N. B. COUSINS
Literary Editor

The WORLD TODAY IN BOOKS

Books Reviewed in This Issue

BOOK	AUTHOR	PUBLISHER	PRICE
If War Comes	R. Ernest Dupuy George F. Eliot	Macmillan	$3.00
Soldiers of Darkness	Thomas R. Gowenlock	Doubleday, Doran	2.75
The War and German Society	A. M. Bartholdy	Yale Univ. Press	2.75
The Great Adventure	Edwin C. Parsons	Doubleday, Doran	2.75
Forty Years of Japanese-American Relations	Foster R. Dulles	Appleton Century	3.00
Japan in American Public Opinion	Eleanor Tupper George E. McReynolds	Macmillan	3.75
The Good Society	Walter Lippmann	Little, Brown	3.00
The Arts	Hendrik Willem van Loon	Simon & Schuster	3.95
Assignment in Utopia	Eugene Lyons	Harcourt, Brace	3.50
Andrew Jackson: Portrait of a President	Marquis James	Bobbs-Merrill	5.00
The Life of Henry Clay	Glyndon G. Van Deusen	Little, Brown	4.00
Free Lance	E. Alexander Powell	Harcourt, Brace	3.00

IT IS Parade Day at the recent American Legion convention in New York City. You are on your way home, a review copy of *If War Comes*, by R. Ernest Dupuy and George F. Eliot, under your arm. It is a short walk to the parade and before long you are caught up in a jumble of humanity stuffed and squeezed onto both sides of the street as the Legionnaires swing down Fifth Avenue. There is the steady, rhythmic sound of marching feet. "That sound," says a man of about sixty who is standing near you, "is not pleasant. I've heard it before. I heard it when these men were boys and marched off to war twenty years ago. It's the same sound you could hear if you were in Spain or China today. The only difference is that right now they mean business over there."

There must have been more than a few among both onlookers and marchers, you felt, who had similar thoughts that day. Our ex-doughboys were marching again and were able to smile and laugh because we were at peace. But it is a strange and uneasy peace for all around us the stage is being cleared for another world conflict and if we are to believe history, we will have a difficult time keeping out of it. We look back and see that as a nation we had hardly begun to walk when we were involved in a major European conflict in 1812, even though we had passed an Embargo Act only a few years earlier for the specific purpose of staying out of foreign entanglements. And more than a full century later, we re-elected a President because he kept us out of war, yet within a year we had forgotten all about that and ran off to Europe determined to save the world from itself.

What now? If the wars in China and Spain tumble over into all Asia and Europe, have we any reason to believe that we will not make the same mistake as in 1917? Could we protect ourselves against aggression? Just how strong are the world's leading military powers?

You are still turning these thoughts over in your mind when you sit down that evening and open *If War Comes*. Before long many of the points which are troubling you are clarified by

the authors, both of whom are Majors in the United States Army. Carefully charting a course clear of all speculation and prognostication, they concern themselves with a discussion of the objectives and military might of the major nations and indicate along what lines the next conflict may be fought—if it comes.

There is no need for us to gorge ourselves with guns in fear of war, they contend, for we are sufficiently prepared to defend ourselves against attack. As for aggression, we would do better to forget about attacking others and concentrate on keeping our defense mechanisms in perfect order. Our navy is at its greatest peacetime strength and our coast defenses in general are strong. Our land forces are not numerically impressive but a strong nucleus for a wide mobilization.

If war comes—and the authors will not hazard a guess as to the date nor the exact lineup of nations—it will be fought along lines similar to those of the World War. The development of new weapons and a new military technique is slow and evolutionary, they point out, and it is generally true that new wars begin where the last ones left off. They recall, too, that Major-General Sir Frederick Maurice once wrote with perfect truth that "no weapon, from David's sling to mother tank, has yet revolutionized war, though the claim has been made for scores of inventions during my life." During the next war, there will be no radical changes. Planes will figure more prominently in the plans of the armies, land forces will be divided into smaller, more mobile units, and will have better protection and a greater degree of mechanization, and greater emphasis will be put upon anti-aircraft operations. But as for death rays and similar "horror" inventions, the authors declare such devices exist solely in the minds of third-rate fiction writers who, "like Mr. Pickwick's Fat Boy, 'like to make yer flesh creep.'"

