

NEW BOOKS

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY IN MODERN POETRY. by Wm. Van O'Connor.
University of Chicago Press and W. G. Gage and Company
Toronto. Pp. 279. \$4.00

E. M. Forster, speaking of the perennial difficulty of understanding living poetry, refers to 'the marriage between music and ideas out of which the poem is born. The present state of that marriage would seem to be the question posed by the title of Professor O'Connor's study. The question is answered—or, in the words of the Preface, "The problem was formulated in a manner and to an extent somewhat comparable to its final form"—by adopting the critical principle derived from T. S. Elliot's phrase, the 'dissociation of sensibility'.

Probably the best way of demonstrating this principle is by examining a limited field as Cecil Day Lewis has done in *The Poetic Image* (a work the author does not mention), or by a detailed 'analysis' of particular poems, as recommended and practised by Dr. Leavis and his school. Any other method is in danger of assuming too much and proving too little. Professor O'Connor, however, has attempted the wider task of assessing the whole 'modern movement' of which T. S. Elliot, both as poet and critic, is the most eminent representative. Those who are familiar with the products of this movement and with its critical interpretation—and the book pre-supposes such a familiarity—will find the subject fully and persuasively treated, with considerable acumen, careful documentation, and no surprises. Here is no attempt at blazing a trail. The author has chiefly gone behind the critics and has carefully swept, sifted and tidied up their conclusions.

The merit of this procedure is in providing a useful commentary on the content and emphases of contemporary criticism. Professor O'Connor shows both sense and sensibility here. He never takes over judgements without subjecting them to a sane and discriminating valuation of his own. The scope of the study is comprehensive and balanced, and it will be a useful book of reference. The defect of the method is that, so far as general principles are concerned, we are restricted to familiar, well-trodden ground. The critical framework is always obvious and sometimes oppressive, the critics omnipresent. Always, "Elliot finds", "Schorer says", "Zabel shows" "Mumford puts it," "Brooks has demonstrated", "Friedlander has explained", "Dupe has pointed out," "Wilson warned", "Mann admits," "Symons complained"—admirable, but ultimately producing the same species of desperation as is induced by continually having to ride behind other vehicles and never seeing a clear stretch of road ahead. Sometimes, not only the substance of a current critical theory but also its jargon takes control of the exposition, so that the argument seems to have stood still, or walked round in a circle. Here are the first and last sentences of the opening Chapter:

A part of the corpus of modern criticism is the attempt to explain the effects of scientism on Post-Renaissance poetry.

It should be understandable, therefore, that a number of contemporary critics have been concerned to decry the effects of what they call "scientism" and that many aspects of modern poetry can be explained in terms of this phenomenon.

It is difficult to see why 'scientism' should seem self-explanatory and self-justifying on its first appearance and require the explanation of 'what they call' and the apology of quotes on its last.

The apparent failure to "get anywhere" is magnified by an occasional tendency to duplication of argument in various chapters, perhaps due to the fact that some of the material of the book has appeared before as separate articles. The continuity of the thesis is somewhat broken also by some chapters which have their emphasis rather on historical than on critical development. If little is proved outside the initial assumptions of the critical approach, nevertheless, the standpoint is backed by plenty of corroborative detail and a deal of shrewd comment. It is disappointing that the more recent trends of contemporary poetry find no mention; the book ends with a Chapter on 'The Political Emphasis', which is essentially an analysis of a situation now left behind. As an account of the Eliot-dominated poetic world and its pedigree there is little more that any one could demand.

KENNETH HAMILTON

THE ECONOMIC MUNICH. By Phillip Cortney. New York: The Philosophical Library. 1949 Pp. 262. \$3.75.

A regrettably brief entry in *Who's who in America* tells about Mr. Cortney only that he was educated at a French university as an electrical engineer, that he engaged in the export of steel from France and Belgium, became connected with Coty's in 1940, and he is now the president of Coty, Inc., and Coty International. In what appears to be his first book, he republishes (with a roughly equal amount of new material) some contributions he has made to financial periodicals. The earliest of these contributions—an article, "The dollar mystery," originally published in the *Commercial and Financial Chronicle*—is dated as having been written in October, 1944; and it is a matter of conjecture whether Mr. Cortney's special interests in the problems of international economics had developed before that time.

His title is arresting—at least to those of us whose memories are still tortured by some faint and distant comprehension of the shattering horror of the real Munich. To Mr. Cortney, THE "economic Munich" was the signing of the Charter of the International Trade Organization at Havana in March, 1948, by representatives of the Government of the United States. He tells us (p.12): "It is important to realize that the Havana Charter is not merely dealing with trade and employment, but that it is encroaching on issues which may change our economic, social and political institutions" and "If we decide to ratify this document, our country will give its official and national endorsement to all the economic fallacies and theories which serve as intellectual support to policies conducive to the destruction of our way of life"; and in his preface he describes the Charter as "based on theories which may prove to be the grave-diggers of our human liberties", and says that "what is at stake is neither more nor less than human freedom." Yet what he

chiefly dislikes in that Charter is the "cancerous" undertaking of each Member state to "take action designed to achieve and maintain full and productive employment . . . through measures appropriate to its political, economic and social institutions." This dislike is based upon his faith in the "Individual competitive system" (which he finds to be best exemplified in the United States) and upon his conviction that such a system cannot maintain "full employment" (in the sense that there are "more jobs than workers available") and yet remain a democracy. He does believe that, with good politics and proper management (though what this "proper management" should be he does not say), this system can mitigate economic fluctuations and prevent "large-scale" unemployment; but he also says that "the individual competitive system functions efficiently only if all the component factors entering into the formation of prices are in a buyers' market." If this universal "buyers market" extends to the factor of labor, as Mr. Cortney presumably intends that it should, then the term he uses is simply a pusillanimous euphemism for "a moderate degree of unemployment"—or "a reserve army of labor," to use the terminology of Karl Marx. For all his detestation of Communism, Mr. Cortney has set before it exactly the kind of provender on which it loves to feed.

