lies in his approach to the material, which he has stated in the introduction:

"The examination of Shelley's personality must proceed, as with that of his works, in relation to formative forces and must attempt to ascertain the basic patterns of behaviour. Here, even in the better studies over-simplifications have crept in. Sympathetic biographers, correctly feeling that Shelley was essentially lovable and admirable, have often (anticipating hostile distortions) metamorphosed these qualities into absolutes in relation to which the total character must be viewed. But modern clinical psychiatry has amply revealed personality structure as a complex of antithetical forces which defy analysis in terms of rigid moral abstractions. In this field, although I have, from time to time, consulted with specialists in the problems of human behaviour, I have attempted little more than to search out major directions. Shelley is essentially important not for his life but for his works. And a predominately [sic] biographical approach leads of itself to false perspectives."

In other words, this study is mainly psychological and sociological with a view to making the reader understand better the works of Shelley. Unfortunately this volume takes us only to 1814, before which date—despite the author's claim that *The Letter to Lord Ellenborough* is "a work to be ranked among the classics of the struggle for freedom of speech [and] succeeds in transcending . . . the issues of the day into a universal application", and his claim that *Queen Mab* "is a great poem in its own right"—Shelley had produced nothing that holds the modern reader, as opposed to the research scholar. We are, however, promised a second volume, which may justify all the details of the present volume.

Professor Cameron seems to feel—supported by such expressions as "no doubt" and "must have been"—that the poet's mother

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was in great part responsible for young Shelley's lack of contact with other boys in his earliest years, and that during these years a strong rejection pattern developed. He is particularly good in his view of 1811 having been a decisive year in Shelley's development:

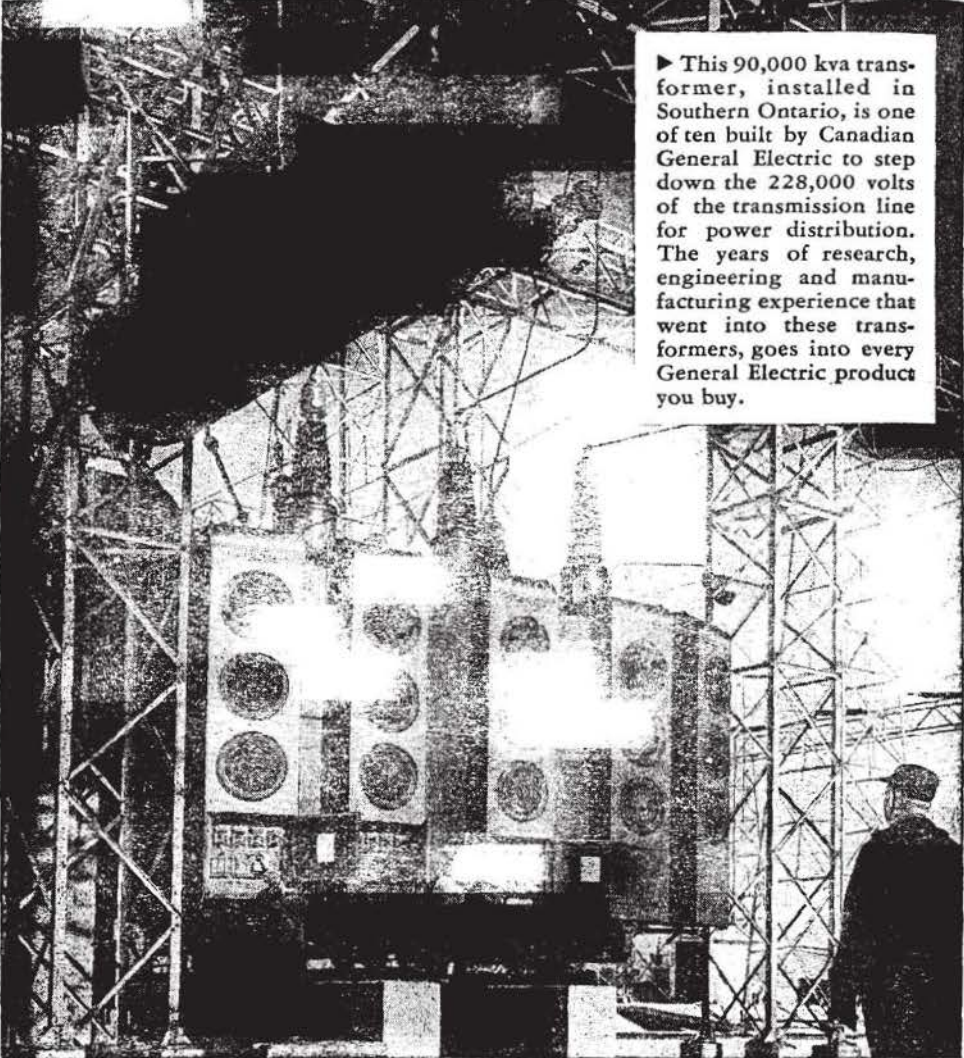
"The year 1811 was the decisive year of Shelley's life. He entered it as an Oxford student and heir to a great estate, with every prospect, as he informed Hunt, of succeeding his father in a political career; he ended it as an outcast, expelled from his university, married to an ex-tavernkeeper's daughter . . . Shelley, in short, had broken caste; he was, as a consequence, whirled out of the orbit of his class, and, after a brief, comet-like career, was to enter a new orbit, that of the city middle-class, the class of Hunt and Godwin, of Hookam and Peacock, of Hazlitt and Bentham, a class in the throes of struggle. In the events of this year the mind and character of Shelley develop and take shape. He emerges essentially as a young man with a purpose, dedicated to the service of humanity."