If War Comes reaches the same conclusions as Captain Liddel Hart's *Europe In Arms*, reviewed here September, concerning the extravagant descriptions of new poison gases. No new gases have been discovered, they contend, explaining that chemistry is still experimenting with new blends but has not yet produced the perfect gas that can inflict instant death. Other fallacies that have gained wide currency are taken up in turn:

NEW EXPLOSIVES: There are none, in the sense of explosives possessing new and extra-violent properties. Nothing has been discovered that for power, safety in handling and general usefulness can be considered an improvement as a military explosive over trinitrotoluol—TNT.

DEATH RAYS: Nothing of this sort has been discovered, despite all sorts of rumors about the secret work of such distinguished inventors as the late Guglielmo Marconi, who recently told an interviewer: "The nearest we ever got to a death ray in the laboratory was when we killed a rat at a distance of three feet."

BACILLUS WARFARE: Medical men tell us that cultures of most virulent disease bacilli are difficult to disseminate, hard to keep alive under conditions which would require them to be fired in artillery shells or dropped in airplane bombs—Moreover, how would one prevent the disease spreading to one's own army or country?

RADIO-DIRECTED FLYING TORPEDOES: Pilotless planes have been flown short distances by radio, and brought back—usually with a crash landing. But if bomber officers have difficulty now in hitting targets they can see, how is a radio operator miles away going to tell when his robot plane is in the right position? Finally, of course, the whole plan could be upset simply by vigorous radio-jamming by the defense.

In a forty-page appendix, the authors analyze, arrange, and annotate, according to armies, navies, air forces, armaments, and raw materials, the war-time strength of the world's important nations. From the charts one learns that Russia has the greatest manpower and the largest number of first-line planes. Great Britain, of course, has the largest and strongest fleet, with the United States, Japan, France, Italy, Germany and Russia rating behind in that order. From the standpoint of self-sufficiency and raw materials, the United States is best situated ahead of Russia, Italy, France, Germany, and Great Britain, in that respect and in that order.

If War Comes is profitable reading. It is filled with all sorts of valuable information about arms and armies, war and war strategy, and probable lines of attack. It takes its place alongside of Captain Liddel Hart's *Europe In Arms* as the most authoritative and comprehensive recent treatments of the subject.

Still More War Books

As if the American Legion convention and *If War Comes* were not enough to remind you of the World War, you find three books on your desk the next morning all stemming out of the same theme. There is *Soldiers of Darkness*, the story of American Intelligence Service at the Front, by Thomas R. Gowenlock with Guy Murchie, Jr.; there is *The War and German Society* by Albrecht Mendelssohn Bartholdy, the latest in a series of volumes belonging to the

(*Continued on page 8*)

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in a Once-in-a-Hundred-

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By William Henry Chamberlin

An Atlantic Book. Illus. $3.50
Ready November 5th

A Fundamental Study

Mr. Chamberlin, whose name is familiar to readers of *Current History*, wrote this book as a comprehensive account of conditions in Asia and their background. As proof of his shrewd analysis, many of the situations foretold in this book have already materialized.

In "Soviet Russia" and "Russia's Iron Age" Mr. Chamberlin established himself as the most impartial and accomplished Russian Observer. In "Japan Over Asia" he again demonstrates his ability to view a fever-raising situation with impartiality.

Complete In One Volume

"This is a book of remarkable thoroughness. Professor Van Deusen has apparently searched every source of material in the country. By the thoroughness of his research he has given his book a remarkable freshness. It is really a distinguished piece of scholarship. It fills a gap that has become glaring. He completely relegates the best existing life of Clay, that by Schurz, to the shelf of superseded books." —*Allan Nevins.*

THE LIFE OF HENRY CLAY

By Glyndon G. Van Deusen

Illustrated. $4.00

BULWARK OF THE REPUBLIC

A Biography of the Constitution

By Burton J. Hendrick

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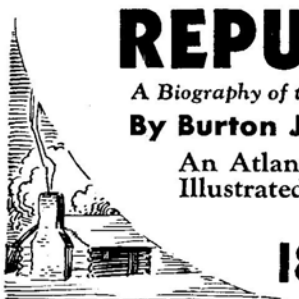
Illustrated. $3.50



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"Distinguished by two important accomplishments. It shows clearly how the Constitution has been related to the social and economic happenings of the decades . . . and interprets its evolution through spritely and mercilessly worded portraits of its drafters." — *John J. Corson, University of Virginia.*