C. P. WRIGHT

PORTABLE MATTHEW ARNOLD. Edited by Lionel Trilling. Viking Press and MacMillans. Pp. 659. \$2.75

Unfortunately Matthew Arnold was a teacher, and it is well-known to-day that anyone who has had even the remotest connection with education is at least three parts a fool. Moreover, Matthew Arnold was a 19th century writer, and we of the enlightened 20th century realize that the so-called Victorian Age was an ugly age. We know that its ideas were ugly, its morals worse. We know that its people built ugly houses in which they lived ugly lives. Indeed, there is a report from usually reliable sources that faces were at least fifty per cent uglier than they are now. We shudder when we think that a business man of the 19th century was no business man unless he ground no less than ten widows and orphans under his heel each day. For these reasons, we have no use for the Victorian Age or its literature, and it is an established fact that we have no need of it. For, you see, we can write novels. Look at the thousands that appear daily on the bookshelves. If that is not enough, then look at the book clubs; they, too, are endless. The result is that we have not only mass production of cars and refrigerators (or so we are told), but we also have mass production of books. We are good at mass destruction, too, and we are getting better all the time. Haven't we reason to be proud when we compare our standing with that of the philistine 19th century? There is, however, one unsettled matter that is of great concern to all of us. Too many people who were born in the 19th century are still alive. It is lamentable that we have not yet reached that enlightened stage of development that would permit us to do anything about it.

Why, then, has the Viking Press published a portable volume of Arnold's poems, political writings, critical essays and letters? We shall

1765 and the Townshend duties, which, although repealed, paved the way for "a Period of Slaughter and Blood." The author concludes: "The battles that Connecticut's parties waged between 1766 and 1770 . . . crystallized their differences over both local and imperial issues . . ."

After the repeal of the Townshend acts, Connecticut experienced "an uneasy calm", sustained by the fact that her merchants were dependent upon Boston and New York and immediately prior to the Revolution had no vital economic connection with the motherland. In late 1773, the activities of the Susquehanna Company absorbed greater popular attention than the Boston Tea Party.

With the approach of the Revolution, reason was seduced by emotion, and the status of the reactionary Tory became intolerable; he was regarded derisively as "a thing whose head is in England and its body in America and whose neck ought to be stretched." The author illustrates with impartiality the bitterness and bigotry that characterized the spirit of the warring factions; and one is reminded that not exclusively in our own age has a vociferous voice possessed of a reckless vocabulary been mistaken for eloquence.

Connecticut's Years of Controversy 1750-1776 is indexed, and illustrated well with photographs and maps. The author has appended a bibliographical essay that will be of immense value to students of the period, for his research has revealed "rich and relatively unexplored manuscript fields relating to Connecticut."

DONALD F. MACLEAN

THE PASSIONATE PILGRIM. By Will R. Bird. Ryerson Press. Pp.324
\$3.25

INDIAN SUMMER. By Douglas Leechman. Ryerson Press. \$2.75

Every new novel by Bird establishes more firmly his high place in Canadian Fiction. *The Passionate Pilgrim* shows at its best his carefully cultivated natural gift for telling a good story. Steely Bonsel's adventures, always skilfully presented so as to keep the spotlight on Steely, take him from Nameless Creek, Pennsylvania, where his parents have been killed by Indians, largely if not wholly because of the treacherous cowardice of the hero's pseudo cousin Winky, in vengeful pursuit of the runaway, land him in jail for his first assault on Winky, lead to his enlisting in Boston in Colonel Winslow's expeditionary force against Beausejour, to his discharge after experiencing both vicariously and personally the injustice and brutality of military discipline, and eventually to the promise of domestic happiness in a Maritime rural environment. The scenes of the adventures are vividly sketched, and the reader never forgets the characters with whom Steely associates even if only for a short time. Mike Render is particularly memorable for his typically Irish humor.

Very different on the whole from the aspects of Indian character appearing in Bird's novel are those shown in Douglas Leechman's *Indian Summer*. His title symbolizes the repose and calm of the Indians

he has known, especially the more elderly. As an anthropologist he is naturally interested in the traditional folklore of the Indians, brought with them when they crossed from Siberia to America. The first part of the book consists of intimate character studies of ten Indians, four of them women, met in Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, the Canadian prairies, and Yukon. The second part interestingly narrates eleven tales told to the author by his Indian friends. Throughout both parts the reader is given intimate glimpses of other characters with whom the chosen ten associate. The book is a fine supplement to similar work by Maruis Barbeau, to whom it is dedicated.

V. B. RHODENIZER

THE GROWTH OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES. by George E. Brown, The Ryerson Press (Contemporary Affairs Series), Toronto, 1949. Pp. 40., 60 cts.

Prepared for the Canadian-United States Committee on Education and published under the auspices of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs, this pamphlet sets forth briefly, but in clear and readable form, the story of the changing relations between Canada and the United States since the conclusion of the American War of Independence in 1783. The acrimonious boundary, fisheries, and other disputes of the nineteenth century gave way to new problems incidental to industrialization, and to necessarily new techniques for their solution. These have operated during the present century in the favorable atmosphere of Anglo-American friendship, and a maturing Canadian nationhood, but Professor Brown makes clear the danger, on both sides of the unique boundary, of taking good relations for granted. These can be sustained and improved, and can be made to function effectively in the intricate international context of the 20th Century, only in the light of an informed public opinion, for no matter how well qualified and well intentioned the experts may be, peaceful and harmonious relations rest in the last analysis upon the humane intelligence of the masses of men in all countries.

The aim of this pamphlet is to contribute to the wider understanding of a subject that is of the first importance to all Canadians.

A. G. BAILEY

UNTOLD TALES OF OLD QUEBEC. By E. C. Woodley. Illustrated by W. Reder Stark. Toronto: J. M. Dent and Sons. 1949. \$3.50

These histories, which Mr. Woodley has garnered from books and legends, range in time from the middle of the sixteenth to the later nineteenth century. Some of them, like *Marie Guyart* (Mother Mary of the Incarnation), are complete biographies in miniature; others are brief and incidental, like *Champlain's Grave* and *Nelson's Quebec Adventure*. The last relates a romantic detail in the life of the great admiral little known to the general public.

Though the book is interesting in its own right, its chief value may be literary reference. *The Golden Dog*, *The Love Affairs of Angelique*, *Beaumanoir*, *The Horror of La Corriveau* offer a background of fact for Kirby's famous novel. *A Tempestuous Love* supplements in part Willa Cather's *Shadows on the Rock*. *The Romance of Edward of Kent* gives historic depth to Haliburton's essay on Prince's Lodge. *The Lady of Wolfe's Heart* justifies its title, and *The Nostalgia of Montcalm* is a literary masterpiece of its own kind.

As to the quality of Mr. Woodley's writing, let this short paragraph testify: "Thus far is, in the main, history. This may be all we know with certainty of Roberval's fateful attempt at empire-building. But through all the years since there has been a vague rumor, one of those whispers in the corridors of time which every now and then strike the sensitive ear of the historian who realizes well that one can never be quite sure what a man will do who has once dreamed dreams or seen a vision."

SISTER MAURA

CANADIAN CADENCES. By John Murray Gibbon.	} Ryerson Press Chapbooks
LAST MATHEMATICIAN. By Hyman Edelstein.	
SCRUB OAK. By Thomas Saunders.	

