

FALL PARADE OF NON-FICTION

N. B. COUSINS
Literary Editor

The WORLD TODAY IN BOOKS

Books Reviewed in This Issue

BOOK	AUTHOR	PUBLISHER	PRICE
<i>The Far East Comes Nearer</i>	Hessell Tiltman	Lippincott	\$3.00
<i>When China Unites</i>	Harry Gannes	Knopf	2.50
<i>Goliath: The March of Fascism</i>	G. A. Borgese	Viking	3.00
<i>Poison in the Air</i>	Heinz Liepmann	Lippincott	2.50
<i>Britain Faces Germany</i>	A. L. Kennedy	Oxford	1.50
<i>England Expects Every American to do His Duty</i>	Quincy Howe	Simon and Schuster	2.00
<i>Moscow, 1937: My Visit Described for My Friends</i>	Lion Feuchtwanger	Viking	2.00
<i>Swords into Ploughshares</i>	Mary H. Jones	Macmillan	3.00
<i>The Crisis of Civilization</i>	Hilaire Belloc	Fordham Univ. Press	2.50
<i>Pope Pius XI and World Affairs</i>	William Teeling	Stokes	2.50
<i>Would Christ Wear Khaki?</i>	W. C. Snyder	Christopher House	2.00
<i>Syphilis: The Next Great Plague to Go</i>	Morris Fishbein	David McKay	1.00

CREDIT it to coincidence, clairvoyance or just smart business, there is no denying that the book publishers have had a remarkable success in anticipating the shape of world affairs. Last year it was Spain. General Franco had hardly finished declaring himself before books on past, present, and future Spanish history appeared from out of nowhere, all aiming to fill the inevitable "long felt need." Now it's the Far East. No sooner did Japan's nibbling in China develop into large-scale carving than the books on the Orient began to flow.

Happily, not all these new works on the Far East are obvious eleventh-hour attempts to capitalize upon the immediate and widespread interest in China and Japan. Some are particularly noteworthy and need no justification for being published other than that they are the results of sound scholarship and careful analysis. In this category are *The Far East Comes Nearer* by Hessell Tiltman, and *When China Unites*, by Harry Gannes.

The title of Mr. Tiltman's book suggests an unpleasant reality which is becoming more apparent with each passing day of what is certainly a major war, even though the formalities of declaration have been overlooked. The Far East is coming nearer and the Administration has at last announced its intentions to protect fully American life and property in China. Just how far the United States can or will go in the protection of these interests the author does not say, but we are not entirely at a disadvantage in dealing with Japan. Not as long as there is the big stick of the economic boycott, a weapon which can make it very difficult for the Rising Sun to rise much higher in the heaven of imperialism.

America's three major national interests in the Pacific arena, according to Mr. Tiltman, are (1) her island possessions in the Hawaiian and Philippine groups; (2) her traditional friendship with China, which she has nourished by money and missionaries and which she has so far protected under the principle of the "Open

Door"; (3) the Panama Canal, which is not too serious a concern because of its fortunate lack of proximity to possible antagonists.

And Great Britain has sunk her fingers into the Pacific pie even deeper than Uncle Sam. It appears to be only a question of time before these fingers will be cut or stepped on—inadvertently or with malice aforethought—if Japan attempts to take the entire cake for herself. England does not take kindly to the idea of withdrawing in order to avoid a showdown with Japan—not with the fate of Singapore, Australasia, Hongkong, her Southern Pacific island possessions, British Malaya, Borneo, and the Dutch East Indies in the balance. And so Great Britain, with serious worries already in Europe and the Mediterranean, faces no light threat to her far-flung empire. She can only hope that the late Field-Marshal Earl Roberts was wrong when he prophesied that the "history of the world will some day be fought at Singapore." This was one of two predictions made by Earl Roberts. In the other he predicted the World War.

Whether Earl Roberts may again be proved right depends, of course, on Japan. How far does Nippon intend to go in China? Will she carry through her plan of "Asia for the Asiatics" with the certain consequence of drawing Russia into the conflict? Mr. Tiltman had an illuminating interview with Eiji Amau, for nearly four years the Spokesman of the Japanese Foreign Office, and covered a number of vital points:

Q. Are Japanese aims likely to interfere with existing rights and privileges of other foreign powers?

A. Japan does not aim at the exclusion of foreign interests from Eastern Asia, but in shouldering the burden for the maintenance of peace and order in East Asia, she would share the burden with the Asiatic powers, remembering that peace in Asia has been maintained precisely because Japan has acted as a watch dog there in the past.

