

ing over the German nation, here is a study of the job as seen by a member of the United States staff assigned to the task. *American Military Government in Germany*, by Harold Zink, (Macmillan, \$4.00), is a detailed outline of the plan, complete with diagrams and statistics. The preparations, planning and policy of the A.M.G. are explained, but for the purpose of understanding the Germans there are many descriptions of conditions. The unsuccessful attempt at denazification, re-education, and the economic problems faced, are bluntly discussed. It is noted that Zink leans to the same thought of building a new, democratic Germany, emphasizing the importance of an industrial rebirth of the country. As he points out, had the United States been in Europe and suffered

physical damage to its industrial plant, we would have been keen to re-establish German production for purposes of reparation. That is where Britain and Russia see the question from another angle.

There is a chapter on relations with the German population, showing the non-fraternization goal first set up, then allowed to crumble because of its impractical nature. Zink thinks we must stay in Germany for at least 10 years, and must let this be understood abroad as a guarantee of continued interest. This entails adequate organization and funds. Even without cooperation from Russia and France, this should be our purpose, and one desirable result would be understanding on the part of Germans of our anxiety to help them restore themselves as useful citizens.

BRIEFER COMMENT

WORLD AFFAIRS

The internal troubles of Greece and her problems on the international level are well reported in *The Greek Dilemma: War and Aftermath*, by William Hardy McNeill, (Lippincott, \$3.50). The author explains the differences in objectives of the several parties fighting for control: the Communists following Russian ambitions, and the group backed by the British. Beyond the political chaos McNeill found the economic status dangerous; over-populated and under-equipped for industry and commerce, Greece is the hot trouble spot of the moment.

There seems always to have been some organized effort to overthrow

the Hitler regime. Alen Welsh Dulles tells about the plots and attempts to plot in *Germany's Underground*, (Macmillan, \$3.00), including the bomb fiasco in July, 1944. He tells, from investigation as well as study of the Nürnberg testimony, about these conspiracies, always unsuccessful, and at the same time gives a general picture of the internal machinations of the Hitler group throughout the war.

One of the clearest recent expositions of the Russian people, their habits and ideas is *Why They Behave Like Russians*, by John Fischer, (Harpers, \$2.75). The answer is primarily fear of further invasion, plus pressures from the outside world against the Soviet pattern. Fischer is scarcely awed by the Rus-

sians; he sees their many weaknesses while he admits their general devotion to the party. Where he heard dissatisfaction, he reported it; however, so far it offers little threat against the regime. Altogether he manages to tell a lot about inside Russia through the conversations of her citizens, and in a sense it is reassuring; much of it reflects the social and economic revolution of a people unused to democracy.

BIOGRAPHY

The life story of the celebrated Russian author is outlined in *Fyodor Dostoevsky*, by J. A. T. Lloyd, (Scribner, \$3.50), to show the peculiar nature of the man, his own tribulations and oddities, often reflected in his novels. Lloyd's treatment is sympathetic, coupled with a conviction that Dostoevsky portrayed actual life, sometimes his own, in his work.

Montgomery, a Biography, by Alan Moorehead, (Coward-McCann, \$4.00), is an enthusiastic tribute to the victor at El Alamein. There isn't much of the unusual about his family and early life; it is the customary background of an old British line. The emphasis is on Monty's skill and acumen as a military genius. Moorehead goes all out for him, despite admission that there was and still is controversy on the point. One thing is sure; the general's showmanship was first water, and this biography makes the most of it.

Navy officials might hopefully label it fiction, but *Off My Sea Chest*, by Lewis H. Conarroe, (Holt, \$2.75), claims to be biography, so biography it shall be. The

author tells his experiences in the navy as an officer. There is no war in it, except for the perennial battles of intelligent men against red tape, claptrap and regulations. Conarroe recalls many idiotic incidents such as we've all heard from veterans; he tells his tales with humor and candor. The big boys wouldn't like its *lese majeste*, but it is hilarious reading and there must be some truth in it.

The Innocent Eye, by Herbert Read, (Holt, \$3.50), is the story of his life, starting on his father's farm in Yorkshire and culminating as university professor, editor and writer of fine prose. While there is a little about the material Read in it, it is largely the development of an intelligence. It is in essay form and excellent reading.

FICTION

The rash of stories of adolescence and college days breaks out again in *My Name Is Christopher Nagel*, by C. W. Grafton, (Rinehart, \$2.75). In fact it is so full of the rituals of college baseball and training that, except for a few warm spots, it could go into the juvenile department.

Even though it's a war story, *The Gallery*, by John Horne Burns, (Harpers, \$3.00), is good fiction. Based on the occupation of Naples by Americans in the summer of 1944, Burns brings to life the Italian civilians who preyed on the soldiers yet loved them and hated them simultaneously. It is worthwhile because the war is only background for everlasting human nature at its worst, and some of it at its selfless best.