Professor Cameron traces fully Shelley's political development from the moribund Whiggery of his family and class (with its lip-service to parliamentary reform, Roman Catholic emancipation, the Irish cause, and the folly of the French war) to Godwinism, Tom Paine's creed, and all the various nostrums proposed at the time by wise men and fools. He is charitable to Shelley in the period of naturism and vegetarianism, and he closes his eye to the amusing situation of a young man who is annoyed because he cannot get at the family wealth writing solemnly: "If therefore these 500,000 aristocrats, who possess resources of various degrees of immensity, were to permit these resources to be resolved into their original stock; that is, entirely destroy it, if each earned his own living (which I do not see is at all incompatible with the *height* of intellectual refinement) then I affirm that each would be happy and contented, that crime and temptation to crime would scarcely exist." The tracing of the various stages is meticulously done and thoroughly bolstered with a minute knowledge of the political-sociological writings of the day, but a less scholarly person might wonder if the varying moods of a particularly unstable lad can be so important or can be so clearly defined. Nevertheless, if the work had to be done, it has been done well.

Only praise can be given to Professor Cameron's examination of that amazing episode of the "attempted assassination" at Tremadoc in February, 1813. Again, the discussion of Shelley's unbounded energy, when fully aroused, is well brought out (p. 124). When the author is free from the minutiae of research, he has great skill in writing pithy paragraphs that can set the situation convincingly before the reader; examples are the opening paragraph of Chapter V, and the closing paragraph of the book.

This brings us to the real weakness of the book for any but professed and dedicated scholars. The text covers 278 pages, the notes 124 pages. One could wish that the proportion had been reversed. The body of the book is cluttered with long digressions on every man whom Shelley met—surely the intelligent reader, for example, can be trusted to know something of Godwin's life and marriages—and with summaries of every book or pamphlet Shelley reputedly read. If most of this material had been put into the notes or into appendixes,

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the average lover of Shelley could have read the book with profit and delight. As it is, he is likely to bog down very quickly. Research seems to be killing in professors of English an appreciation of the finer points of style. In the Introduction we have *predominately* for *predominantly*; on p. 131, we find *recrudescence*, where a more neutral word like *resurgence* would be better; in Note 3, p. 358, *fewer* would be better than *less*; and on at least four occasions the author descends to that most vulgar of neologisms, *overall*. On p. 141, line 1, 1912 should read 1812.

BURNS MARTIN

THE ENGLAND OF ELIZABETH, by A. L. Rowse. Macmillans in Canada.
\$5.00

For a number of years past the whole Elizabethan Age has been the subject of a series of studies carried on by the eminent Oxonian, A. L. Rowse, who already has to his credit some authoritative works on this particular period. In *The England of Elizabeth* he discusses the structure of society of the Elizabethan era, and endeavours to explain how it was that a small society of only five million people could have to its credit the amazing achievements of the age—in voyages of discovery, in commerce on the sea, in literature, the drama, the arts—that had Drake, Raleigh, Sir Philip Sidney, Spenser, Bacon, Shakespeare and even Queen Bess herself as its leading figures.