Mr. Murray Gibbon deserves well of Canada. A founder and first national President of the Canadian Authors, he has written much to make new Canadians loyal to their country. The present book of graceful songs is characteristic. These set melodious English words to the music of Austrian, Czech, Danish, English, Finnish, Gaelic, German, Irish, Norwegian, and Polish composers. *Dance of the Maple Leaves*, a spirited and tender lyric, commemorates a unique occasion in the history of Canadian letters. It was written and sung in 1921, when the Authors crowned Bliss Carman Poet Laureate of Canada. In 1949, Mr. Gibbon himself received a well won honour; he was awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Society of Canada for his long and distinguished service to Canadian Literature.

As a graduate of Dublin University, and First-in-all-Ireland Classical Exhibitioner, Mr. Edelstein is rich in knowledge of Greek and Latin literature. He writes "Of seas that dimple or thunder off an old Homeric shore," and adds verses in Latin or a Greek couplet to his poems in English. In 1940, he penned a stirring tribute to the new Hellenes, heroes of the modern Thermopylae. His Hebrew blood speaks clearly in the impassioned *Arch of Titus*, the plangent *Not These*, and the cordial verse *To Father B—y*. For him the last, or ultimate mathematician is the poet who can

"interpret for us the graph of the universe
Plotted with stars."

Mr. Saunders writes a strong and thoughtful blank verse. He has a gift for narrative, not the ordinary chain of event linked with event but a comprehensive sequence that spans and interprets human

life and destiny. Such is *They Willed It Thus*, the noblest war threnody as yet published in Canada. *Scrub Oaks* describes the stubborn stunted oaks that grow hardily in sand and *Rural Slum*—a longer poem—describes the people like them who wrest their living from a thankless land. *Drought* is the stark and tragic story of that terror of the west. This book is the voice of the prairies and gives them vivid reality in the mind of a reader.

SISTER MAURA

NEW COMPASS OF THE WORLD. Edited by Weigert, Stefansson, Harrison, The Macmillan Company of Canada. 1949. Pp375. \$6.50

In 1944 the two first-named editors of this book, with the third-named editor as their cartographic collaborator, produced a book, *Compass of the world, a symposium on political geography*. This earlier work contained twenty-eight contributions, from twenty-five hands, arranged in six chapters, under the titles: "The New World: Geography and Geopolitics"; "New Directions and Skyways"; "Reflections on the Heartland"; "The Northward Course"; "Reflections on Asia"; and "The Shifting balance of Man-power". It was published for the purpose of calling attention to a few, but vital, aspects of human geography which need understanding and adjustment in the task of winning the war and a lasting peace; and it was aimed as a whole so its editors stated, against a nascent American geopolitics and American imperialism.

The symposium now published in 1949 is constructed much upon the model of its predecessor. It contains twenty-three contributions from twenty writers—only three of whom however, in addition to the editors, had contributed to the earlier work. These contributions are grouped into five chapters: "The Arctic and Antarctic Spheres"; "The Heartland and the Expansion of the U.S.S.R."; "New frontiers in Europe"; "Strategic Areas and Life Lines"; and "Asia One Half of Mankind." The change is twofold. The refutation of German geopolitics in the earlier work had served its purpose and now disappears; and the emphasis shifts from air navigation and the Arctic to Russia, the Heartland, and Asia—in two chapters that each contain seven essays and together comprise well over half the book.

The editors state that it is the purpose of their book "to discuss vital trends affecting the human geography of our day", and this by concentrating "on physical and human regions which, in 1947 and 1948, appeared to the onlooker pivotal in the geography of the peace which our generation must prevent from becoming another geography of the war". The majority of the articles contain much information of great interest and importance—subject to this qualification, that almost everything in them appears to have been written before the end of 1947. It is, in general, somewhat doubtful whether the editors have ever formed any very clear idea of what they mean by "vital trends" and "pivotal regions"; and this doubt is strengthened by the

fact that a central essay in the book, "The Western Frontiers of Russia", by Robert Strausz-Hupe, is compelled to discard the principles of geography and ethnography as useful guides. It is, nevertheless, a striking testimony to the single-mindedness of all the collaborators that the term "Stalinist-Marxist ideology" makes only a single and obscure appearance in the book and that the word "Communist" does not appear at all.

C. P. WRIGHT

THE VALUES OF LIFE. By E. J. Urwick. University of Toronto Press. Pp. 244. \$3.50

This is a book to be read not alone for a felicitous treatment of great themes, but also for the insight which it gives into the thinking of an Englishman of unusual endowments who gave to Canada the best years of his life and service. Professor Urwick was by vocation a teacher of social science, but a philosopher at heart. In these essays he unburdens his soul of many of the reflections which were doubtless not always appropriate for the classroom.

The book serves double duty. It contains a lengthy biography of the late Dr. Urwick—a posthumous tribute and interpretation by Professor John A. Irving of Victoria College. This is followed by the Urwick essays, the aim of which the author himself has stated: "I have been content to take a few of the supreme values such as beauty and truth and love, and to emphasize part of the very practical significance which they possess for the individual and for any society which desires to live well." The writer proceeds to philosophize first on the subject of Love, thinking aloud, as it were, with something of the wistfulness and charm that those who knew him are happy to recall. Here he devotes not a little discussion to the anomalies of charity, and the "conventional subscriptions," which in his mind are so distant from the true meaning of philanthropy. The next important essay is concerned with Beauty, and it voices many misgivings due to the deleterious influence of utilitarian science on the appreciation of art and beauty. Reference should be made to another major essay on truth. In it the author challenges the idea that knowledge is obtainable only through scientific method, and supports, though not too effectively, the idea of enlightenment through intuition. Here Dr. Urwick takes occasion to air his views on the limitations of Sociology, holding that "conduct in the true sense is not amenable to scientific treatment." If there is disagreement with his conclusions among students of society it should be remembered that Dr. Urwick always regarded himself as a social philosopher rather than as a sociologist in the modern usage of this term.

The book is interspersed with brief but provocative papers on Friendship, Simplicity and other values." Perhaps the least satisfying chapter in the volume is the treatment of Happiness. It is a very conventional discussion, and adds little or nothing to a theme which has been worked over again and again, one might almost say, from the foundation of the world.

