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(Continued from page 517)

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was in itself a force in his career and remains an intrinsic part of his legacy; but he dissects it carefully and digs out the facts from under the accumulation of fiction.

General Mitchell was an amazing personality quite aside from his relation to air-power history. His extraordinary energy, his physical courage and stamina, his eccentricities and his adventures as a warrior and a crusader make his life story fascinating even for those who do not share his passion for the airplane. Mr. Levine's account of the celebrated Mitchell court martial deserves a place in any collection of great trial stories.

As one follows the evolution of Billy Mitchell's views on military aviation it becomes clear that his fight has not yet been won. Curiously, Mitchell has been recognized but his ideas have neither been fully understood nor fully applied. His main demands — for air strategy as distinct from ground and sea strategies, for a unified air force, for equality with the other services — still must be won.

**HORACE WILLIAMS: GADFLY OF CHAPEL HILL**, by Robert Watson Winston. \$3.00. *University of North Carolina Press*. For nearly fifty years Horace Williams (1858-1940) taught modern logic and comparative religion at the University of North Carolina. He has been called "the greatest intellectual and spiritual force" in the State. A proof of the Williams influence is the fact that just before Tennessee passed its anti-evolution bill in 1925 (which remains unrepealed), a similar bill was overwhelmingly defeated in North Carolina. This biography of him has some minor errors, but on the whole it is well done.

C. L. S.

**A LATIN AMERICAN SPEAKS**, by Luis Quintanilla. \$2.50. *Macmillan*. The former minister plenipotentiary and counsellor of the Mexican Embassy in Washington discusses the economies and cultures of all the Amer-

ican countries with great frankness and considerable knowledge. He points out that the United States, while rich and huge in territory, has much to learn from her less opulent and smaller neighbors, and that the concept of inter-American solidarity was originally a Latin-American one, which might well serve as a model for a future World Order. A wise and truly stimulating volume.

**THE CONSUMER GOES TO WAR**, by Caroline F. Ware. \$2.00. *Funk & Wagnalls*. Dr. Ware offers practical advice to the intelligent consumer: how to shop with a ration book, how to conserve clothes, how best to serve the local war effort, how to keep healthy on less heating fuel, etc. She also explains the causes of inflation and the simple ways in which the housewife can combat it. Finally, she considers the postwar world. She says, "We must be ready to convert enough of the war machinery to peacetime purposes to keep the economy in high gear and to effect the transition from war to peace." There are several illustrations and useful supplements.

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS**, by V. K. Narayana Menon. 8s. 6d. *Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh*. Mr. Menon admits the high lyricism of Yeats's less philosophical poems and that "his work will remain forever the greatest personal document of our times," but he points out in considerable detail that Yeats was not in tune with the times: he believed in astrology, was cold to science and democracy, and, at the very least, was inclined toward fascism. Mr. Menon is less gifted as a poetry critic than a political sleuth, yet he has produced a notable basic document of value to future and more gifted critics.

**WAR IN THE WEST**, by Daniel Vilfroy. \$2.50. *Military Service Publishing Company, Harrisburg, Pa.* M. Vilfroy was a French staff officer who studied closely the disaster that befell his country in May-June, 1940, and here he offers his conclusions. The collapse was due not only to "the failure of senile

generals who committed unforgivable errors in preparation for war and in the strategic conduct of operations," but also to the fact that "French democracy had become a demagogic plutocracy," which was selfish to the point of undermining its own foundations. The massive technical military details will make the book of special value to professional soldiers, but the general reader will also find it of considerable interest. There are several maps.

WORKS OF PROSE, by Heinrich Heine, edited by *Hermann Kesten*, with preface by Louis Untermeyer, in translation by E. B. Ashton. \$3.00. *L. B. Fischer*. Despite several previous selections and translations, the English-speaking world is scarcely aware of Heine as a writer of prose. But he was a polemicist, journalist and essayist of the first water—satirical, humorous, passionate and adroit. Mr. Kesten has apparently chosen with an eye to displaying the versatility of Heine's prose.

HARVEST OF MY YEARS, by Channing Pollock. \$3.50. *Bobbs-Merrill*. Lusty, egocentric and opinionated like its author, this well-written autobiography will delight especially readers who relish meeting a rich variety of famous and near-famous persons between book covers. Mr. Pollock's years have compassed journalism, literature and points between in every conceivable combination, but the emphasis is on the theatre, its people, its headaches and its glories.