Mr. Rowse endeavours to show his readers to what this society of the Elizabethans owed its remarkable vigour, initiative and creativeness. *The England of Elizabeth* is a fine example of the interpretative sympathy and imaginative insight that characterized the author's previous works and is the first of a duo of books in which he hopes to give a complete picture of Elizabethan England by portraying its accomplishments. This first volume is not a narrative political history, but "a portrait of society, of the classes forming it, of its government and administration, law and religious organizations, education and the social order." The companion volume will depict the achievements of the Elizabethans in the spheres of action and of the mind, at home and overseas.

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C.F.B.

SELECTED WORKS OF LAURENCE STERNE edited by Douglas Grant,
M.A.,D.Phil. Clarke, Irwin & Co., Limited. \$4.75.

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In offering his selections to the public Mr. Grant, who is a former Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Edinburgh, and who has been Associate Professor of English at University College, University of Toronto, since 1948, has presented, in addition to an Introduction, Chronological Table and Sterne's autobiographical Memoirs, *Tristram Shandy*, *A Sentimental Journey Through France and*

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Italy, a selection of the *Sermons of Mr. Yorick*, and some forty-two selections from Sterne's *Letters*.

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For the text of the present volume, Mr. Grant has gone back to original sources, and his book takes its place beside volumes dealing with Johnson and Goldsmith. Others dealing with Browning, Macaulay, Dryden, Matthew Arnold and Burns respectively are in preparation.

C.F.B.

THE PHILOSOPHICS OF F. R. TENNANT AND JOHN DEWEY. by J. Oliver Buswell. Philosophical Library. New York. \$6.00. in U.S.

In this volume Dr. Buswell gives a searching critical account of the philosophics of two eminent living empiricists, one British, F. R. Tennant, and one American, John Dewey. He does not, of course, pretend that they can be called representative of modern thought. (They are eminent modern philosophers who are not empiricists). But since they employ an empirical approach to philosophy, it is clear that they are likely to have affinities with an age in which the scientific attitude and method count for so much. In actual fact Tennant was a physicist before he became a philosopher and Dewey, though not trained in the sciences, has always regarded himself as an exponent of the scientific method (according to Dr. Buswell, mistakenly). For this reason the book is of interest to more than the professional philosopher or theologian. It has something to offer to anyone who tries seriously and sincerely to understand the wider aspects of this astonishing age in which we live.

Dr. Buswell's book is scholarly, exact and completely annotated; but it would be foolish to pretend it is easy. On the contrary, it requires the reader's close attention and should be taken in not too large doses. It is also true to say that some elementary knowledge of philosophical terminology is highly desirable if not necessary for its understanding. Granted the conditions indicated, readers will find the book stimulating and refreshing. Mere skimming will benefit no-one.

The author begins with Tennant and deals in turn with his psychology, epistemology and metaphysics. He shows that Tennant's exact meaning is not infrequently obscure (this fate seems to overtake all philosophers) and that his thought is often surprisingly unaware, especially in psychology of opinions and developments freely expressed or widely developed at the time at which he was writing. Tennant's starting-point in "the existence of so-called knowledge of so-called actuality by so-called persons", his dualism, his categories of the understanding, are all explained and discussed. Probably the most original and interesting of his views are those on the theology. He insists most emphatically that theology is an outgrowth from ordinary knowledge of the world and man and must not be isolated from the

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other sciences. He rejects historical evidence and religious and mystic experience as evidence for God's existence and, having thus tied one hand behind his back, so to speak, proceeds to give a remarkable exhibition of the sword-play of reasoning with the other. Confirmed atheists ought to read Tennant's arguments for God.