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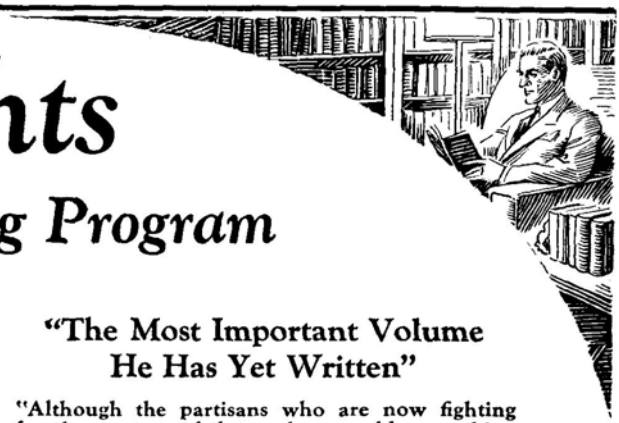

THE GOOD SOCIETY

By Walter Lippmann

An Atlantic Book. $3.00

2nd Large Printing

"The Most Important Volume He Has Yet Written"

"Although the partisans who are now fighting for the mastery of the modern world wear shirts of different colors, their weapons are drawn from the same armory, their doctrines are variations of the same theme, and they go forth to battle singing the same tune with slightly different words."

Thus Mr. Lippmann sounds the keynote of his attack, and introduces his argument for a return to true liberalism. "The most important volume he has yet written."—*Henry Hazlitt in the N. Y. Times Book Review.*

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"Would appear to be the most significant contribution of its kind in recent years. It is a good book in both history and literature. It tells the story of cultural conflict and propaganda more vividly and comprehensively than any other book that has appeared."—*Howard W. Odum in the Saturday Review of Literature.*

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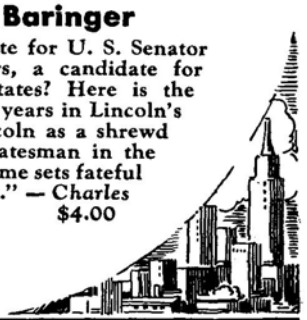

PUBLISHERS, BOSTON 1937

(*Continued from page 5*)

Economic and Social History of the War, published under the auspices of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; and finally, there is the *The Great Adventure*, the story of the Lafayette Escadrille, by Edwin C. Parsons.

You are particularly anxious to read *Soldiers of Darkness* because Colonel Gowenlock was one of the founders of the American Legion, and, what with the Legion still in town, the coincidence has stimulated your interest in his book. It was in a small French club early in the Spring of 1919 that Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. and the author talked over plans for an organization to keep alive the spirit and contact of the A.E.F. and to take care of the war's innocent sufferers, widows and orphans, and also their own disabled veterans. Then and there, the American Legion was born.

Colonel Gowenlock came out of the war with a record as one of the Army's most brilliant combat intelligence officers. Combat intelligence is a branch of the service apart from spies and spy trackers, and the army is more dependent on it than upon almost any other single agency. In the last war, while only several hundred were engaged in espionage, tens of thousands were in the combat intelligence. The Army relied on it as the fingers of every attack, fingers which were to feel out the way for the force behind them. The men in the combat intelligence cut the wires, scouted the sentries, explored the ground, and then mapped the way. Without them, the casualties would have been multiplied.

To say that the combat intelligence division was the most hazardous of any branch of the Service would be stating the obvious. In Colonel Gowenlock's own division—the famed First Division of the A.E.F.—four hundred combat intelligence scouts were kept in constant service and had to be replaced as soon as they fell below that number. Within a period of seven months, there were one thousand replacements.

This is a story which can take its place with distinction in any war library. It tells of a type of espionage that has heretofore been almost entirely neglected and it is all the more appealing for its restraint and its lack of emphasis upon the sensational.