S. H. PRINCE

THE INNOCENT TRAVELLER. By Ethel Wilson. Macmillans Pp. 177
\$2.75

The Innocent Traveller cannot properly be called a novel. Rather, it is a collection of chapters, each an incident taken from the life of Topaz Edgeworth, an unrestrained extrovert, let loose among the stiff conventions of the Victorian drawing-room. Topaz, for whom silence exists only to be broken, finds that although the conventions are sometimes bony and sharp, they can be bent. It seems to be Topaz' lot to bend them, and for one hundred years, she does. The series of incidents each of which can be read for itself, brings Topaz from England to Canada, where, at the age of fifty, she begins a new life. Mrs. Wilson writes with grace and humour and exhibits admirable stylistic restraint—something that is sadly lacking among many modern writers. If the reader is not careful, he may be confused when he finds that the baby Topaz has become a middle-aged woman in a very few pages. However, this slight confusion does not detract from the enjoyment to be found in *The Innocent Traveller*. Much can be expected from Ethel Wilson, who came from South Africa to Canada's west coast while still a child.

GERALD A. MOSHER

FAITH OF A SCIENTIST. By H. B. Speakman. Clarke Irwin Ltd.
Pp. 79. \$1.50

This short book contains three lectures delivered by Dr. Speakman, the Director of the Ontario Research Foundation, to Toronto audiences. The author makes no attempt to present a logical or closely reasoned account of the contents of a possible set of beliefs, such as a person trained in science might hold. One could hardly expect this in a popular lecture. The views expressed are given merely as the conclusions of the author drawn from a lifetime of observation of people and events. That Dr. Speakman has observed shrewdly and wisely, and expressed himself clearly and in an entertaining fashion is the opinion of the present reviewer. Reminiscences and observations of the mature, intelligent and objective person are always worthy of careful consideration. The main emphasis of the lectures is that an ultimate distinction between right and wrong exists, and that most of the difficulties into which individuals and societies stumble, arise from the refusal to accept the restrictions imposed by this fact.

W. J. ARCHIBALD

STORY OF AMERICAN PROTESTANTISM. By Andrew Landale Drummond. Edinburgh: Oliver & Boyd Pp. 418. 30 sh.

The author is a graduate of Edinburgh, and a post-graduate of Hartford Theological Seminary (U.S.A.). His earliest background was that of a highly educated Scot, and in this book, we see traces of it in his judgement upon some features of American religious life. But he has studied in America, and presumably has travelled extensively

and has made himself familiar with its geography and the characteristics of its people. Through diligent and careful research he has made himself a master of the religious history of America from the beginning of the 17th century to the present time. So wide is the field and so comprehensive his treatment that it will be impossible to give more than a brief account of the contents of the story.

The first section tells of the colonization of the Eastern Seaboard, and the beginnings of the church. The work of the Church of England, of the Plymouth Fathers, of the Puritans and other bodies including the Roman Catholics is brought before us. This is good historical writing and well documented. The story of the Puritans is told at some length, and the treatment is both sympathetic and critical.

The next important subject deals with "The Great Awakening." This was marked by a revival of religion, largely under the influence of Whitefield, which eventually spread across the continent. It made its appeal to the people of the frontiers, especially in the West and South. It presented the gospel in language and by methods which the people understood. It was marked by excesses of emotion, but it also had a powerful moral influence. The Baptists and the Methodists were leaders but others co-operated; and its appeal continued for about a century. Perhaps Moody and Sankey may be regarded as the last of the outstanding Revivalists. But the multitude of small sects that exist today are still carrying on its tradition. A quieter and more cultivated type of religion would have been preferred by our author, but he is both just and generous in his treatment. The story of Peter Cartwright, a devoted and successful evangelist, is told with sincere appreciation.

There are brief sketches of many prominent people scattered throughout the book. To mention a few may illustrate the breadth of the author's reading and the generosity of his judgements—John Cotton, Johathan Edwards, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Benjamin Franklin, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Phillips Brooks, Henry Ward Beecher, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Mrs. Anne Hutchinson. These sketches add greatly to the human interest of the story.

Practically all the churches were interested in education and the founding of Colleges and Universities, and their development is told. Slavery is treated at length, and the effects of the Civil War both upon the South and the North are discussed.

The latter section of the book will make an appeal to many readers of the present time, who may not be interested in the history of the past. Here he deals with "Social Problems and the Gospel," "Theological Emancipation and Re-statement," "The American Pulpit," "Renaissance of Worship," and finally "Movements towards Unity",

The writer has an independent mind and discusses with frankness what he sees. This book is instructive, well written and by no means dull. It is well worth reading.

W. G. WATSON

THE ENGLISH SPEAKING PEOPLES, By E. W. McInnis and J. H. S. Reid, J. M. Dent & Sons Ltd., 1948 : \$5.00

The events of the past thirty-five years and in particular the Second World War, which produced a degree of intimacy between the Commonwealth and the United States, have led to much discussion about the desirability of a closer union of the English-speaking peoples. This book, however, is in no sense a piece of special pleading for either Anglo-American union or Anglo-American world leadership. Rather it is an excellent political economic and social history of the English-speaking peoples from the close of the seventeenth century to the present time with stress on movements and policies rather than on personalities. In their book Professors McInnis and Reid reveal that though the English-speaking peoples are divided into units with diverse interests they nonetheless possess an underlying unity of "tradition and institutions."

The narrative, which throughout is non-controversial in tone, gets off to a rather slow start but quickly gains momentum and the reader easily becomes absorbed in witnessing the development of each of the major political units that form today's English-speaking world. The authors have very sensibly included several good maps to assist the reader in following their treatment as well as a "selected bibliography." Timely in its subject matter, this well-written history by two Canadian historians will make profitable reading for all who are interested in this important topic.

J. P. HEISLER

ST. DENYS-GARNEAU, ART ET RÉALISME. By M. B. Ellis, Les Editions Chantecler, Ltee, Montréal. 194 pp.

Dr. M. B. Ellis, of the University of Montreal, has prepared in French, a literary criticism of the work of the Canadian poet, de St. Denis-Garneau. It is at the same time a dedication to the memory of Garneau, who died in 1942 at the age of 30 and who is virtually unknown by the general public and by many men of letters. In this effort to point out the place that de St. Denis-Garneau may occupy in the history of French culture, the writer studies a collection of 28 of the poems published under the title *Regards et jeux dans l'espace*.

If one is patient enough to sort out the titles of poems and groups of poems, and moreover learns to contend with the additional headings and divisions with which the critic embellishes her work, one may then proceed to join in the eulogy of de St. Denis-Garneau, as the latter faithfully pursues spiritual truth, the goal of Art, man's highest form of expression.

As Dr. Ellis unveils Garneau's conception of art and studies the creative and spiritual mission of the artist, those who are interested are indeed drawn into the effort to grasp some of the esthetic ideas with which the poet is forever pre-occupied. The serious reader will study the meaning of the poet's word, the sound of which symbolizes thoughts, suggestions and associations. Feeling that knowledge is the way to truth, one will study the poet's deep and sensitive vision, on which his knowledge depends.