Q. Does Japan officially endorse the "Asia for the Asiatics" policy attributed to it?

A. It has never been sponsored by the Japanese Government, and does not represent its views or aims. On the other hand, doctrines exist elsewhere which imply racial discrimination against Japan, such as the Monroe Doctrine.

Q. Could Japan, if necessary, hold Russia in check in Eastern Asia?

A. If Soviet Russia infringes or threatens any of Japan's rights and interests in Eastern Asia, or threatens its existence, Japan will have to prevent it.

Q. Does any military "understanding" exist between Japan and Germany?

A. It has been consistently denied, both in the Wilhelmstrasse and here in Tokyo. I deny it again.

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foster disease	disease ravages
immunize against disease	disease ruts rampant
induce disease	disease stalks
	disease subsides

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Q. Can Japanese aspirations be satisfied without violently disturbing the distribution of power and trade in the Pacific?

A. If no undue pressure is brought to bear upon Japan, she will never resort to any action tending to disturb the present distribution of power in that area.

Q. What is the future of China—political and economic—as visualized by Japan? And what are Japan's aims in that country?

A. Japan's aim in regard to China has invariably been and shall ever be governed by the axiom of "live and let live." Japan will not interfere by force unless Japanese interests and property are threatened. . . . Japan cannot be indifferent while hostile forces mass along the frontiers of Manchukuo.

Mr. Amau's remarks to the author, made long before the outbreak of the current hostilities, and considered in the light of what is happening today, are more significant for what they attempted to conceal than reveal. Japan can no longer deny that the only "pressure" which can force her into conflict is the pressure brought to bear by her industrialists.

For most of her raw materials Japan must comb the rest of the world. Year after year her boats carry out less goods than they bring in. The rest of the world does not take kindly to the "Made in Japan" label and has set up trade barriers against Nippon, the long-range effect of which is to cut down on the supply of raw materials. But having come so far "along the road to industrial power," as Mr. Tiltman points out, "she must go forward at all costs." Her direction is towards dominance of the vast Asiatic market in which her geographical position and lower costs of production "give her a pronounced advantage over her rivals in the scramble for orders."

The Far East Comes Nearer, it appears from Mr. Tiltman's preface, was sent to the publishers last March, or several months before the situation came to a head. But it is amazing with what accuracy his analysis is borne out by the present developments. Trends which he observed and which he was able to foresee are now shaping themselves into the pattern which he sees so clearly and explains so well.

From Japan to China

HARRY GANNES helps explain in *When China Unites* why China, with 450,000,000 people, is the underdog in the present war. He explains, too, what China is doing to give herself power and prestige commensurate with her size and population.

As with *The Far East Comes Nearer*, Mr. Gannes book is remarkable in that many of its observations—made before the present war—stand up under today's happenings. He has fore-

seen the reconciliation of heretofore unreconcilable factions against the common enemy for the common good. If, and when, China unites—and he believes that a war against Japan would make the unification almost inevitable—she can call upon 2,000,000 armed men as the result of the merger of the eight separate armies. Included in the merger would be China's Red Army, with a force of 250,000 effectives and which, to further point out the lack of error in most of Mr. Gannes' statements—is already pitting itself against the invader. The author quotes Mao Tse-tung, leader of these forces, as declaring that in a war against Japan the Chinese would win:

"China is a very big country. It would not be conquered until every inch of its soil is under the sword of the invader. If Japan should succeed in occupying even a large section of China, getting possession of an area with as many as one to two hundred million people, we will still be far from defeated. . . . It would be impossible for Japan to isolate all of China: the Chinese Northwest and the Southwest and West cannot be blockaded by Japan, which continentally is a sea power."

Correctly anticipating the present conflict, Mr. Gannes adds that Japan could never devote itself exclusively to the problem of invasion of China. It would have to retain a huge army, he believes, in Manchuria, along the border of the Mongolian People's Republic and along the Soviet border to assist Nazi Germany's plans for war against the U. S. S. R. Further, while Japan at best can mobilize only 2,000,000 men, a united China can expand its army to 10,000,000.