As with Tennant, so does Dr. Buswell deal with Dewey, first his psychology, then his epistemology, then his metaphysics. It is one of the merits of the book that the author is quite explicit about his own philosophical standpoint (he is a dualist, a realist and a theist), yet does not allow his exposition of the philosophies of others to be coloured by his own opinions except in the occasional use of emotionally toned words (e.g. "vortex of pantheism", "ridiculous philosophy of change"). He is clearly more in sympathy with Tennant than with Dewey, yet gives a very clear and fair account of Dewey's position, without perhaps giving full credit to the remarkable dynamic elements it contains. It is surprising, however, that Buswell does not mention at all Dewey's book "*Reconstruction in Philosophy*" which this reviewer has always regarded as the best exposition of Dewey's philosophy as a whole. (He is surprised to find elevated to this position Dewey's "*Art as Experience*", which he regards as the least satisfactory of Dewey's books. But then he believes that a satisfactory aesthetic is impossible on Dewey's premises). Dr. Buswell shows clearly that Dewey's writing is at times confused and that frequently his language is inconsistent with his stated principles; having rejected dualisms, for example, he continues to speak in dualist terms. He also shows how Dewey's dislike of making distinctions (due to his fear of formalism) tends to make his writing nebulous and unintelligible. More seriously, he shows how frequently Dewey, whether consciously or unconsciously, misrepresents the views of others or sets up a man of straw in order to knock him down. Although Dr. Buswell does not say so, it would appear that Dewey is at times more of a propagandist than a philosopher, that is, he seems more interested in persuading readers to accept his point of view than in seriously and systematically working out that point of view. To John Dewey's numerous worshippers the second half of this book should be prescribed reading.

The purpose of the book is mainly critical; it does not pretend to be otherwise. A test of its value must therefore be "Is it merely destructive, or does it clear the way for constructive thinking?" Each reader must answer the question for himself. This reader can only say that for him its value has been positive. His own philosophical thinking, such as it is, has centered to a considerable extent round Dewey, and he is grateful for having some of his opinions confirmed, others rejected and many clarified.

A.S.M.

PIERRE VERGNIAUD, by Claude G. Bowers. Macmillans in Canada \$7.50.

Mr. Claude Bowers, present United States ambassador to Chili, has given his readers in this excellently-annotated volume, the only biography in English of Pierre Vergniaud, leader of the Girondists, and

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a figure whose story has a spectacular significance for all who believe that just ends are unobtainable by strong-arm methods or by dictatorship. Although a majority of readers know little or nothing about him, and though to many he will be only an unfamiliar name, Vergniaud is spoken of by those familiar with him as the "voice of the French Revolution."

The author believes that the "most dramatic and fateful years of the French Revolution were 1791-1793, when Vergniaud, the supreme orator of the Legislative Assembly and the Convention, was literally the Voice of France."

"This dramatic story mirrors the tragedies and tyrannies of today," continues Mr. Bowers, "in the totalitarian countries and in the subjugated satellites behind the iron curtain."

Nearly every author of historical non-fiction today lays claim to parallels between the era discussed in his book and current affairs. Mr. Bowers can claim to have discovered one of the most striking of these in his biography of the French revolutionary leader, Vergniaud.

C.F.B.

SCENERY DESIGN FOR THE AMATEUR STAGE. Willard J. Friederich and Hohn H. Fraser. Macmillan, Toronto. Pp. 1-245, 247-62. Price—\$3.75.

Scenery Design for the Amateur Stage is a how-to-do-it book. It does not, as do most books of that type, make the problems of set-making seem less difficult than they are. Neither does the book pretend that mastery of the craft demands anything less than concentration, hard work, and some native ability. It poses and resolves the demands confronting the scenery designer, who must simultaneously do justice to the play and to his own aesthetic conscience and satisfy the demands of the play-producer and of the audience—and who must, all too often, perform these miracles on a stage unsuitable for plays. The various aspects of design—line, colour, and mass—are thoroughly and clearly explained, and the applications of each are carefully illustrated by line sketches, of which there are eighty-four. Thirty-two photographic illustrations help to show what has been done, in the way of stage sets, by amateur drama groups in American universities.

The authors, Friederich and Fraser, deserve high praise. Not only is the book admirably done, but it fills a long-felt need. Hitherto, such information could only be obtained from highly technical books on the subject, from hints scattered throughout texts on general stage production, or gleaned orally from experienced and kindly set-designers. The book concludes with an index and three glossaries: theatrical terms, especially those pertaining to sets; selected bibliographies; and a directory of dealers in theatrical equipment. Little Theatre and University drama groups will find the book an invaluable addition to their libraries.

C. L. LAMBERTSON

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THE GREAT AUDIENCE, by Gilbert Seldes. Macmillans In Canada.
\$4.75.

There are not likely very many people in Canada who have not, at some time in their lives, attended a motion picture. Indeed, some of our younger generation are regarded as addicts. But how much do we really know about the influence of this form of mass-entertainment? And is it as great a form of entertainment as it has been claimed?

