

## NEW BOOKS

SIR WALTER SCOTT. By John Buchan. Coward McCann, Inc.  
New York.

No better man could have been chosen as biographer to the great Scotsman in his centenary year than his fellow Scotsman and fellow-romanticist John Buchan. Almost as familiar as was his hero with the traditions, literature and customs of Scotland and especially of the Border country, Mr. Buchan is able, even to a greater degree than was Lockhart to shew us all the influences that moulded Scott's character, and to trace the sources from which sprang the vast current of his literary work. And although many of the readers of this book must be already familiar with the substance of the facts of Scott's life, they will find nothing tedious in this new relation of them; Mr. Buchan's style is vivid and picturesque, and the interest in the story never flags. Especially valuable are the literary criticisms scattered through the biography; no one has better vindicated Scott's poetry from the undue depreciation to which it has been subjected, a depreciation which began with the poet's own under-estimation of it and which the reaction from the romantic movement has perpetuated and intensified. The novels too are judged at once appreciatively and wisely. Perhaps the least satisfactory section of the work is the last, which deals with Scott as a Man. This is too much in the nature of an apology and seeks a favourable verdict even for Scott's faults. That he had faults and even serious ones his life-story shows clearly enough, the mad extravagance of the Abbotsford days and the silly and futile falsehoods in regard to the authorship of the Waverly Novels are facts that cannot be overlooked; but our love and reverence for a man are not to be based on absence of faults merely, and Scott's essential worth as a man stands out the more clearly the more closely his career is studied. As Wordsworth wrote of another well-loved author who also was by no means faultless, so we may say of Scott, "O he was good if e'er a good man was."

E. R.

---

THE ECONOMIC WELFARE OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES. By  
S. A. Saunders, M.A., published by Acadia University.

This succinct and incisively written account of the economic situation in the Maritime Provinces is the first of a projected series of economic publications to be issued by Acadia University. It won for its author a substantial prize offered a short time ago by that University for the best essay submitted on the topic taken as the title of Mr. Saunders's book. The author was born in New Brunswick, but has spent the greater part of his life in parts of Canada other than the Maritime Provinces. He has had a scholastic career, at both Dalhousie and Toronto Universities, of particular brilliance.

To the task of writing this essay, Mr. Saunders has brought not only great gifts of intellect and judgment but also a calm detachment and a sympathy rarely found in partnership. The result of his study—which involved extended personal visits to these provinces as well as a thorough sifting of a mass of documentary evidence as contained in government blue books and the reports of various royal commissions together with statements issued from time to time by organized industrial, commercial and agricultural associations—is what one competent critic has stated to be “by far the most comprehensive study of economic conditions in the Maritimes that has yet been made.”

The book is always stimulating, though it may sometimes be unpleasant reading for those who wish to see a more flourishing condition in the Maritime Provinces. Many of Mr. Saunders's statements will undoubtedly be challenged passionately; but he has buttressed each of them with citations from authoritative sources. The basic industries of agriculture, mining, and fishing, are carefully surveyed, while special chapters deal with coal, apples, forest industries, the tourist trade, transportation, manufacturing, and education. There is also a chapter on government assistance, particularly Dominion subsidies, and another containing general proposals for further investigation and improvement.

One of the most interesting of the author's proposals involves the establishment of a permanent Economic Development Board which would undertake to direct, at least to some extent, the economic activities of the three provinces. This Board would be expected to study markets and needs, advise in the matter of techniques of marketing and manufacture and otherwise assist and encourage the Maritime producer. It would have the assistance of an advisory committee representative of the main branches of industry. Similar proposals have been forthcoming in different parts of the world for some time; but Mr. Saunders does not expect, apparently, that the Maritime Board would usurp any of the functions of government and he thus avoids the criticism levelled at more ambitious schemes such as that proposed for Great Britain by the late Lord Melchett. One other interesting fact stands out. Co-operative enterprises in the Maritime Provinces have had more than average success. It is quite possible, perhaps probable, that, for the Maritime Province producers, a greater hope lies in the wider use of co-operation than in any other direction.

---

V. P. SEARY.

JOHN MCLEAN'S NOTES OF A TWENTY-FIVE YEARS' SERVICE  
IN THE HUDSON'S BAY TERRITORY. Edited by W. S.  
Wallace. Toronto, The Champlain Society, 1932. pp.  
xxxvi, 402; map.