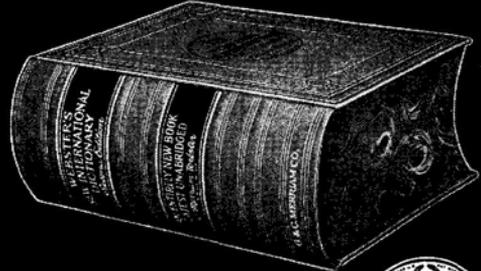
Unification, the author says, will go far toward realizing Sun Yat-sen's hope for a truly democratic nation with an advanced constitution and a parliamentary form of government. Mr. Gannes is not too clear as to precisely what he means by "democracy," especially in view of his inference that China is not able to throw off the yoke of Japan without the aid of the communists. Are we to assume that the extreme social revolutionaries will be content to go along with a democracy? If so, how far and how long? And what kind of a democracy?

Mr. Gannes does not believe that there is a "Chinese wall between the ultimate achievement of national liberation, democracy, and economic and cultural progress in China and the question of China's development towards socialism." He cites the statement of the Communist Party in China disavowing all talk of revolution without the solution first of the problem of Japanese invasion.

The controversial aspects of Mr. Gannes' work,

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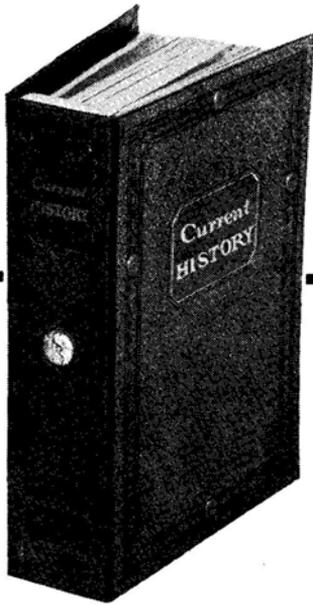
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however, are confined almost entirely to his conclusions. For the rest, he has shown commendable objectivity in the face of numerous opportunities to express his preferences for an economic doctrine with which he closely identifies himself in his daily political writings. As a work on Chinese history and as background material, his book measures up to requirements and more than offsets the comparatively small space given to his conclusions, which may enthuse, puzzle, or disturb, depending on your personal prejudices, and reading across from Left to Right.

Supplementary Reading

FOR additional books providing background material on the Far East situation, the reader is referred to the following works, all of which have already been reviewed in this department:

Japan's Feet of Clay, by Freda Utley, W. W. Norton, 1937.

Eyes on Japan, by Victor A. Yakhontoff, Coward-McCann, 1936.

When Japan Goes to War, by O. Tanin and E. Yohan, Vanguard Press, 1936.

A Place in the Sun, by Grover Clark, Macmillan, 1936.

Can China Survive? by Hallett Abend and Anthony J. Billingham, Ives Washburn, 1937.

A History of the Far East, by Harold M. Vinacke, Crofts, 1937.

Mr. Borgese and Fascism

ONE of the reasons contributing to the steadily increasing popularity of non-fiction books has been the greater emphasis placed on writing requirements by the publishers. The extent to which a person will be influenced by what a book has to say depends largely on how it says it. Elliot Paul's *Life and Death of a Spanish Town*, reviewed here last month, is an example of an important story combining with a rare literary talent to make one of the outstanding books of the year. This month, literary distinction is again brought to the non-fiction field with the publication of *Goliath: The March of Fascism*, by G. A. Borgese.

G. A. Borgese is something of an Italian H. G. Wells turned American. He is philosopher-historian-journalist-novelist and accomplished on each count. His distinction in each of these fields has been largely brought about through his writings, which Pirandello once described as a "torrential force, like a rushing fire." Borgese does have force. Sustained force. Under conviction such as he expresses in *Goliath* you may be able to retain an opposing viewpoint but not without being shaken. And you cannot help but feel that

through this impact you have met somebody who can and does think.