Mr. Seldes, a critic with years of what his publishers call "working" experience in the entertainment arts" believes the motion pictures have been much overrated as an influence on modern living, and thinks that they do not serve what he calls a *real audience*, but rather one of their own commercial creation. And he makes out an excellent case for his contention. He declares that motion picture audiences not only are falling off, when surveyed on a countrywide basis, but that those engaged in the industry are resorting to more and more "extras" to attract the public. And as to what Mr. Seldes believes is happening to our tastes and standards and our cultural environment that is something the reader is advised to learn for himself. He will find it worth the learning.

But this book is not concerned wholly with a discussion of the effects of motion pictures on our living standards and tastes; both the radio and its latest "infant", television, come under his observation, too. "The Great Audience" is not likely to produce unanimity of opinion among its readers: but it will certainly stimulate their thoughts on the entire field of modern entertainment.

C. F. B.

THIS IS NEW BRUNSWICK, by Jessie I. Lawson, LL.D., and Jean MacC. Sweet. Ryerson. \$3.50.

Here is an unusually informative and well-written book by a native New Brunswicker and a collaborator from just across the border in Nova Scotia on one of the too-little-known Maritime Provinces, New Brunswick, cast in the form of a travelogue, and filled with the charm and quaintness that permeates the second largest of the Maritimes. The authors, in the course of their preparation of the text of *This is New Brunswick*, entered the province in the northwest, followed the course of the Saint John river to Fredericton, then moved up the Nashwaak to Saint John, via the Grand Lake area. Thence they proceeded on excursions to St. Stephen, St. Andrews, the Passamaquoddy area, and Moncton, with side trips to the Isthmus of Chignecto, returning along the east coast, North Shore and Bay of Chaleur to the Gaspé coast. What there is to see in this area, interspersed with historical data of more than passing interest, is embodied in *This is New Brunswick*. The book is replete with photographic reproductions of many of the points of historic and scenic interest and provides an excellent memento of a visit for tourists to take home with them, or an informative record for natives to place on their bookshelves for ready reference.

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Dr. Jessie Lawson has been associated nearly all her life with education in her native province, following completion of her academic training at Oxford and has contributed to many newspapers and periodicals, while Mrs. Sweet, her collaborator, though born in Amherst, N. S., was also educated in New Brunswick, and has done much writing on New Brunswick subjects. She now resides in St. John.

C. F. B.

TITO AND GOLIATH, by Hamilton Fish Armstrong. Macmillans In Canada. \$4.00.

Mr. Hamilton Armstrong, Editor of the publication *Foreign Affairs*, probably knows as much about Eastern Europe as any citizen of the republic to the south of this country, and has paid almost annual visits to Yugoslavia between World Wars One and Two, gathering information for this absorbing book. That it is an absorbing book becomes apparent to anyone after he has read but a few pages of it.

It is Mr. Armstrong's contention that the struggle between Stalin and Tito has not only profoundly affected the power position of the Soviet Union, but that it has actually split the Communist world. As he puts it, this rift in the Red bloc has "opened new avenues of hope for the oppressed masses of Eastern Europe". Whether Stalin's or Tito's concept of Communism prevails may determine whether the peoples of the United States and Canada can live beside Communist countries without the constant fear of war.

Should Tito be given help by the United States, and what are his chances of survival? And what, it may well be asked, could the United States do to aid the Yugoslav Dictator? Mr. Armstrong does not claim to answer these questions: but the facts on which reasonable answers can be based—from the United States' angle—are to be found in *Tito And Goliath*.

C.F.B.

CANADIAN ART, Graham MacInnes. Macmillan, Toronto. \$4.00

That Canadians wish to know something of the arts native to their own country is evidenced by the number of book-cases which harbour Mr. Graham MacInnes' *Short History of Canadian Art*. This book, which was published in 1939, had some notable shortcomings. It has now been replaced by *Canadian Art*, also by Mr. MacInnes. Without leaning too heavily on his earlier book, the author has brought it up-to-date, so that *Canadian Art* includes a treatment of the latest of Canada's artists to make a stir in the world. Aside from its terseness and economy of phrase and the emphasis given to the work of

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French Canadians (whose work is too often ignored by English speaking critics), the new work numbers among its virtues six coloured reproductions and a great breadth of scope. It deals, albeit briefly, not only with painting, but also with allied arts—sculpture, architecture, industrial design, typography, stage sets, films, and ceramics. A notable defect is pointed up by the very inclusion of coloured plates. They so enliven the book that the 31 black-and-whites suffer badly by comparison. One can only regret that colour reproductions are as expensive as they are. But paper is still cheap, and one may feel with justice that individual artists of outstanding worth can not, and should not, be disposed of in a sentence or two.