FEDERAL INCOME, GIFT AND ESTATE TAXATION, by Jacob Rabkin and Mark H. Johnson. \$25.00. *Matthew Bender & Company, New York*. This huge, valuable, and exhaustive reference book is arranged according to subject matter, and each group subject is further subdivided into chapters and sections. Then there are numerous charts, a compendium of tax rate tables and several very helpful appendices and indices. Provision is also made for the monthly servicing of new material. The entire volume has a thumb-

nailed index, and altogether is an indispensable standard work of compilation.

GERMANY'S MASTER PLAN, by Joseph Borkin and Charles A. Welch. \$2.75. *Duell, Sloan & Pearce*. One does not have to accept the thesis that the international cartels—which predated Hitler—were a German "master plan" to read this clear and detailed story of the higher economics with fascinated attention. The authors held posts under Thurman Arnold in the Department of Justice, and have thus co-operated in exposing and breaking unwholesome cartel arrangements. The American corporation officials involved, it appears, were on the whole fools rather than knaves.

W. B. YEATS, 1865-1939, by Joseph Hone. \$6.00. *Macmillan*. The authorized biography of the great poet, written by an intimate friend of Yeats and a man of talent in his own rights who had unlimited access to letters, notebooks and other materials. The story is told quietly, with great charm and touches of humor. While Mr. Hone's admiration for the subject is vast, it is kept well this side of ecstasy and so does not obscure the human being in the great poet.

FORCE AND FREEDOM. REFLECTIONS ON HISTORY, by Jacob Burckhardt. \$3.50. *Pantheon Books, New York*. Burckhardt was a Swiss historian who lived in the days of Nietzsche, Wagner and the founding of the German Empire. For a while he was friendly with the first, because of their common interest in classical art, but they separated when the German began to preach his power philosophy. Burckhardt was in some ways a Jeffersonian, believing in the minimum of government, and he also saw grave dangers in liberalism's growing reliance on the state and predicted the general pattern of events in the world today. The present volume is the first English translation of his most inclusive, if not his most finished, work. There is a fine biographical foreword by the editor, James Hastings Nichols.

WHITE MAMMOTHS, by Alexander Poliakov. (Translated from the Russian by Norbert Guterman.) \$2.50. *Dutton*. This story of a group of Russian tanks, from the assembly line through many hard-fought battles, contains some of the best action reporting of the war — human and unaffected despite the grimness of the tale. The author, who wrote *Russians Don't Surrender*, was reported killed under fire last October.

APPEASEMENT'S CHILD. THE FRANCO RÉGIME IN SPAIN, by Thomas J. Hamilton. \$3.00. *Knopf*. This is perhaps the most complete account of the almost incredible number of mistakes made by England and the United States in their dealings with Franco, and of the misery his government has brought to Spain. Mr. Hamilton, who was New York *Times* correspondent in Spain in 1937-1941, thinks that we must deal with Franco on an hour-to-hour basis, because his word, at least to the democracies, is worthless.

BATTLE FOR THE SOLOMONS, by Ira Wolfert. \$2.00. *Houghton Mifflin*. Mr. Wolfert, representing the North American Newspaper Alliance, saw action on land, in the air, and on the sea in the Solomons in October-November of last year, and here he gives his impressions. He tells some moving tales about the heroism of American sailors, soldiers and aviators. His book would be better if there were fewer lush passages and less callow philosophy and more straight reporting.

#### FICTION

THE LITTLE PEOPLE, by Albert Halper. \$2.50. *Harper's*. The author of *Union Square*, etc., still has his touch for the poignant detail in humans, streets, weathers. This latest, about a group of Chicagoans whom the title describes, nevertheless makes one fear that what began as feeling is now endangered by formula. Certainly one of the more potent younger novelists, Mr. Halper begins to seem a little too glib, too pat, like Steinbeck at his worst.