To help us understand some of the poet's language, Dr. Ellis has added a glossary of words and phrases: a definite aid to the reader who is unable to penetrate alone through the words and pictures representing the poet's thirst for life and reality, his disillusionment when he finds that the beauty of the physical world is perishable.

The writer of *St. Denys-Garneau, Art et Realisme* has taken a successful step toward her goal to make the French-Canadian poet well known. If the reader will share Garneau's fidelity to a superior ideal, the Supernatural, if he will be faithful to the final belief that everything belonging to space and time is for nought, it will be then possible to see in Garneau, as does Dr. Ellis, a flower of exquisite beauty lighted from on high.

HARRY SMITH

COLLECTED POEMS OF RAYMOND KNISTER. With a Memoir by Dorothy Livesay. The Ryerson Press. Pp. xli and 45. \$2.50.

Canadians should wear sackcloth and ashes for allowing so many years to elapse before the appearance of a collected edition of Raymond Knister's poetry. Of course, we should have been wearing the said garb for many years for having ignored the poet so consistently during his short life. Knister was a genuine poet with his own conception of poetry and his own vision of the Canadian scene. Yet we were so wedded to the banalities of tenth rate Victorianism that few of us paid attention to the man or his work in his life. All his poems and many of his short stories had to be published abroad, mainly in the American Middle West, but also in Paris, for they were too original for us. Yet Knister caught imperishably in his poems the Canadian farm scene, especially of Old Ontario. How sensitive he was to the animal life around him! How beautifully he entered into the life of farm animals, horses especially. A reading of this volume will take many an urban dweller back to childhood days on the farm; it might well make a younger generation realize that horses were much more interesting than tractors. What strikes the reader, too, is the economy of phrase and the concreteness of the language. There is no moral—another reason why the work passed unnoticed—but the deeper feelings of the reader are truly stirred. Miss Livesay has written a first-hand, sympathetic memoir. Would it be possible for the Ryerson Press to bring out a collection of Knister's short stories? In the meantime, Canadians can do tardy justice to Knister by buying and reading this volume; they will be richly rewarded.

B. M.

KEATS: A BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCE GUIDE. With an Essay on Keats' Reputation. By J. H. MacGillivray. Univ. of Toronto Press-Reginald Saunders. Pp. lxxxii and 210. \$5.00.

It is obvious that Professor MacGillivray, of University College, Toronto, has devoted much time and thought to the preparation

of this work. To take the minor part first: the introductory essay, in which the compiler traces the reputation of Keats from 1816 to 1946 is readable and valuable, despite such long and special works as George H. Ford's *Keats and the Victorians* (1944) and Hyder Rollins' *Keats Reputation in America to 1848*.

When one comes to the bibliography itself, one may reasonably have doubts and offer criticism. A bibliography is primarily a tool for busy scholars, librarians and collectors. Therefore it should be very simple and practical in its arrangement. The present reviewer feels that this work should have been in two main divisions: (a) a chronological list of Keats publications and (b) a chronological list of critical works. Then for cross reference, there might have been added lists of the principal works with dates of publication. Instead of some such simple arrangement, Professor MacGillivray has divided his study into 25 sections. If a person wishes to see, for example, just how many editions or studies of Keats appeared between, let us say, 1850 and 1860, he must consult not one list but a dozen. That is a needless waste of effort. Again, the compiler does not precede an entry with the year of publication; as a result the person consulting the work must read through the transcript of the title page or part of the collation in order to find the exact year, and his mind will have to jump from Arabic to Roman numerals and back again. Once again, needless waste of time. While it may not be so necessary for a comparatively recent poet like Keats, it would have been convenient if Dr. MacGillivray had given the name of a British and of an American (or Canadian) library in which copies of every edition could be found. There are sometimes important variants in copies of the same edition of a work. Occasionally we find critical notes appended to an item and at other times no such notes; it would have been better if the compiler had been uniform in his practice. He also mentions that he has omitted many items. Perhaps all those omitted were of no importance, but then no one knows what may be of crucial importance to some other scholar. All-inclusiveness, if it is possible, is the safest rule for any bibliography. Professor MacGillivray has followed the conservative practice of indicating the line divisions on a title page by sloping lines. Twenty years ago, when the present reviewer was engaged on a bibliography, an illustrious bibliographer of Kipling challenged the need for such work. Has any copy ever been found that has had to be distinguished from another copy by the arrangement of the lines of the title page? We doubt it very much, and the sooner this additional burden on bibliographer and printer has been dropped the better.

B. M.

THE INGENIOUS GENTLEMAN DON QUIXOTE DE LA MANCHA By Miguel Cervantes Saavedra. A New Translation . . . by Samuel Putman. Viking-MacMillans. 2 vols. Pp. xxx and 1043. \$12.50 per set.

Before this review has appeared in printed, *Time* will have announced the "Man of the year; whoever *Time's* choice may be,

the Man of the Year is really Mr. Samuel Putman. In these two volumes he has given us a well nigh perfect translation of the great Spanish classic. The Viking Press has ably collaborated with beautiful type, fine paper, and excellent binding. These two volumes are a joy to read and to possess.

In a brief introduction, Mr. Putman reviews the history of the translation of Cervantes into English, essaying the various versions. It was Cervantes' misfortune to miss the glorious Elizabethan period of translation; his work appeared first in Spanish in 1605 and 1608. He has been more unfortunate in the perpetuation in cheap reprints of the shocking Motteux translation, despite the appearance in the 19th century of much better efforts. Mr. Putman discusses simply and modestly the principles on which he has made his translation. Then follows a short biographical notice of Cervantes. To each volume the translator has appended brief but adequate notes for the ordinary reader, and to Vol. II he has appended a bibliography.

But to come to the text itself. Here is a triumph of the familiar style: clean, speedy, and natural; easy without being tawdry; colloquial without being vulgar. Good style should hide itself from the reader; it is only afterwards, when he stops to analyze his pleasure that the reader is aware how artistic this prose is. It would be easy to choose passage after passage to set beside corresponding passages in the Motteux translation to show the craftsmanship and artistry of Mr. Putman. Here is an example, taken at random not from a glowing incident but from a workaday passage:

It seems to me sir, that all these misadventures that have happened to us of late are without any doubt a punishment for the sin your Grace committed against the order of knighthood by failing to keep the vow that you made not to eat bread off a tablecloth, or embrace the queen, and all the rest of it. (Putnam, cap. XIX).