This volume, Number 19, of the publications of the Champlain Society, is a reprint of a once famous narrative of the fur-trade, now comparatively inaccessible to the student of history. It is reprinted with an introduction, which gives some account of the author and his

work, and with such notes as were necessary to elucidate obscure passages in the text or to identify certain men who were referred to by initials only. The map is an outline of Canada showing the forts and trading posts mentioned by the author. This is in the excellent tradition of the Society and the editorial work is adequate.

The original work was published in London, by Richard Bentley, in 1849. After praising McLean's style and ranking the work among "the literature of power" the editor says, "The chief defect of the book is no doubt the author's somewhat atrabiliar attitude toward the Hudson's Bay Company, and in particular toward that great business executive, Sir George Simpson."

But the author's criticisms of the Company, as distinct from his vivid account of life in the Company, comprise a very small portion of his narrative, which, as a whole, is most illuminating on the period between 1821 and 1845. To most students the union of 1821 closed the era of competition in the fur-trade; but, in this book, they will learn that for several years after the union a number of independent traders in older Canada gave much concern to the Great Company and led to interesting devices for the suppression of rivals. In one of his finest passages McLean pays the following tribute to the achievements of the old North-West Company:

Cold, hunger, and fatigue, were the unavoidable consequences; but the enterprising spirit of the men of those days—the intrepid indefatigable adventurers of the North-West Company overcame every difficulty. It was that spirit that opened a communication across the broad continent of America; that penetrated to the frost-bound regions of the Arctic circle; and that established a trade with the natives, in this remote land, when the merchandise required for it was in one season transported from Montreal to within a short distance of the Pacific.

The romantic appeal of the fur-trader's life has not been lost on Canadians; but, to the student of those days, it is a perpetual wonder how these men endured the loneliness and maintained their sanity. The following passage reveals how occasionally the loneliness was relieved by social interludes in the wilderness:

We were joined early in winter by some of the gentlemen in charge of posts, when we managed to pass the time very agreeably. Mr. D—, superintendent of the district, played remarkably well on the violin and flute, some of us "wee bodies" could also do something in that way, and our musical soirees, if not in melody, could at least compete in noise, numbers taken into account, with any association of the kind in the British dominions. Chess, backgammon and whist, completed the variety of our evening pastimes. In the daytime each individual occupied himself as he pleased. When together, smoking, spinning yarns about racing, canoe sailing, and *l'amour*; sometimes politics; now and then an animated discussion on theology, but without bitterness; these made our days fly away as agreeably as our nights.

But most of the time these traders ploughed a lonely furrow; and McLean, amongst others, explored new ground. Though he served the Company from the Atlantic to the Rocky Mountains and died in Victoria, B. C., his chief discovery was the Great Falls of Labrador.

In 1842 he paid a visit to his old home in the Island of Mull and on his return to Canada stopped off for a few days in New York. At this time there was considerable anti-British feeling in America, due

in part to the comments of British travellers, Dickens among others, on American social customs. Like Sam Slick, McLean deplored the publication of these very unwise opinions after a hurried visit and blamed these writers for adding fuel to the flame, because the Americans took their remarks "as the sentiments of the British nation", when in fact they were only the sentiments "of individuals whose opinions are little valued at home, and ought to be less valued abroad". It may be doubted whether McLean himself added to international harmony when he wrote, "The Americans, 'guessed', and 'calculated' and 'speculated', while they were British subjects, just as they do now; nor have they learned to chew, and spit, and smoke tobacco since the 4th of July, 1782."

But, whatever arguments may be brought forward for the unemotional presentation of historical material, the fact remains that authors, like McLean, produce a much more interesting book and deservedly get a much wider circulation of their narratives, when they tell their story, frankly and fearlessly, giving their convictions full emotional value.

D. C. HARVEY.

HESIOD, WORKS AND DAYS. Edited by T. A. Sinclair M. A., Reader in Classics in the University of London, formerly Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge. pp. lxvi, 96. Macmillan and Co., 1932.