Once he was an Italian subject, recognized as one of the foremost critics and writers. Fascism drove him into exile. Today he is professor at the University of Chicago. But he is not so sure that we are immune against fascism. It originated in Italy but in 1933 it "conquered Germany; two and three years later, with the Ethiopian war, the fight against the League of Nations and the invasion of Spain, it challenged the world . . . the wave of its influence easily reached Japan; its breakers went as far as Louisiana in these United States."

Fascism, what now? we ask. But we must wait. Professor Borgese wants us to begin at the beginning. "Italy was the last born among the nations, the Benjamin of Europe. . . . She was born late, but on her birthday she was adult, a Pallas among the nations: with self-knowledge and purpose." She was born of the phantom of five centuries: there had been a Dante, a Machiavelli, a Garibaldi, a Mazzini, a Cavour. She assumed body as the daughter of nineteenth-century philosophy and poetry.

But that Italy died in fifty years and again became a phantom. It died without fulfilling Mazzini's dream of nobility among nations. It died in 1922. Fascism sat in at the kill while a small, dark-faced man lingered briefly over the corpse and dreamed dreams of empire—his empire.

Mussolini did not create fascism. He "acted upon the Italian mind, and conquered it; then, made strong by this conquest, he tried to win the world." Germany, peering over the Alps, watched this strange new doctrine, saw it work, and decided to adopt it on a larger scale, just as Bismarck watched the technique of Cavour more than a half-century earlier and appropriated it for his own—in the customary Bismarckian manner. Germany served to acquaint Il Duce with his own virility, and he made plans for spawning a colonial empire. As the first thrust, Ethiopia would be serviced or sacrificed or both.

But though Mussolini tipped his hand early in the game, Great Britain and the League did nothing but bristle, bluff, and blunder. By the time they got around to sanctions and learning how to apply them, Il Duce was proclaiming an empire to the populace—an empire with all the trimmings, even an emperor who stood on the balcony and took his bows—high above the street where the crowd could not see that it was really a marionette show, with Mussolini manipulating the strings and Victor Emmanuel responding.

The next act, for which the final curtain has not yet fallen, finds Mussolini conducting a war

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against Spain with the assistance of a military rebellion. But Italian losses have been heavy and the act may end with fascism the loser not only in Spain but as a world doctrine. In the spring of this year, in fact, when Professor Borgese began his closing chapter, he cheerfully observed that fascism was on the run.

But within a month the situation had turned for the worse again. If world war should come and fascism should win . . .

" . . . then the blackness of the coming age would make the so-called Dark Ages of the past seem as bright as sunshine. They never at their darkest wilfully rejected the unbroken tradition of man."

Goliath: The March of Fascism is a valuable examination not only of the genesis of fascism but of the Italian mind and Italian culture. The reader who wishes to supplement Mr. Borgese's fine work with material on the economic and political developments under fascism in Italy is referred to Gaetano Salvemini's *Under the Axe of Fascism*, published last year.

The Coming War

IF YOU are easily disturbed about war horrors, spend an anxious evening with Heinz Liepmann's *Poison in the Air*. Mr. Liepmann goes out of his way to avoid any encouragement to those who have faith in the defensive mechanisms of a nation against an attack upon its lay citizens. His unpleasant thesis is that there is no adequate defense against poison gas. He contends that no mask has yet been devised which will protect against all known gases.

Scraping dry the well of despair, Mr. Liepmann seems convinced that this is the end. "Within a few years this cherished Europe of ours will be nothing more than a desert, depopulated by venomous clouds in which neither man nor beast nor plant can live and breathe." How can it be otherwise? he asks. The leading powers are spending millions in their chemical laboratories brewing new horrors in poison gases—gases that will (a) collapse the lungs; (b) cause uncontrollable vomiting, severe colic, and diarrhoea; (c) turn faces blue; (d) bring on blindness; (e) induce paralysis; (f) disintegrate the human body. Ad infinitum. And all, of course, with vivid descriptions, a department in which he exhibits a greater ability than he does in his knowledge of chemistry, medicine, and military strategy.

The truth of the matter, as Captain Liddell Hart pointed out in *Europe in Arms*, reviewed last month, is that there is no agreement among authorities as to the effectiveness of gas upon

either armies or civilian population. Many reject the alarming picture of whole cities wiped out by poison gas. None deny that gases can kill and that in time of war poison gas attacks will not be uncommon, but most of them, and this includes the chemists engaged in gas research, are most conservative in describing its practical efficiency.