FAMILIAR to most students of world affairs is the series on the history of the World War of which *The War and German Society* is one of several concluding volumes. Now being brought to a close, the surveys include approximately 150 volumes published in a half-dozen different lan-

"The most important news in the book world this fall," says Granville Hicks, "is the appearance of good books at twenty-five and thirty-five cents apiece . . . it is highly encouraging to find on the first list such a book as MEN WHO LEAD LABOR (by Minton and Stuart) . . . it is the story behind the stories in your newspapers, and it tells you what you need to know to understand the day-to-day accounts . . . there are thousands of people who want just the information that is in this book, and they are very foolish if they don't spend thirty-five cents to get it." Well, so many thousands of people are buying it and the other Seal Books that we have doubled the print order for our second list, including the headliner LAGUARDIA: A SELF-AUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY by Jay Franklin. Franklin's path has crossed LaGuardia's in many places: in Washington, in Italy, in New York, and this brilliant critic of politics and politicians is uniquely qualified to assess the career of New York's fighting mayor. This book and the first ten of the Red Seal Books are now ready. If there is not yet a Seal Book dealer in your neighborhood, there will be soon. Stores are being supplied at the rate of more than a hundred per day and still we cannot catch up with the demand. For impatient book lovers we are filling direct orders. But soon, very soon, there will be a dealer just around the corner from wherever you are. Look for the sign of The Three Seals in quality book and stationery stores in your neighborhood. In their bright red steel display racks you will find a full selection of Seal Books, with new titles at frequent intervals: the best of the new books, as well as established favorites in handsome new paper bound editions at twenty-five and thirty-five cents apiece.

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guages. Their purpose has been to describe the effects of war upon civilization. The monumental work has been made all the more difficult, and important, since all civilization was involved in the last world debacle. James T. Shotwell, Director of the Division of Economics and History for the Endowment, is editor of the series.

Mr. Bartholdy's volume is subtitled "The Testament of a Liberal." He tells of life in Germany during the black hell of the war and the years that followed. As published, however, the book does not tell quite the whole story, for Mr. Bartholdy's death last year prevented a revision of the volume which would have brought it up to date and, as Dr. Shotwell points out in a preface, "filled in some of the lacunae, especially in the sections dealing with the economic effects of the war." At the time of his death, the author was in exile from his native Germany, unable to reconcile himself with the prevailing form and dogma of government.

Despite the lack of revision, the work is a document of the first importance. Here is a record of a nation which had developed its military science to the highest point ever reached by any nation up to the time of the World War. Here is a record of a nation which harnessed its last ounce of energy for the cause of the conflict. And here is a nation whose attempt at reconstruction culminated in the advent of a dictator who seems bent on returning to the original theme.

Dr. Bartholdy's investigation takes him from the years immediately preceding the war to the late post-war period. With painstaking research and careful documentation, he examines not only the economic structure of Germany during these years, but also the individual and collective moral makeup of the country.

You turn from Dr. Bartholdy's book to Mr. Parsons' account of the famous Lafayette Escadrille in *The Great Adventure*. The Escadrille was a group of daring, hell-bent-for-leather aviators who organized themselves into a unit early in 1916 and attached themselves to the French Army and stayed together until the entry of America in the war, when the Escadrille was broken up.

Today, it seems impossible to believe that men have ever gone to war for war's sake, yet it appears from Mr. Parsons' book that this was precisely the case with the author and a number of other young Americans who virtually had to smuggle their way into war shortly after it broke out in 1914. Few of them were "over there" because they felt they were fighting for a "cause"; most of them were seeking adventure, pure and

simple. This, coupled with a hate of the "Huns," found them on the side of France.

The French were not anxious at first to avail themselves of their offers—at least, not in the aviation division, a branch of the service for which hundreds of young Frenchmen were clamoring to enroll. Then again, there was the danger of espionage. But with typical craftiness, the French correctly reasoned that the activities of the youthful Yankees would make good copy for the American papers and would serve as bait for United States support. In fact, without any misgivings and without the slightest sense of regret, Mr. Parsons states with damaging candor that he believes the Lafayette Escadrille, of which he was a member, played a strong part in sucking America into the war. He speaks of it as an accomplishment. All that matters was that he and the others had their share of thrills: "It was a great adventure. . . . I wouldn't swap my experiences, both at the front and in Paris, for all the money in the world."

And if war comes again tomorrow, Parsons will be off again for more thrills. "I hope that the next inevitable conflict comes along before I have to stagger to it with a cane, tripping over my long gray beard. Fed up at times as I was with the last, believe it or not, I'll be the first one there for the next." He might have added, too, that he will be doing his part, as he did it once before, to pull millions of other Americans into war with him, Americans who see war as nothing more than legalized mass murder and for whom the only "great adventure" is the adventure of peace.