THE DAY MUST DAWN, by Agnes Sligh Turnbull. \$2.75. *Macmillan*. A novel of pioneer life in Western Pennsylvania in the days of Valley Forge. The story revolves about Mrs. Martha Murray, who endured great hardships gracefully, and whose chief ambition was to see her daughter Violet spared her travail, but Violet thwarts her mother's hopes by marrying a local boy who is pledged to continue the same life. The book, which is skillfully and warmly written, suffers on occasion from melodrama that was probably artificial even for those times.

MRS. PARKINGTON, by Louis Bromfield. \$2.75. *Harper*. From shirt sleeves to shirt sleeves in three generations is the theme of this thickly womanish novel. Mrs. Parkington, a remarkable old woman of eighty-four, widow of a robber baron, looks through the past and tries to solve the problems of the future. Only one great-granddaughter seems to have any qualities worth saving and Mrs. Parkington does her best for her. Mr. Bromfield obviously had his eye on Hollywood.

SHE DIED A LADY, by Carter Dickson. \$2.00. *Morrow*. Sir Henry Merrivale has sprained his big toe and has to do his detecting from a wheelchair, but he manages to solve the problem of the lovers who disappeared just the same. Uproarious and a good puzzle too.

LAURA, by Vera Caspary. \$2.50. *Houghton Mifflin*. Billed as a psychothriller this turns out to be the story of a murdered woman seen through the eyes of an egotistic novelist, her fiancé and the detective in charge of the case. An out-of-the-ordinary puzzle with a clever twist at the end.

THE EMPEROR'S SNUFFBOX, by John Dickson Carr. \$2.00. *Harper*. The murder of an antiquarian in a small French resort is solved by a specialist in criminal psychology although all the circumstantial evidence points to the girl engaged to the victim's son. A very slick whodunit.

# THE OPEN FORUM

## GERMANY AFTER THE WAR

Writing in the *New York Times* for March 22, Anne O'Hare McCormick points out that Nazi propaganda is frightening the Germans into loyalty by "threats that the fate prepared for a beaten Germany is worse than the war itself." She adds:

"Therefore it is the worst kind of tactics to publish such articles as one purporting to outline 'Our Government's Plan for Postwar Germany' in the current *AMERICAN MERCURY*. The plan as reported calls for administration during a period of military occupation and probation by 'American Gauleiters' undergoing 'four months' training' at Charlottesville, Va.; the dismemberment of the Reich; the decentralization and reduction of all industry and Allied control of what is left.

"If the American government has definitely decided on this course, which of course it has not, it would hardly be so stupid as to announce at this stage conditions of 'unconditional surrender' no group in Germany could possibly accept. The only purpose served by such publication is to blow up Hitler and help him run a little longer."

Because similar criticism of the article has cropped up in other directions we publish a letter addressed to Mrs. McCormick by the Editor.

DEAR MRS. MCCORMICK:

It does seem to me that your judgment on Kingsbury Smith's article in the April *MERCURY*, as expressed in the final paragraph of your column today, is on the harsh side.

Aren't we overdoing the squeamishness about straight talk for fear that the Goebbels boys will misuse it? Nazi propaganda doesn't need American publications to feed on. It can and does draw on its unlimited imagination.

As you point out yourself, Hitler is already telling the Germans that we intend to sterilize them, destroy them physically, etc. The true picture as given in the *MERCURY* article is so humane and considerate compared to the imaginary picture being given by Nazi propaganda that it ought to have a wholesome and reassuring effect.

Certainly those who are doing short-wave broadcasts and other types of American propaganda directed to the German people can use the article effectively to accomplish the very opposite of the dire results you indicate. The keynote of the program outlined to Kingsbury Smith, after all, is that "the German people be given one more chance after this war to prove they can become peaceful, co-operative members of a sane society of nations." The program is stern to a degree, but always in pursuance of this major purpose. It distinguishes at every point between the German state and the German people and emphasizes that "we are prepared after a probationary period to treat the German individual on a basis of equality."

While the Nazi and Gestapo crowds will be cleared out, as much as possible of the civilian personnel of the public services and the police forces of Germany will be retained. The freedom of press and speech will gradually be restored. Ultimately the Germans will be given a share in the work of an international police force and a proportionate share in any collective security system. Mr. Smith writes that "it is felt that we must prevent famine, disease and complete economic chaos" in Germany and that consequently we are prepared to give the Germans food, medical supplies and even seeds and fertilizer if needed; and enough foreign trade privileges