Nobody will deny Mr. Liepmann that war is tragically stupid and that another world conflict would seriously cripple and even destroy civilization as we know it. But it is difficult to accept precise definitions as to just how large a part poison gases will play in that destruction, in the face of inadequate evidence and uncertainty among qualified observers. Mr. Liepmann implores that "something should be done," even though he is obscure as to just what and how. But are we to consider seriously his concluding suggestion:

Do something to avert these evils.

If not, make an end of yourselves quickly and painlessly. That will be an easier death than the death that is coming to you from the skies.

Speculation upon war horrors holds a certain grim interest and if it is Mr. Liepmann's purpose to serve or exploit this interest, his book is a success. It has the benefit of fertile imagination, vivid conception, and dramatic writing—qualities which the author has used more appropriately, perhaps, in his several novels.

Presents for Germany

IT MAY come as a pleasant surprise to Herr Hitler to learn that Great Britain is advised by one of its political writers to give Germany a sizeable portion of land in Africa as an overture to insured peaceful relations between the two countries. The advice is given by A. L. Kennedy in *Britain Faces Germany*.

Mr. Kennedy professes to take a realistic view of German aims. It was a mistake for England to continue its opposition to practical revisions of the Versailles Treaty. Germany has brought about the entire destruction of the treaty and it was only by the narrowest of margins that a European conflagration was avoided. And now that she asks for the return of her colonies, Great Britain should take the lead in restoring them to her. For if she does not, war may not be so easily avoided this time. Or so Mr. Kennedy argues.

Great Britain can give its land in West Africa to Germany without sacrificing her standing as a dominant empire, he contends, asserting that "if we can bring Germany into a new interna-

(Continued on page 126)

BRITAIN FACES GERMANY

by A. L. Kennedy

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The World Today in Books

(Continued from page 9)

tional system by admitting her as a partner in Africa, it would, I submit, be worth while to make the sacrifice of placing some of our own African territory under a mandate from the League of Nations, and recommending that Germany should either at once or by a gradual process be substituted for Great Britain as the mandatory power."

Mr. Kennedy is certain to be asked many questions by his English colleagues. What, for example, if Germany should decide some time later that she is not satisfied with her new African gift and wants more? What if Germany might see fit to exploit her new colonies for the purpose of making her the dominant empire in Europe? What logic is there in the theory that if you are not willing to fight the enemy the next best thing to do is to provide him with more weapons with which to fight you? Is this masochism?

To Arms for England

QUINCY HOWE'S *England Expects Every American to Do His Duty* offers an interesting possibility that Mr. Kennedy has overlooked in *Britain Faces Germany*. For if England fails to mollify Germany and is forced into war, she need not fear that she will have to carry the fight alone. Good old America will help out, just as she has done time and again. England not only hopes this. She expects it, according to Mr. Howe, who has attempted to prove in his little book that the "United States stands ready to go to war with any nation that commits the unpardonable offense of threatening a vital interest of the British Empire." The military policies of the Roosevelt Administration, he says, show that the Army and Navy are not preparing for a defensive war; their plans call for offensive warfare and the invasion of foreign soil.

Little short of sensational is Mr. Howe's explanation of the propaganda machinery through which Great Britain has sought to instill an allegiance for the empire in American citizens second only to the United States. Naming names of persons and agencies, Mr. Howe accuses the owners and editors of the *New York Times* of conducting the chief British propaganda organ in the United States. Half a dozen foreign correspondents of the *Times* are British subjects and Mr. Howe suggests that "one must have a British passport before one can hope to write news from

abroad for the foremost newspaper in the United States." He admits, however, that the *Times*, "like the British Foreign Office and the House of Morgan," is sincere. Prominent, too, among those mentioned on the social register of Americans carrying the cross of England, are the Du Ponts, Charles A. Lindbergh, Lowell Thomas, Nicholas Roosevelt, Owen D. Young, John H. Finley, James G. Harbord, and John W. Davis. And among institutions, there are Harvard University, the English-Speaking Union, the Foreign Policy Association, the League of Nations Association, and the Council on Foreign Relations.