This is a timely and useful piece of work. There have been, as noted in the bibliography, two English translations of Hesiod since 1900, but no edition later than Paley is quoted; and Paley, with all his real merits, rejects "all manner of things indiscriminately!" It is a distinct comfort to have the *Works and Days* set forth in the light of modern scholarship. It is interesting to see that the dissectors are no longer to have their way with Hesiod; and the arguments that Mr. Sinclair produces against them are very well worth consideration.

The introduction falls into six chapters: The Place of the *Works and Days* in Literature; the Background of the *Works and Days*; The Prophet of Justice; The Life of Hesiod; The Manuscript of the *Works and Days*; The Days. Only a textual critic can properly assess the Chapter on the MSS; and not much is added, nor is there apparently much to add, in the chapter on the life of Hesiod. The remaining chapters contain much of interest to the student of literature, history, ethics, and economics.

"The task of assigning a literary position to the *Works and Days* is attended by two chief difficulties. We have difficulty in finding satisfactory canons of criticism by which to appraise a work of this kind, and we are hampered by doubts which have been expressed concerning the authorship of this or that part of the work. The latter of these two difficulties really rises out of the former, and is largely the creation of those critics who, failing to find an answer to the first question, avoided it by discussing the second."

Again "the main reason for cutting up the poem has been that it is easy to do; if it falls to pieces easily it is concluded that the disjointed

condition preceded the present." And "Dissection in itself is neither right nor wrong; it is merely an occupation." Further "The cardinal error of the dissector is that he dissects along lines not clearly defined in Hesiodic times, however familiar they may seem to us. To Hesiod as to the Old Testament prophets there was no cleavage between agricultural and ethical instruction. In a sense it was all ethical." Mr. Sinclair decides that the work is not an epic and not a treatise on agriculture, and discusses the type of composition that he calls a "didactic and admonitory medley." He makes little of the customary comparison with the *Georgics*, and Tusser's *Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry* "is no more to be taken as a parallel class of composition than the Book of Proverbs." He makes much, on the other hand, of the points of resemblance between the work of Hesiod and that of Horace. He knows what is said on the matter by Professor Rand and Professor Campbell; but he is himself concerned not with temperaments but with poems and his arguments "converge on the similarity of form of composition and of the elements in their relation to the whole." He finds, in common (1) the epistolary form; (2) the introduction of a piece of narrative, an obvious device for illustrating a point; (3) the gnomic method; (4) the autobiographical element. Hesiod "was quite sure that he lived somewhere, but there are modern critics who know better than to believe even that." And "All these diverse elements are simply the well-known marks of the didactic epistle in verse. . . . If we cease to look at the *Works and Days* through the triple glasses of F. A. Wolf and take it for the sincere and human document that it is we shall be in a better position to enjoy it."

The *Works and Days* "is a poem of growing discontent" and "gives us a picture of agricultural depression." "As a hand-worker and an under-dog Hesiod voices his grievances against his rulers and their injustice, but as a son of the soil, believing that the gods have set man to work thereon, he is a thorough conservative." The people "had in Hesiod their first spokesman, unless indeed we count Ther-sites." And "it becomes possible for us for the first time to gain an insight into the conditions of life of the common people in one at least of the Greek states." Hesiod's title to fame is "that he taught his countrymen a lesson they had not yet learned, that justice and hard work are for all mankind." The editor does not suggest that the civilized and Christian nations have now mastered this lesson, but continues with an excellent brief discussion of the influence of Hesiod on later days; not the literary influence but the influence of its moral teaching. He discusses this influence not as it extended to Plato and the dramatists, but among "the lesser known people of the seventh, sixth, and to a less extent fifth centuries." There are, of course, many parallels with Theognis; but there are reminiscences of his doctrines in Semonides, Archilochus, Solon, Pindar, Democritus, and the Seven Wise Men. Mr. Sinclair says: "certainly the civilization of the Greeks proceeded apace, and I would suggest that some part of the results may be attributed to the poet of the *Works and Days*."

Into the Commentary the editor has packed the results of a great deal of reading and thought. He has apparently consulted with some care all the recent periodical literature in the field as one might expect; he also at least illustrates his author by quoting the Rig-Veda in the

original which perhaps one might not expect. One test the reviewer applied; a few years ago Mierow in the *A. J. P.* had a brief article, a page or so, on *anossteos* in line 524. It seemed a rather unlikely thing to look for in the commentary, but it was there, though Mr. Sinclair regarded it as "more amusing than convincing."