Here is Motteux:

"Now, sir," quoth Sancho, "I cannot help thinking but that all the mis-haps that have befallen us of late, are a just judgement for the grievous sin you have committed against the order of knighthood, in not keeping the oath you swore, not to eat bread at board, nor to have a merry bout with the queen, and the Lord knows what more."

Note the lack of pleasing rhythms in the second passage, the harsh expressions like "just judgement" and the jangle of the negatives. Here is the original so that the reader may judge which translator has caught more nearly the Spirit and tone of the original:

Pareceme, señor mio, que todas estas desventuras que estos dias nos han sucedido, sin duda alguna han sido pena del pecado cometido por vuestra merced contra la Orden de su caballeria, no habiendo cumplido el juramento que hizo de no comer pan a manteles ni con la reina folgar, con todo aquello que a esto se sigue

Mr. Putman laments the decay of interest in Don Quixote, his excellent translation should do much to right the balance.

B. M.

THE IRISH IN NOVA SCOTIA: ANNALS OF THE CHARITABLE IRISH SOCIETY OF HALIFAX, 1786-1836. By H. L. Stewart. Kentville Publishing Company, Kentville, N. S., 1949. Pp. 195.

As a literary production, this is an interesting and informative book. The style is direct, sometimes pungent, and often challenging. The author's wide knowledge; his ability to compare and contrast past events with the present; and his apt quotations from a score or more of authors, ancient and modern, incite the wonder and admiration of the reader. Chapters II and IV, which describe Ireland in the days of Henry Grattan and Daniel O'Connell, deserve special mention; they are erudite essays.

As a history the book is not so satisfactory. It purports to be a story of the Irish in Nova Scotia, but the content hardly justifies the title. The two longest chapters, eighty pages in all, while good controversial essays, are concerned mainly with the woes of Ireland, and these are stated with such fervor and eloquence that they overshadow the main thesis. In other chapters there is a similar tendency to wander into bypaths. Little is said as to when, why, and how Irish immigrants came to the province, or of their individual and collective contributions to its development. Interesting and significant comments are made concerning William Cottnam Tonge, Lawrence O'Connor Doyle, Richard John Uniacke, and other Irish Nova Scotians, but Tonge is given less than two pages, Doyle four, and Uniacke six. Grattan and O'Connell receive far more attention; they are greater historical figures, but they were not Nova Scotians.

The same weakness is seen in the sub-title. From it and the first chapter we are led to expect a connected story of the Charitable Irish Society. This, however, is made secondary to the author's announced purpose in the preface of explaining from Irish history why Eire acted as she did in the recent world war. This seems to the reviewer a story in itself, and while certain references to Ireland were essential in writing the history of the Charitable Irish Society, the length of Chapters II and IV is not justified by the author's brief introduction to them. A single volume of the Society from its founding to the present would have been a more unified project, and the excellent material in Chapters I, III, and V indicates that it could have been done.

Chapter VI, which describes Joseph Howe's relations with the Charitable Irish Society, is another piece of good writing, but its place in this volume is open to question. In the first place, most of Howe's difficulties with the Society belong to the period after 1836, the date at which the author's study was supposed to terminate. Again, the purpose of the chapter appears to be to show that Howe, as a leader in the achievement of colonial responsible government, ought to have understood O'Connell's plans for Ireland and to have given them his support. This seems to imply that he should have been friendly with the Irish in Nova Scotia. It is well-known that Howe was a strong advocate of Imperial Unity, and that he could not support O'Connell's objectives—which the author describes in the language of today, but then unknown, as "Irish autonomy strictly within the British Com-

monwealth" and "Donimion Status", (p. 162)—is perhaps not so surprising. Nor could it be expected that a man of Howe's background and temperament, seeking as he was to serve the Empire in an official capacity, should look upon the Crimean War as "one on whose justice in its origin and whose humanity in its prosecution there was much room for doubt and dispute." (p. 169). Hence that he should resent the action of William Condon of the Charitable Irish Society in interfering with his recruiting campaign in the United States is understandable. He might regret the famine in Ireland and still not concur in any form of anti-British agitation on this side of the Atlantic. It is not, however, the intention of the reviewer to defend or condemn Joseph Howe, but to indicate that Professor Stewart's material in this chapter is decidedly controversial. Howe's quarrel with the Irish in Nova Scotia was unfortunate, and that it had religious implications is more regrettable. But it seems out of place to cite Howe's most extreme letter (p. 171) without an adequate explanation of the circumstances out of which it arose.

Apart from the obvious bias with which the author has approached his subject, and his tendency to read present day thought and constitutional terminology into the past, he is to be commended for his research and his engaging style of writing. He has produced a readable and thought-provoking book.

R. S. LONGLEY

NOVA SCOTIA SKETCHES. By Frank A. Doane. Truro Printing & Publishing Co., Ltd. Pp. 121.

Nova Scotia Sketches sustains a personal tradition of informal writing that would be hazardous to imitate. The author presents a succession of chatty commentaries on people and places, which will be read with greatest interest by natives and residents of Truro and Barrington, Nova Scotia. The book contains seventeen illustrations some of which a few readers may not have seen elsewhere; with suitable revision, *Nova Scotia Sketches* should be received well by tourists.

DONALD F. MACLEAN

LE LIVRE DES COMBATS DE L'AME. By Albert Caraco. Paris 1949

Albert Caraco's recent book is a new tribute paid to the French language. This talented writer, whose Argentine birth opened straight away to him the golden gates of Latin culture, has already published in French, during the war, two classical tragedies, poems on Joan of Arc, a Christian drama book of philosophical tales: a spiritual revenge at the very moment France could be thought annihilated.

Le Livre des Combats de l'Âme (*The Book of the Conflicts of the Soul*) is a highly philosophical and religious work. After a text in prose, in which the problem of human essence and liberty is approached, the

dialogue between the soul and God goes swelling through more than a hundred sonnets, psalms, odes, "terze rime" rich in well-made verses and biblical associations. The poetical technique of the author is generally derived from the European XVIIth Century; one cannot be surprised if the reader is made to refer to French literature of the age of Louis XIII or to Angelus Silesius, Gongora and Juan de Jauregui; but it is obvious that modern poets like Stefan George and Paul Valery are not unknown to him, and no doubt he is greatly indebted to Holderlin. A fairly voluminous commentary allows one to understand the often complex symbols, though a number of simple and direct poems may be found.

Let us congratulate Mr. Caraco on his highmindedness. However, one would like such a poet sometimes to escape from the severe rules he has prescribed for his own art and reveal himself in a less classical way, if not more spontaneously, at least more unconstrainedly. It is beyond doubt that, if he ventured to do it, his mastery of the French language would not betray him.