Mr. Howe, as one might expect, is an isolationist. Isolation, he says, is "America's opportunity." She should aim at self-sufficiency as the only way to preserve not only her own interests, but the "interests of civilization, democracy, and progress throughout the world." Self-containment, of course, is an ideal situation and the United States could throw a wall around itself, for a limited time, at least, without severe consequences. But over the longer range, the only truly self-contained communities are the cemeteries, and it would be economic folly to pursue strict isolation. High tariff barriers are working hardship enough on the farmer and planter; isolation would complete their ruin. Mr. Howe is illuminating and entertaining, but that is all.

Still a Believer

THE retreat from Moscow in full flight of many of its previously stoutest defenders has caused Lion Feuchtwanger to rush back to Russia. He wanted to see just what was happening. What he saw reassured him and in order that others who may have had doubts might also be reassured he has written *Moscow, 1937: My Visit Described for My Friends*.

What they say isn't true, he maintains. It isn't true that Russia has abandoned the principles of the revolution. It isn't true that the Zinoviev and Radek trials, among others, were unjustified and the result of Stalin's ambition and vengefulness. It isn't true that Russia has appropriated practices which are fascistic in conception and execution.

Mr. Feuchtwanger says he left the "counterfeit democracy and hypocritical humanism" of Western Europe to "breathe again" when he came into the "invigorating atmosphere of the Soviet Union." Here the air was tonic and he filled his lungs. He looked about. He inquired. He took notes. His enthusiasm mounted. Then it soared. Finally:

"... already the framework of a mighty building is rising up pure and clear-cut. It is a

very Tower of Babel, but one which wants not to bring the people nearer to the sky, but the sky nearer to the people. And the work has succeeded. . . . It does one good after all the compromise of the West to see an achievement such as this, to which a man can say Yes, yes, yes, with all his heart; and because it seemed ungrateful to keep this "Yes" within me, I wrote this book."

Whether Mr. Feuchtwanger's "Yes" will be echoed by objective historians who prefer to write only with the incalculable advantage afforded by the perspective of time offers an interesting thought for the future.

Unsung Heroes

IT IS no injustice to the American Friends Service Committee to say that not many know of it. The Committee's accomplishments entitle it to the most widespread recognition and in *Swords into Ploughshares*, Mary Hoxie Jones writes an interesting history of its work.

The American Friends Service Committee was born out of love of peace and hate of war. Its founders were Quakers who watched with horror a world gone mad in 1914-1918. They saw the war as an "ocean of darkness and death" and set in motion machinery to take care of innocent sufferers. Thousands of Europe's children—many of them orphans and near-orphans—were fed by the Committee in 1917.

What started out in 1917 to be a temporary measure has grown into a permanent organization. During the 20 years of its existence the Committee sent hundreds of loads of cod liver oil to Russia during the famine; carried on the work of peasants in the fields while it stamped out the typhus in Poland; rebuilt the houses and replanted the wastes in Serbia; became mothers and fathers to thousands of children in the coal fields in West Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and Ohio; and today, provides relief for children on both sides of the Spanish civil war.

Literally, the Committee has succeeded in turning "swords into ploughshares." Not only homes and land have been reclaimed, but lives. Where formerly ground was laid to waste by war, farms now stand. Faced with the enormous detail that a history of the Committee would entail, Miss Jones has chosen a unique method of presentation: she has created characters, given them names, and has allowed the story to revolve about them.

The Church and Politics

THE Spanish war has served to bring the Catholic Church well out into the open as a political

body. The place of the Church in politics is discussed by Hilaire Belloc in *The Crisis of Civilization* and by William Teeling in *Pope Pius XI and World Affairs*. The extent to which two Catholics can disagree is evident in the writings of the two authors.

Mr. Belloc, viewing a world crisis which "does not permit of indefinite delay," believes that only in the reconversion of the world to the Catholic standpoint is there hope for the future. Civilization has progressed because of Catholic ideals, he says, and now that civilization faces a crisis it can turn only to Catholicism for salvation, applying the same ideals that carried it forward in the past. "It was the Faith which gradually and indirectly transformed the slave into the serf, and the serf into the free peasant. . . . It was the Faith which by its moral atmosphere checked and curbed usury. . . ." And now? "It was the disruption of Catholic unity in Europe which let in all the evils from the extreme of which we now suffer and are in peril of dissolution."