Fanciful and yet rooted in the material misfortunes that beset Europe in the war, *The Enchanted*, by Martin Flavin, (Harpers, \$3.00), is an adventure story worthy of a permanent place. It deals with seven Spanish children, displaced in France, and then led to escape from the oncoming Germans through perilous adventure. With the dreary prospect come thoughts and moments of emotional beauty, told in the language of artists' children.

Dario, by Percy Winner, (Harcourt, Brace, \$2.50), called a fictitious reminiscence by its author, tells the story of an Italian fascist's career through the war and his evolution into a Communist. Winner tells the tale in the first person as an acquaintance and friend, in an endeavor to show the life of a budding political aspirant. Some prominent international figures partake of the events.

Prince Hubertus zu Loewenstein continues his interpretation of the period of the Crucifixion and events in Rome shortly after in *The Eagle and the Cross*, (Macmillan, \$2.75). For his purpose Tiberius, Seneca and others fill the leading roles, while the hero carries on the hope of Christianity's spread.

ISCELLANEOUS

The Report of the Committee for the study of Recent Immigration from Europe is not only a record of the tribulations of the unfortunates but an analysis of many separate histories. *Refugees in America*, by Maurice R. Davie, (Harpers, \$4.50), with the collaboration

of five members of the committee's staff, is a document of sociological and historical value.

A Treasury of Mexican Folkways, by Frances Toor, (Crown, \$5.00), is a picture journey through Mexico, with text to relate customs, myths, beliefs and traditions. There is a section devoted to music, with the words in Spanish and English, and the music itself. The book seems designed for popular use.

Yank reported the war's progress for the enlisted men, so that the numerous incidents which together made the war were written in soldiers' language: plain, unvarnished but direct. These contributions, selected and edited, are now offered in book form in *Yank—the GI Story of the War*, (Duell, Sloan & Pearce, \$5.00). It is a real history, seen entirely from the ranks, with tales of individual action and terse bits of battle, with many illustrations. Possibly it is better history than textbooks.

What the Jews have accomplished in Palestine is shown by text and picture in *Promised Land*, by Ellen Thorbecke, (Harper's, \$3.50). The old history of the Holy Land is summarized to give the background. The present system of settlement, the method of work and the social life, and the industrial efforts are given in detail to show what is being accomplished.

The Catoclin Conversation, by Jay Franklin, (Scribner's, \$3.00), is an imaginary meeting in 1943 of Roosevelt, Churchill, Hanfstaengel, Baruch and Hopkins. The war and the world are informally discussed, with some humorous and

some shrewd observations in the guise of conversation. Well worth reading.

Howard Watson Armbruster tells the sinister story of I. G. Farben, the German dye and chemical trust, in *Treason's Peace*, (Beechurst Press, \$3.75). This is a militant exposure not only of the German organization, but of the individuals and companies here tied in with Farben. Unless the facts are true there should be libel suits, and if they are true the American public needs awakening.

An attractive guide book to New England is the second volume of the Look at America series, *New England*, by the editors of Look, in collaboration with Mary Ellen Chase, (Houghton, Mifflin, \$5.00). The volume is mostly fine photographs, aided by directories of information on sundry topics. A brief introduction to the early history and geographical characteristics of each state helps understand the section.

Maurice Hindus interprets the changes in Czechoslovakia since liberation in terms of a social and economic revolution, in *The Bright Passage*, (Doubleday, \$3.00). Based on his own investigations, his sympathies for Russia seem founded not only on the fact that it is his native land, but on his opinion that the Czechs lean toward the Soviet not necessarily as Communists but as a reaction from German edicts against religion and Czechoslovakian traditions. Hindus is optimistic about the future of "the little country."

The City of Women, by Ruth Landes, (Macmillan, \$3.00), is an anthropologist's narrative of what she learned about the mysterious

cult of candomble, a vital force in the lives of Brazilian Negroes. The author visited Bahia to see for herself, despite the dangers incident to delving into the secret practices of priestesses in a more or less primitive land. It is well written and interesting enough for the general reader to enjoy.

Carlo Levi, Italian doctor, philosopher and writer, made the most of a year's banishment ordered by the Fascists in 1935. Compelled to live in the barren wastes of southern Italy, he devoted himself to the impoverished peasants. In *Christ Stopped at Eboli*, (Farrar, Straus, \$3.00), he paints a remarkable picture of a miserable people, superstitious, unaided by science or religion, and hopeless. The book's earnest atmosphere and lucid phrasing make it a minor classic.