The principal function of any edition is to help readers to a comprehension of some writer. The work under review satisfies this test; and Hesiod is a writer who is well worth comprehending.

---

E. W. N.

LEGAL DUTIES AND OTHER ESSAYS IN JURISPRUDENCE, By Carleton Kemp Allen, M. A., Oxford University Press, 1931. Price \$5.00.

Mr. C. K. Allen, former Professor of Jurisprudence at Oxford, has published a collection of essays on a wide range of topics in Jurisprudence. These essays have already appeared in various English and American periodicals, and discuss problems of varying importance in a pleasantly informative and somewhat conventional manner. For the purpose of the present review, reference will be made only to such of the Essays as may be assumed to be of interest to readers who are not of the legal profession.

In his discussion of the origin, growth and scope of "The Presumption of Innocence" the author remarks that the average Englishman, if asked to indicate the outstanding characteristics of the English legal system, would answer "A man is presumed to be innocent until he is proved guilty", and add that this is the great particular in which it excels foreign systems. He then points out that four centuries ago this presumption did not exist and indeed, the whole system of criminal procedure was quite antagonistic to it. Receiving its first explicit formulation in 1814, it reached maturity about 1865, owing largely to a profound change in social organization and the development of the law of evidence. The maxim is subject to many exceptions, and is not of the great significance commonly supposed; for, says Mr. Allen, it amounts to little more than a caution to the jury against hasty inferences and a reminder that affirmative allegation (i. e. of guilt) must be proved by those who make them rather than disproved by those against whom they are made.

"The Judge as a Man of the World" discusses the fiction that the Judge, in deciding as matter of law whether a defamatory innuendo may be contained in a statement, does so on the footing of what "a reasonable man" would reasonably infer from the words, whereas his decision really turns on what he himself, from his own knowledge of the world, would infer.

"The Phlegmatic Englishman in the Common Law" considers the character of the emotions and sensibilities imputed to the "ordinary man" whose conduct is the measure of non-liability of litigants in many fields of the law. Being English in conception he is English in character; quick, but not too quick, to respond to provocation he need not ex-

emply the Christian doctrine of turning the other cheek; possessed of moderate firmness and courage; not very imaginative nor given to panics; not over-sensitive to criticism but properly zealous of his reputation; not hypersensitive about the common noises and smells incident to his local surroundings but claiming protection only when affected by what would be termed discomfort, according to the "plain and sober and simple notions of the English people." He is, in short, what Mr. Herbert in "Misleading Cases" calls an admirable but odious creature.

In the remaining essays will be found consideration of the nature and function of Jurisprudence; of Status and Capacity in the field of Private International Law; of Legal Morality; of the Nature of a Crime and of the problem of the necessity of regarding "rights" and "duties" as reciprocal constants in all systems of law.

VINCENT C. MACDONALD.

---

THE SOVIET SCENE. By Frederick Griffin, Macmillan's, 1932, pp. 279.

The sub-title of this book is "A Newspaperman's Close-ups of Russia," and the author informs us that it "is journalism and makes no pretence at being anything else." He says also: "All books about Russia added together cannot give the full story of this incredible ant-heap, so dramatically upheaved. At least so far as I have gone, I have not changed the circumstances of a single contact."

The book gives the impression, at any rate, of being the unbiased production of a shrewd, observant, and straightforward man. It is utterly impossible to review it in the sense of summarizing it. It is as yet simple description; the first step in the understanding of anything at second-hand. Turning over the pages, one expects to come upon any odd thing. "I doubt if a single individual out of the 160,000,000 in the Soviet Union has an easy time." The Communists "have really no private lives." "The people in Moscow may be simple, but they are never coarse. They have a tremendous, a soothing quietude." "You may wonder just how this society works. All I can say is that it does. It works tremendously. Under it factory wheels turn, trains run, boats ply on the Volga. There is Soviet discussion, but there is also control. Men are in command even in Soviet Russia. Men order and other men obey."