Uncle Sam and Japan

OF PARTICULAR timeliness, especially now that President Roosevelt and the State Department seem committed to a policy of joint action with the League of Nations against Japan, is *Forty Years of Japanese-American Relations*, by Foster Rhea Dulles and *Japan in American Public Opinion*, by Eleanor Tupper and George E. McReynolds.

It seems clear from Mr. Dulles' book that if our State Department follows its own precedent in Far Eastern matters, it will continue to make bold declarations of policy whose possible effect will be nullified by conspicuous inaction: "We have advanced aggressively in defense of our interests, and on sober second thought have beat a cautious retreat."

Now that Japan is at work in China with both knives drawn and no holds barred, the United States finds itself in the awkward position of

having to admit that it can no longer maintain the Open Door nor preserve China's territorial integrity. At the turn of the century, things were different. Uncle Sam then rode the crest of the imperialistic wave. He had brought the Philippines under his wing to give him dominance in the Pacific. He had invested heavily in China and set himself up as the self-appointed protector of Chinese political and economic integrity. Japan was weak at the time and unable to do little except hide her envy and prepare for the day when she, too, could walk into China and say, "This much is mine."

That day has now come and there is little that we can do about it, unless, of course, we are willing to pay the price of interference. Mr. Dulles does not believe that the extent of our trade and investments in China affords any valid reason for us to risk war by doing anything that might precipitate an incident. We have long discarded our imperialistic policies and are a member in good standing of the "haves" while Japan is still in the "have-nots." Yet we do not think it is fair to stand by and watch China, a giant who has slumbered too long and who is thin and weak and cannot yet stand on his feet, dismembered and his pieces pinned to the imperialist mast of Nippon. In fact, there are many who will contend that if the ascent of the Rising Sun is not checked very soon, the entire Pacific area will be dominated by Japan and we will have to worry seriously for our own security.

But Mr. Dulles is reassuring on this point. His study has convinced him that there are no rational grounds for the fear that Japan has expansion aims that involve this side of the Pacific. It is absurd, therefore, for us to fight today in fear of tomorrow. The best thing we can do, he believes, is to pick our way cautiously. There is little in the way of a definite stand that we can take since in numerous incidents of the past, particularly the Manchurian episode of 1931, we have convinced Japan that while we may wave a big stick and scowl, scold, and bluster, we really have no intention of cracking down and even if we did, it would hardly be anything more than a half-swing.

Starting with the administration of President McKinley and the appointment of John Hay as Secretary of State, Mr. Dulles traces the development of the Open Door policy through the Boxer Rebellion, the Russo-Japanese War, the World War, the Washington Conference, and the Hoover and Roosevelt administrations. He writes against a background of experience in the Far East as a teacher in Peiping and as a newspaper

correspondent. His book shows careful planning and documentation and is well written.

AN EXCELLENT complementary work to *Forty Years of Japanese-American Relations* is the exhaustive work by Eleanor Tupper and George E. McReynolds. Their *Japan in American Public Opinion* is a product of research for which years of painstaking work must have been necessary. As the most important phase of public opinion, newspapers and periodicals since the beginning of the century were examined for reference to Japan. Carefully examining and analyzing news, reports, editorials, articles, and special material appearing in the press, the authors have been careful to select the views which were most representative of public opinion at that time.

American public opinion, it is clear from this work, has been an important factor in our foreign policy toward Japan. Public opinion was deeply aroused almost six years ago over the Japanese attack on Shanghai, just as it is being aroused today over the Japanese attack on a wider front in China. But whether we can translate our indignation into an effective instrument for peace in the Far East is a question with which the State Department is attempting to cope at this time with more than a little difficulty.

The record and analysis of public opinion has always been a fascinating study. It is even more engrossing in *Japan in American Public Opinion* for Americans, as the authors point out, are thinking more about the Far East today than ever before.

Mr. Lippmann and Liberalism

THE GOOD SOCIETY is another step in the evolution of Walter Lippmann. The oneirocritic of the status quo has came a long way from his crusading days on the old *Everybody's Magazine* when he worked with Lincoln Steffens and helped prove to the people of staid, ivy-vined Greenwich, Connecticut, that their town was just as corrupt as any other. He has come a long way, too, from the beliefs he expressed in his *Preface to Politics.* Whether we are to accept *The Good Society* as the completion of his political and philosophical hegira is difficult to say. He admits that even as he wrote his latest book he discovered that many of the ideas with which he started to write had to be revised or scrapped altogether.