PAUL CHAVY

THE ENGLISH MIDDLE CLASSES. By Roy Lewis and Angus Maude.
J. M. Dent & Sons (Canada) Limited, Aldine House, Toronto
1949. Index Pp. 320. \$3.75.

This is an unusual and timely book, extremely well written, and packed with information and provocative opinions which will stimulate the reader, whether he agrees or disagrees. Not only is it interesting to the sociologist and the historian, but to all who want to acquire a greater understanding of the trends of modern life and of the effects of socialism.

Both the authors are products of English public schools and graduates of Oxford. Mr. Lewis is a financial and industrial journalist who travelled widely in the Dominion and the East and worked in the Eastern Group Supply Council and in China during the war. Mr. Maude brings to his task as Deputy Director of Political and Economic Planning his experience as an economist, financial journalist in London, and wartime service as an army officer, including three years as a prisoner-of-war in Africa, Italy and Germany.

After settling the difficult problem of defining the middle classes, which the authors estimate amount to 16 to 18 million of professional and business men, managers above the grade of foremen, most farmers, a majority of shopkeepers and civil servants, a substantial number of clerks and other non-manual workers and some craftsmen, they devote the remainder of Part I, to a condensed version of the history of England from Roman times to the Atomic Age. Today, as it has throughout its history, the class structure of the nation is changing. As the upper levels of the middle classes conquered, married into and ultimately merged with the nobility so the upper levels of the working class have overtaken many in what sociologists call the lower middle class. In Great Britain the upper classes form 2% of the population,

middle classes 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %, and working class 64 $\frac{1}{3}$ %. In Canada, 65% of the population claimed to be middle class, while Canadian sociologists state that not more than one-third have any right to the label.

Part I is a new interpretation of English history, for the authors analyze feudalism, the Black Death, industrial revolution, slums, factory acts, repeal of corn laws, reform bills, the Exhibition of 1851, and other events to discover how each affected the growth and influence of the Middle Classes. Absorbing as "The Golden Age" and "The Age of Guilt" may prove, the attention of most readers will be directed to Part II which discusses the function of the middle classes and devotes separate chapters to a penetrating study of the changed position, problems and prospects of public servants, businessmen and managers, the professions and farmers traders and shop-keepers, today.

The chapter on "The Public Servant" is of particular interest not only because of the great increase in the numbers and responsibilities of the civil servants in the war, but because of the infliction on departments, of tasks for which their resources and machinery are unsuited, with resulting slowness and lack of efficiency, and the increasing irritation and anger of citizens and a growing tendency towards bureaucracy. In the past the British "have been reasonably well satisfied with the efficiency of the public service. They are very far from being satisfied with it now, and with reason; for the Civil Service is being asked to do things which, with its numbers, resources, and training, it simply cannot do efficiently. Confronted with slowness and lack of efficiency in the administration of restrictive controls, the public is not only developing a sense of hostility towards the officials, but endeavors to short-circuit, when it does not actually ignore, the controls." The authors remind their readers that the trouble does not lie with the public servants and that the people may still choose the remedy of discarding the system of government which restricts the individual's freedom to manage his own affairs.

The third section deals with the present life and problems of the middle classes, the family budget, the decline in living standards, housing, emigration, lack of domestic servants, how many children a family can afford to bring up decently and what sacrifices shall be made to educate these children. The undisputed generalization that the working class is better off than it was in 1939 and the middle and upper classes worse off is illustrated by figures showing that from 1938 to 1948 the cost of living rose for the former by 75% and 90% for middle classes, whose incomes seldom rose more than 30%. To enjoy the necessities, comforts and luxuries that a married civil servant with one child obtained in 1939 for £439 would now require more than £1,000. Inflation has caused severe curtailment of recreation, leisure and means to pursue culture, and extreme hardship for the aged who sacrificed to provide security in retirement and find themselves in penury. The middle classes may take comfort from the fact that members of their class suffered as much after World War I and were saved by declining prices in the late twenties. The increases in taxes and prices that middle classes now pay, together with the reduction in the amenities they enjoy result from the national desire to reduce

inequalities, abolish gross poverty, broaden opportunities to talent wheresoever born, and limit the accumulation of inherited wealth. The nation must be careful that redistribution of wealth does not damage the whole productive system by reducing output.

In "Looking Forward" Mr. Lewis and Mr. Maude conclude that the middle classes will remain an influence in England. "The middle classes conserve and transmit the stored experience of the whole nation in the arts of community and statecraft; and in particular they are . . . the main barrier *against* unrestricted State power". The whole idea behind the English reform has been that the proletariat should be turned into something middle-class; he should have security, middle class surroundings and leisure. Indeed, the Labor party, in England in its reforms and leaders has so far proved to be middle-class because experience of leadership tends to make working-class people middle-class.

Here is a book full of thought-provoking ideas that will furnish much material for debate, and that will contribute to a greater understanding of the past and present social, economic and political conditions of England.

PHYLLIS R. BLAKELY

MACKENZIE KING OF CANADA. By H. Reginald Hardy. Oxford Press.
Pp. 390. \$3.50.

H. Reginald Hardy's biography of Mackenzie King is an interesting and readable story, but, in an attempt to stress the human side of King's character, the author has introduced too many trivial details and superficial incidents. The latter improve one's knowledge of the prime minister as a man, but not as a statesman. Another general criticism might be made that the book is not completely impartial in its approach. The author describes himself in his foreword as "one of Mr. King's sincere admirers", and this is obvious in many parts of the book in spite of Mr. Hardy's effort to attain "complete objectivity".

The book is divided into three parts: the first describes Mr. King's childhood, college years, and political career up to the outbreak of World War II; the second tells of his leadership of the Canadian Government during the war years; and the third runs the gamut from the discovery of the Russian spy ring to the home life and tastes of the prime minister. Part one gives a revealing picture of Mr. King's boyhood, and describes his years of education at the Universities of Toronto and Chicago, and on a travelling fellowship from Harvard. Hardy then shows how King's early experience in settling labor disputes first as Deputy Minister of Labor and later as Director of Industrial Research with the Rockefeller Foundation gave him a back-log of experience later to stand him in good stead. In 1919, King assumed the leadership of the Liberal party with "a dogged determination to succeed, the ability to think coolly and methodically, and a passion for study and research." Hardy shows how, in the next decade, King proved himself a "supreme tactician" in parliament, particularly in his adroit and masterful handling" of the Progressive party.

Part II contains a clear account of Canada's contribution to the war effort, and the hotly-disputed issue of conscription. Speaking of King's handlings of the cabinet crisis of 1944, Hardy says, "This successful handling of a situation which was fraught with the gravest consequences must ever stand as the crowning achievement of King's career". In this section, the author criticizes the government in respect to the enforcement of its manpower policy in Quebec, and to the administration of its selective service regulations. However, he consistently defends the prime minister's actions as aimed towards the goal of preserving national unity.