There are in all twenty-eight sections. To one who picks up the book for a casual inspection, the following sections may be recommended: I, Children's Catechism; III, No Ring, No Red Tape; XII, Casual Convicts; XIV, God Among the Soviets; XV, Education like a Tidal Wave; XXVIII, Under-Dogs on Top. On the whole, it seems the most instructive and least prejudiced of any of the brief accounts of Russia easily available to the general reader. It is apt to leave one with two ideas: the futility of abusing Russia; the necessity of understanding her. It might easily be argued that the present Russian ex-

periment in all its implications is the most important political event since the fall of the Roman Empire, which after all did not so much fall as gradually subside, and is the cause of all of us. Some of us prefer the system that we inherit from that Empire, faulty as it is, to anything that we see about the Soviets; it is none the less necessary for us to understand the latter.

E. W. N.

---

A LIBERAL EDUCATION IN A MODERN WORLD. Burwash Lectures 1932. By R. C. Wallace. Toronto, Macmillan. 1932. pp. xii, 114. \$1.25.

These three lectures were delivered under the Burwash Foundation at Victoria College, Toronto, by the President of the University of Alberta. So many enquiries into the present meaning of a liberal education have recently appeared that the path is becoming rather well-worn. Yet this book requires no apology and need not fear comparison. Its criticism is constructive. The author does not shrink from tangled problems and where controversial points are raised he quietly takes his stand and gives his reasons. There is scarcely a topic of interest in our universities that is not discussed with keenness and vigour.

For the source of our present perplexities we must look partly to the controversies of the past and partly to conditions peculiar to our own times. We are shown the gulf between the Liberal and utilitarian conceptions widening as we come to the Fellows of Oriel and the Edinburgh Reviewers, and well-nigh unbridgeable in Newman and Huxley. But the debate between the classics and the sciences now assumes the proportions of a mere family difference as we confront the vast array of technical and vocational subjects which are rapidly making themselves at home in the university curriculum. "Are we on sound ground in training men for business administration and salesmanship, and women for librarianship, household economics and social service, or has the meaning of a liberal education been forgotten in this utilitarian age?" (p. 3).

The answer is "No" to the first and "Yes" to the second. The university is concerned with fundamental principles, not with technique. On this basis the new vocational subjects may be rejected and the older professional courses (law, medicine, theology) revised. But no one subject, however thoroughly mastered, can liberate the mind. The author agrees with Matthew Arnold that "for the majority of mankind a little of mathematics, even, goes a long way." "The narrowly scientific course of which we once had great hopes has now shown its inadequacy as a preparation for life". Again "a man whose training has been confined to a study of the classics would to-day be compelled to stand apart from the main stream of life. . . . a passive spectator in the midst of a drama of absorbing interest." (p. 89). The present materials for a liberal education are the human and social sciences, anthropology, sociology, experimental psychology, evolutionary ethics, history, political science.



While many will disagree with this conclusion few will follow the process by which it is reached without interest and pleasure.

F. HILTON PAGE.

---

SEX, TEMPERANCE, AND RIGHT THINKING. By Rinaldo William Armstrong. Graphic Publishers Limited, Ottawa, 1931. pp. 170. \$1.50.

This little book will probably commend itself most to those who stand in least peril of transgressing its precepts. The setting is Biblical and the poetical quotations are from Tennyson, Browning, Alfred Austin, Charles Kingsley, and Ella Wheeler Wilcox. No one will accuse its author of a lack of reverence or sincerity of purpose.

The first part of the book is the most successful and exhibits a considerable insight into the psychological problems of sex. The advice given is sound and may be recommended. The last section dealing with the psychology of prejudice opens up a very important field and raises many intricate problems without indicating the difficulties which stand in the way of a solution. Taken as a whole the book is an interesting commentary on the extent to which psychoanalytic ideas have now become an integral part of the common consciousness.

F. HILTON PAGE.

---

JOHN JACOB ASTOR. By K. W. Porter, Harvard University Press 1931.

In the first book of the *Politics*, Aristotle expresses the wish that there were more accounts of how wealthy men had accumulated their fortunes. "It would be well also to collect the scattered stories of the ways in which individuals have succeeded in amassing a fortune." Mr. Porter has made a notable contribution towards the gratification of this wish. His book is not a biography in the usual sense of the word, for it does not aim so much at presenting a picture of its subject as a whole, as of describing his business activities. It is primarily a contribution to business history. Since, however, Mr. Astor's life was so much absorbed in business, it is probable that this selection results in only a slight distortion.