Ideas of freedom for the natives in various parts of the Orient vary, but hunger for some form of it persists. Ralph Coniston interviewed important figures in the East, and gathered information from drivers, business men and clerks. *The Future of Freedom in the Orient*, (Norton, \$3.00), is the result, and it contains many interesting observations on the ways of the people, their limitations and their potentialities for the future.

Dust on the King's Highway, by Helen C. White, (Macmillan, \$3.50), is both biography and fiction; it is based on the life and adventures of a Spanish missionary, Father Garces, in the land of the Yumas. With its background of Indians and pioneering in the latter part of the 1700's, it presents a historical setting and a story that is

not swift but detailed and good reading.

Home Country, by Ernie Pyle, (Sloane, \$3.75), is a liberal selection from the pre-war columns of Pyle, mostly about his fellow countrymen, with a few pieces about Hawaii and elsewhere. It is the old Pyle, friendly, curious and gentle, interested chiefly in plain folks and their ways.

It is rather startling to find *Spring in Washington*, by Louis J. Halle, Jr., (Sloane, \$3.75), actually a book about spring, and not the political season. Halle barely mentions the human denizens; he is more concerned with the birds, the trees and nature generally. It is in fact a volume of entertaining, rambling essays on wild life.

The evolution of American fiction is described and analyzed in *The Shapers of American Fiction, 1798-1947*, by George Snell, (Dutton, \$3.75). Dividing the sheep from the goats in four classifications, he covers the Romantics, Apocalypitics, Tempermentalists,

and Realists. From Cooper to Farrell there is keen appraisal, and much criticism of value to literary folks.

The second year of publication of the *Associated Press News Annual: 1946*, edited by De Witt Mackenzie, (Rinehart, \$5.00), covers the news of that year as taken from A.P. reports month by month. It makes a reminiscent record of events, covering not only world affairs but domestic news in many fields. It is indexed for topics, persons and events.

The comeback of the United States Navy from the Coral Sea to Empress Augusta Bay, is well told in *Battle Report, Pacific War: Middle Phase*, by Capt. Walter Karig and Commander Eric Purdon, both U.S.N.R., (Rinehart, \$5.00). Prepared from official sources and with photographs, it presents a graphic picture. The authors have not dramatized the record; the engagements, major and minor, are dramatic enough. This is the third volume in the series.

Drive carefully: don't insist on your rites.

—*Auto Club News*

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Exclusive War Department definition of loot: if it's worth less than \$5,000 and can be lifted by a 20-ton deck crane, it's a memento.

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The Secretary of the National Institute of Diaper Services is protesting Ford's national billboard poster displaying a naked baby: "A baby without a diaper is completely untypical of America."

* * *

The Goshen, Indiana, Salvation Army officers received the following note from a transient: "Thanks for the food and lodging. In return, I fixed the light meter so it won't register."



COUNTRY COMMENT

—Two GIRLS were picking apples in an orchard. One was Polish (back one generation), the other Irish (back several generations). Perhaps the nationalities are not important.

As the Polish girl leaned from her ladder toward a large McIntosh, she said, "I won't be picking apples much longer."

"Why not?" asked the Irish girl.

"I'm going to be married in November."

"But it's only the middle of September now."

"Oh, but I have so many things to do to get ready."

"What have you to do," asked the Irish girl reaching out for a distant Mac herself, "except to wash your face and put on a clean dress?"

For an inspired reduction of marriage, at least of a wedding, to its simplest terms, what more could one ask? Of course, if the Irish girl had ever been married herself or had been going to be, she might have seen things in a more complex light. Yet though she spoke as an outsider, I can never recall her remark without a lightening of the heart, a lifting of the spirit, a glimpse of "that blessed mood," as Wordsworth says, "in which the burthen of the mystery, in which the heavy and the weary weight of all this unintelligible world, is lightened: that serene and blessed mood in which the affections gently lead us on."

The greatest benefactors of mankind have been the simplifiers, especially those saints and thinkers who have made simple what in the intellectual and spiritual realm once seemed difficult. Jesus spoke of two commandments. Saint James put religion into one sentence. Socrates said, "Know thyself."

I wish somebody would tell this to the authors of two books on etiquette I see advertised in *The New York Times Book Review*. One book, a "complete guide to good manners" and containing 668 pages, is in a lower left-hand corner. The other, a "modern guide to social behavior" and containing 615 pages, is in a lower righthand corner. Across the page from each other, they make a bid for the attention of the prospective bride, promising to tell her "what to do about invitations, trousseau, rehearsal, reception, and all the myriad details of a wedding."

"But haven't you heard?" I should like to say to the authors. "Dear Mrs. Post and dear Miss Wilson, haven't you heard that marriage has become really simple at last? I overheard it with my own ears in an apple orchard in September. All the bride of today need do is to wash her face and put on a clean dress."

—ROBERT FRANCIS