Part III is a series of twelve chapters dealing with the post-war years, Mr. King's retirement, and such aspects of his career as his relations with his assistants, his cabinet ministers, and with the press. The attempt to emphasize the human side of Mr. King's character is particularly noticeable in these chapters, which include many details and anecdotes of his home life. Regarding those who worked close to the prime minister, the author says: "It was no secret around the East Block that after a man had spent a few years with King he was ready for a good, long rest." By and large, there is much interesting material in the last section, but it is not as coherently arranged as the preceding parts of the book.

To the casual reader who wishes to obtain a general picture of the ex-prime minister's life and career, this book is recommended; to the scholar who wishes a fuller and deeper knowledge of Mackenzie King as a politician and statesman, one might quote Mr. Hardy's remark, "It is doubtful if Canadians will be able to assess the full measure of the man until King's private correspondence has been collected and published."

SUSAN FLEWWELLING

PHILIP FRENEAU AND THE COSMIC ENIGMA: THE RELIGIOUS AND PHILOSOPHICAL SPECULATIONS OF AN AMERICAN POET. By Nelson F. Adkins, New York University Press. Pp. 84. \$2.50

For some reason or other during the past thirty years there has been much study of Philip Freneau, from short studies to a full length biography. To the non-American the devotion seems almost inexplicable, for as a poet Freneau is not much better than a good versifier; perhaps the reasons are that he can be turned into a "sort of father" of American poetry and that he reflects all the passing whims and twists of late 18th century thought. In the present study Professor Nelson examines Freneau's thought under such headings as orthodoxy, Nature, deism, and paganism. He shows, by means of copious quotations from verse and prose, that Freneau held various and inconsistent views at various times during his life, but that in the main he was a rather puzzled and uncertain cross between a deist and an agnostic. Surely it is rather foolish to take too seriously and to try to work into a pattern the passing moods and reflections of a quick but ordinary mind; to call Freneau's thoughts "metaphysical speculations" and to refer to his speculative mind is confusing philosophy with random ideas. One needs only think

ahead to people like Hawthorne and Melville to see how far short of a profound insight into life were Freneau's speculations. Perhaps the most original contribution of the study is the examination of the possible influence of Lucretius on Freneau.

B.M.

STALIN:—A Political Biography. By Isaac Deutscher. Oxford. University Press. 1949, Pp. ix, 600. \$5.50

Mr. Deutscher is a Pole with a thorough knowledge of Marxist philosophy, who has been studying Russian politics partly at first hand, since 1926. He has lived in England since 1939, where he has been a valuable member of the staffs of *The Economist* and *The Observer*. He presents this book as the first part of a trilogy, the other parts of which will be studies of Trotsky in exile and of the life of Lenin. Beginning the trilogy with Stalin, the builder of the modern Russian state, rather than more logically with Lenin, the architect of the revolution, while making the overall task more difficult, is more than justified by the urgent need for an understanding and balanced treatment of today's communist Russia and its leader. Such an understanding is desperately needed in view of the prevailing confused and hysterical attitude in the western world towards the U.S.S.R. If the standards of scholarship and the vividness exhibited in this volume are maintained in the other two, the trilogy will form a significant and readable history of the Russian Revolution and its aftermath. The book is detailed, well-documented, intensely analytical and, at the same time, absorbing throughout.

The general pattern of the book is an alternation of description and analysis of political developments over a given period with a discussion of Stalin's role in those developments. It is thus a political biography. It abstracts not from Stalin's personality, which the author makes every effort to explore, but from his private life, about which very little of interest is known. Since the economic, social and political structure of the U. S. S. R. is largely the result of reforms imposed from above, that is by Stalin, this study of Stalin's political life at the same time a study of the development of the modern Russian state.

Beginning with the birth in squalor (to parents who were born serfs) of Joseph Vissarionovich Djughashvili, later known as Koba (The Indomitable) and finally known as Stalin (The Man of Steel), Mr. Deutscher shares with the reader his insight into the many stages of the Russian leader's eventful life. For example, the great, bloody, purges of the middle nineteen-thirties are often thought of as having been the work of a lustful maniac demonstrating his power. Mr. Deutscher has this, among other things, to say about Stalin's part in those purges:

It is not necessary to assume that he acted from sheer cruelty or lust of power. He may be given the dubious credit of the sincere conviction that what he did served the interests of the revolution and that he alone interpreted those interests aright.

His comparison of Hitler and Stalin is most interesting. He points

out the unscrupulousness and mercilessness of both in suppressing all types of opposition, but adds, with much elaboration omitted here:

Stalin cannot be classed with Hitler, among the tyrants whose record is one of absolute worthlessness and futility. Hitler was the leader of a sterile counter-revolution, while Stalin has been both the leader and the exploiter of a tragic, self-contradictory but creative revolution. (p. 569).

While careful to point out the debilitating effects of Stalinism on the arts and letters of Russia, even to the extent of the nation's adopting Stalin's flat, coarse, prose style and his speaking language, Mr. Deutscher notes:

Although Stalin has kept Russia isolated from the contemporary influence of the west, he has encouraged and fostered every interest in what he calls the "cultural heritage" of the west. Perhaps in no country have the young been imbued with so great a respect for love for the classical literature and art of other nations as in Russia

It is of interest to note that the stature of Lenin as the father of the revolution has survived the purges that erased the parts of the other revolutionary and post-revolutionary leaders. Leninism remains the moulding philosophy of Russian communism. Even Stalin has needed a political philosophy not his own in name to which to relate his policy, so perhaps he has kept Lenin's name sacrosanct for that purpose. If so, he has not really limited himself, for he has made Leninism mean what he wanted it to mean at any given time. Stalin's Leninism is not necessarily the philosophy of Lenin.

Even after Mr. Deutscher's penetrating analysis, the concept of Stalin's personality remains an elusive one, but the author does erase the common conception of Stalin as a willful, inhuman zealot, working ruthlessly towards predetermined goals according to well-calculated plans. He replaces it with the picture of a cool pragmatist of great cunning, who is basically a nationalist, concerned primarily with the welfare as he sees it, of the communist Russian state and who is always working in some definite direction with relentless vitality, ever-ready to change or even reverse his course if unforeseen circumstances arise, or if his calculations go awry. He presents Stalin as a leader who is not an intellectual giant but who is a political genius. (He had to be one in order to survive). "He was the practitioner of the revolution, not its man of letters." (p. 125).

F. J. GRAHAM