Mr. Belloc urges the adoption of a "Print and Program" policy to extend the influence of the Catholic Church and to facilitate the conversion of large numbers of non-Catholics. "Print" is short for propaganda. The author calls for a subsidized weekly publication, the cost of which would be "insignificant" compared to some of the Church's "quasi-charitable entertainments." He proposes, too, that the Church hire first-rate writers and pay them well. The "program"—followed out very carefully in order that the individual and not the Church be responsible—should "go to the root of the matter, when and if it should appear as a positive political scheme which will draw men towards it, just as its immediate opponent, communism, draws them."

Mr. Belloc is for increased Catholic influence in politics, but that the Catholic Church has not always reflected the political views of all its members seems abundantly clear from Mr. Teeling's *Pope Pius XI and World Affairs*. It is a tragedy,



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Mr. Teeling says, that the teachings of Catholicism should seem to be combined with fascism, in which only a very small percentage of the Catholic world believes.

In what is probably one of the severest criticisms of the Vatican by a Catholic to appear in recent years, Mr. Teeling declares that many Catholics believe that the Church is governed in world matters by an out-of-date machinery. The Pope has shown himself a "hard man," one who is unwilling to accept advice unless it is asked for, and the author wonders whether it might not be wise to set an age limit. Young blood is needed in the higher ranks of the Vatican, he says.

Mr. Teeling reveals that before he started his book, he tried to take the view that a Pope would not be influenced in his political activities by his geographical position in Rome. But investigation changed this view. The Pope, he finds, has become more and more friendly with Mussolini. Despite the growing numbers of Catholics in the western world he continues to appoint Italian Cardinals. And his failure to make a strong pronouncement decrying the atrocities of Addis Ababa have made Catholics "sigh, and sigh in vain."

Mr. Teeling examines the position of the Catholic Church in most of the major countries of the world, with special emphasis on Great Britain and the United States. He believes that Catholic center of gravity seems to be pulling in that direction. He states his views with admirable candor and his book is of particular value at a time when the Vatican is more than ever in the

spotlight, the glare of which appears to have unusual intensity at the moment.

WHILE on the subject of religion and politics, it might be well to say a few words about *Would Christ Wear Khaki?* This book, whose authorship is acknowledged by a W. Cloud Snyder, is a protest against what it calls "pulpit extremism," but fails signally to discredit any agency save itself. For it is manifestly the product of stunted thinking and elephantine emotionalism.

Mr. Snyder's literary formula is not unlike that found on the editorial pages of a large but little-respected newspaper chain operated by a California publisher. Sensationalism in topic and content; short, terse sentences; disregard for facts—all these Mr. Snyder has appropriated in his attempt to manufacture a "red scare" within the Church. Clergymen for whom America has had nothing but profound respect and admiration are accused of preparing the ground for Bolshevism in this country. Their constant preachings on behalf of peace, he claims, are un-Christian, arguing that he has "assurance" that Jesus would march off to war: "Christ would wear khaki."

Before dismissing the book as sheer nonsense, it should be pointed out that Mr. Snyder gives himself away—as to what he is and what he stands for—in his extravagant expressions of admiration for the form of government presided over by Europe's twin tyrants, Il Duce and Der Fuhrer.

The less said about this book the better.

The Fight on Syphilis

THERE has been an abundant recent literature on social diseases but few books have dealt as thoroughly and as competently with the topic as *Syphilis: The Next Great Plague to Go*, by Dr. Morris Fishbein, editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Dr. Fishbein discusses questions, one by one, which are most common concerning the Great Destroyer. He believes that a large-scale campaign involving the organization of facilities to take care of every person who requires medical care and for the purpose of education will have wide and lasting results.

Reviewing the experiences of other nations in combating the disease, Dr. Fishbein says syphilis can best be controlled when people are taught to recognize the nature of the disease and to attack it openly. "The time will come," he concludes, "when boys and girls of high school age will be suitably informed concerning the nature of this disease, the method of transmission, and the steps that are necessary for its control."

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