In spite of over-compression, perhaps a necessity in any attempt at being encyclopaedic within the narrow compass of 114 pages, the book is a useful introduction to Canadian Art. It has, besides an index, appendices listing Art institutions and public Art collections in Canada, a chronological table of the development of painting in this country, a list of the better known Canadian artists, and a valuable bibliography.

C. L. LAMBERTSON

GOETHE AND SCOTT, by G. H. Needler. Clarke, Irwin & Co., Limited.
\$2.50.

Many people are aware of the influence that such literary greats as Byron and Carlyle exerted on the great German author Goethe, but not so many critics have dealt with the influence mutually exerted by Goethe and Sir Walter Scott. Professor Needler, in this provocative little volume, has endeavoured to show how closely the two writers were associated despite the fact that they never actually met and that Scott was twenty-two years Goethe's junior.

Professor Needler shows clearly that while Scott borrowed freely from Goethe, the latter did some borrowing on his own account, and that it was chiefly because of data furnished him by Scott that Goethe was able to complete his great drama *Faust*. These data were chiefly Scott's letters to the German on Demonology and Witchcraft, which contained "a few hints to help him (Goethe) over the difficulties in motivating Faust." He finds in *Kenilworth*, in the description of Leicester's kingly reception of Elizabeth, something that had a distinct influence on the *Helena* act in *Faust*, where the princely Faust welcomes Helen of Troy, to his castle.

Though the interest in this volume will be chiefly among the academicians, the layman will also find it worth his attention, and the lover of the stage will be amply repaid for perusal of its pages.

C.F.B.

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HOME IS THE STRANGER. By Edward McCourt. Macmillan Company of Canada. \$3.00.

Mr. McCourt's novel *Home is the Stranger* is a story of the transplanting of an Irish girl from Ireland to the Canadian prairies. The author shows clearly the contrast between the lush, thickly-populated old land and the bare, thinly-populated new country. The character who experiences this shocking contrast is Norah, who marries a Canadian airman and returns with him to his home—a prairie farm. The theme of the story is Norah's struggle to adapt herself to the new environment; it is a mental and spiritual struggle rather than a physical one.

When Mr. McCourt deals with the physical properties of the two countries, he is skillful and sure. He knows both environments well. He is still skillful, but less sure, in dealing with the emotions of his characters, and he shifts from an objective to a subjective point of view without warning. Nevertheless, Mr. McCourt's work shows growing maturity. He is especially sensitive to the moods of physical forces and their effects upon emotions. In *Home is the Stranger* he gives a forceful picture of the hardships of prairie life today: he makes clear that there are still physical elements to combat but that the greatest difficulties are mental adjustments.

LOIS LAMBERTSON

THE BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION, 1917-1923, A History of Soviet Russia
by E. H. Carr. Macmillans In Canada. \$5.00.

Here is something a little out of the ordinary in historical writing—the first attempt in any language by any author to pen a full-length record of Russia since the October Revolution of 1917. The book under consideration is the first of three volumes which, together, comprise the first portion of Mr. Carr's project, and the trio will present the story of the Bolshevik Revolution against the Czar which exploded thirty-four years ago last spring into one of the most savage orgies of blood-letting in any revolt to that date. Volume One of the first half of Mr. Carr's history is designed to cover the period up to the withdrawal of Lenin from the political scene in the spring of 1923, and deals with the development of the party and the constitutional structure and with the policy towards the nationalities of the former Russian Empire.

Volumes Two and Three, which are planned for completion and publication during 1951, will cover economic policy and foreign relations.

The second part of the overall history, which is still in the planning stage, is to be titled *The Struggle For Power, 1923-1928*.

"Politically", writes Mr. Carr, "the program of the Bolsheviks involved an attempt to bridge the gap between autocracy and socialist

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democracy without long experience and training in citizenship which bourgeois democracy, with all its faults, had afforded in the west. Economically, it meant the creation of a socialist economy in a country which had never possessed the resources in capital equipment and trained workers proper to a developed capitalist order".

The book is based on original documents of the period it covers, which have been little worked over by historians, but which are copious and informative. For those still striving to understand what has gone on behind the Iron Curtain, and what is going on there now, this book has more than passing interest.

C.F.B.

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