The story unfolded is a romantic one. A poor German immigrant lad, the son of a village butcher, arrived in New York with no higher prospects than the peddling of musical instruments. Other lines of merchandise were added to his stock and a trade of barter with the Indians developed, furs being secured in return. Furs sent to Oriental markets were advantageously exchanged for goods which could be brought back to America and profitably sold. Thus, at the climax, the story of Mr. Astor's business activities associates the the grim reality of an Indian massacre with the glamour and mystery

of the Orient. Accumulating profits were shrewdly invested in real estate on Manhattan Island, multiplied themselves prodigiously, and made their owner the richest man of his time and country.

The adherent of copy book maxims will find little support here for some of his most cherished convictions. If it would be severe to call Mr. Astor dishonest, at any rate candour was sometimes restrained and deceit occasionally practised. His golden rule—golden in a more literal sense, too, than the more famous one—was never to sacrifice his private interest to the public welfare. All of which merely makes Mr. Porter's picture more convincing.

W. R. MAXWELL.

---

THE CAREER OF THE ABBE LE LOUTRE IN NOVA SCOTIA. With a translation of his autobiography. By John Clarence Webster. Privately printed, Shediac, N. B., 1933, pp. 50.

In this brochure, Dr. Webster sets out with diffidence to achieve the impossible, by reconciling conflicting judgments of the Abbé Le Loutre. He commences his essay by quoting two contemporary but diametrically opposed views of his subject, the one by Governor Cornwallis, the other by the Bishop of Quebec. After some very winged words on the canons of historical criticism, and a very searching examination of the sources used by all historians and other writers who have discussed the character of Le Loutre, he proceeds to portray that character, almost entirely from French sources, in order to convince his readers that his conclusions are not vitiated by either national or racial bias.

The results of this survey are rather startling, but prove beyond reasonable doubt that the English were right in regarding Le Loutre as the ablest and most unscrupulous of their enemies in Acadia: for he violated his most solemn promise to maintain peace and good order, and in no way to attempt to seduce the inhabitants from their obligations as subjects of the British Crown. He himself declared it to be his policy to stir up the Indians against the English settlements, while denying that he had anything to do with it; he instigated the murder of Edward How under a flag of truce; he was "a real *agent provocateur* carrying on work which governments were accustomed to pay laymen to undertake;" and "he prostituted his sacred office, when trying to terrorize the simple Acadian peasantry by threatening them with deprivation of priestly administrations and of the sacraments, in order to force them to do his will and advance his earthly political schemes".

Dr. Webster cannot see in the plea of patriotism any justification for such conduct in a priest who had been tolerated in a foreign dominion; and he is inclined to deplore the efforts of certain co-religionists to vindicate his character, as such attempts at vindication tend to transfer the reproach from Le Loutre the man to the church and order of which he was a missionary. He believes that the letter alleged to have been written by the Bishop of Quebec to Le Loutre was actually written and should have been written. Of this he says, "If it was

not genuine, and no censure was administered, the neglect is a reflection on the Church authorities of the day."

LeLoutre's brief "autobiography", of which Dr. Webster gives a translation, affords ample proof of his anti-English activities, of his influential relations with official France and New France, and of his conscious ability. This autobiography, as well as French authorities and Dr. Webster's critical biographical sketch, leaves no doubt that to Le Loutre the end justified the means, that the end was the supremacy of the French in Acadia, and that the Acadians themselves were but pawns in a ruthless game of imperialism.

D. C. HARVEY.

---

THE CANADA BOOK OF PROSE AND VERSE. Books One, Two and Three. By Lorne Pierce and Dora Whitefield. (New Edition). The Ryerson Press. The Macmillans in Canada.

These anthologies, which apparently are intended for the use of pupils in High Schools, are carefully compiled, and with the aid of good teaching and with the backing of well-selected school libraries, they should go far toward creating a taste for the best things in literature. It is right that young Canadians should have their attention drawn to whatever is first-rate in the work of their fellow-countrymen, but perhaps the editors have been a little too hospitable to some of the less noteworthy productions of Canadian authors. However, in all anthologies the individual preferences of the compiler form inevitably a determining factor. The present critic would have liked to see more treasures drawn from the wealth of English ballad poetry; Robin Hood and his merry men find no place here. And surely John Bunyan might have been represented; few of our sophisticated and self-conscious writers of the present day can compete in the writing of vivid and nervous English with the Bedfordshire tinker. Macaulay's "Horatius" no doubt, had to be shortened, but the omission of all the fighting at the bridge devitalizes the entire poem. But taking these books as a whole we may be thankful for the opportunities they present for the intelligent teaching of what to read and how to read it.

E. R.

---

TOMORROW'S TIDE. By Charles Bruce. The Macmillan Company of Canada Limited. pp. 28. \$1.25.

No merely provincial enthusiasm is required to welcome this first slender volume by a Maritime writer of verse. Mr. Bruce has a genuine feeling for the power of words and no little skill in handling them. Except for one or two studies in the matter and style of modern realism, interesting but rather discordant in so small and otherwise

harmonious a collection, the author's chief concern appears to be the quest of the perfect phrase, and he occasionally startles us with the aptness of his choice. The title-poem and "Port of Halifax" are perhaps the most attractive offerings, and reveal the importance of familiar background. This theme is developed in the sonnet "Spirit of a Province", of which the burden:

It minds me of a thing I saw  
In Yarmouth or in Sydney years ago

receives striking and unconscious confirmation in the article "Neapolitan Days" in this issue of the *Review*, at page 449.

The phrasing verges at times upon preciousness, and Mr. Bruce might do well to bear in mind the warning conveyed by Mr. J. C. Squires's parody of the style in "The Exquisite Sonnet," where

No echo of the mist that knows no name  
Dims the fierce darkness of the odorous word,

seems hardly a step beyond Mr. Bruce's

The archaic tumult of relentless rain

or

Down the swart strakes of unremembered ships.

But we may remember that it was only by parody that Pope, according to some romantic critics, was able to achieve a line that carried the music of the makers:

Die of a rose in aromatic pain.

Mr. Bruce's verbal exercises contain also something of the stuff of which poetry is made.

The book is beautifully made and printed by the Cambridge University Press.

C. L. B.

MANY MOODS. By E. J. Pratt. The Macmillans in Canada. St. Martin's House, Toronto. 1932.

This is the seventh volume of verse published by Dr. Pratt, and his place in Canadian literature is now fairly well established. Two outstanding facts strike the critic of his work. The first is that even in his earlier poems there was no indication of imitation, conscious or unconscious, of other writers. If we call to mind the names of the more prominent of Canadian poets we shall find that they usually began as followers of men of letters of established repute. Wordsworth, Tennyson, Browning and Longfellow have had a direct and powerful influence on our writers of verse: nor is this to the discredit of the latter; they have often risen above imitation and their pupilage has trained them for an adequate rendering of their own individual song. Yet it is significant that in Dr. Pratt's work there are no echoes. It shows that Canadian poetic literature is at last standing upon its own feet when we can point to a writer who not only by his subject

matter but by his mode of thought and by his emotional reactions is independent of external standards.

The second characteristic that the readers of Dr. Pratt's poems will notice is their intense virility. This is not simply a matter of the themes of which he treats, nor is it a necessary consequent of the writer being a man. No one would ascribe virility as the essential trait in the work of Lampman or Carman, though these were both genuine poets. There is deep feeling in many of Dr. Pratt's ballads and lyrics, but there is a resolute avoidance of any approach to the sentimental, and often a sort of hardness in his treatment of even the most pathetic incidents. The contrast between his work and that of Marjorie Pickthall in this respect is very striking, and implies no disparagement to either poet.

In the volume before us there is no long poem as distinguished for sustained power and loftiness of theme as was "The Roosevelt and the Antioch," nor does the author strike the profound tragic note of some of the "Newfoundland Verses", but there is no falling off in poetic ability. "The 6000" shows how the mighty engine that leads its huge train across a continent is as fit a subject for the poet as any magnificent ship that ever sailed the seven seas. "A Prairie Sunset" is a splendid piece of word-painting, and in "Tatterhead" we have a portrait as clear as a fine dry-point. The reader must be left to pick out his own favorites; the present critic gives preference to "The Sea-Cathedral" which presents in all its glory the unearthly beauty of that fearful portent, the North Atlantic iceberg.

E. R.