You can admire Mr. Lippmann for his disarming frankness when he says that for more than twenty years he has been writing about critical events with no better guide to their meaning "than the hastily improvised generalizations of

a rather bewildered man." In this respect, he is no better than the rest of us. We live in a world of snap judgments where half-truths are the order of the day.

But Mr. Lippmann is convinced that somewhere there must be a solution: "Many a time I have wanted to stop talking and find out what I really believed. For I should have liked to achieve again the untroubled certainty and the assured consistency which are vouchsafed to those who can whole-heartedly commit themselves to some one of the many schools of doctrine."

Casting about, then, for a place to pitch his tent, he examined a wide stretch of territory, from the flat, arid, inviolate plains of extreme conservatism to the sharp ridges of extreme radicalism. But though his wanderings took him from Right to Left he could find no attractive site. In this predicament, he decided to clear his own ground and erect his tent. As he worked at it, he discovered that his stakes were not perfectly suited and had to be whittled down, the ties had to be shortened, and a good part of the canvas had to be reinforced.

When he finished, he stood off at a distance and surveyed the tent approvingly. But for all his original plans and for all his pains there is something very familiar about it all. Most of it we have seen before and despite the manufactured locale, the tent bears something of a similarity to the tents pitched somewhere in the vicinity of the Right. Mr. Lippmann would invite into his tent all who believe in liberalism, liberty, and justice. Here life flows freely according to *laissez-faire*. "Its ideal is a fraternal association among free and equal men. To the initiative of individuals, secure in their rights and accountable to others who have equal rights, liberalism entrusts the shaping of the human destiny."

All the particular skills which Walter Lippman has developed as a writer and which have established for him one of the largest audiences ever to follow a political commentator have been brought into play in *The Good Society*. His genius for expressing himself with easy, effortless grace; his choice of words that turn just right; his even, unhurried style; his facility for persuasion; his slow, deliberate use of logic, wearing down opposing arguments in the manner of an army of ants carefully leveling off a mound —all these you will find in Mr. Lippman's latest work. *The Good Society* should cement the ties to all the author's present friends. It will be interesting to observe the number of new ones it will make.

(*Continued on page 125*)

Here and There

The "Wagon and Horses" Inn at Salter's Gate, near Whitby, in England, claims a record for keeping a kitchen fire constantly lighted The fire is said to have been burning continuously for 136 years The old inn was once a smuggler's retreat, and in the days when the tax on salt was high, fishermen secretly brought their catches there to be salted

An oak tree large enough to contain two chapels stands in the village of Alloville-Bellefrosse, France, and a family of the town has for generations been "custodians of the key of the oak" The tree, whose age is estimated at 1200 years, is so large that nine men with extended arms can scarcely encircle it. As far as age goes, however, it is a mere youngster. The famous Soma cypress in Lombardy is said to be 2000 years old, and in the Garden of Gethsemane, eight of the original olive trees are still standing.

One of Japan's favorite indoor sports seems destined to pass into the limbo of forgotten things. Even without the current war to take their minds away from pastimes, the Japanese seem to have lost interest in the traditional entertainment of insect music For years regarded as a soothing comfort, the songs of night-singing insects, captive in delicate bamboo-cages, are no longer appreciated. Films, the radio, jazz, cafes, and sports seem to have replaced insects in popular favor

The World Today in Books

(*Continued from page 15*)

An Artist Sees Art

THE one fault with Hendrik Willem van Loon's new monumental tome, *The Arts*, is that without reading it, some people who are not familiar with Van Loon will fall into the error of thinking that it is a short-cut-to-culture book, after the manner of short-cut books which have been deluging the country for the past two years. They are tired of being told how to wake up and live, make money,. win friends, become speakers, artists, writers, etc —all for the price of a book But no one need entertain a second's doubt of Van Loon. He discusses this very point in his latest work:

> Keep this fact firmly in mind—in the arts (just as in nature) there are no short-cuts Success is not a matter of inspiration but a matter of patience and more patience and then still more patience Without inspiration, you may never be able to scale the greatest heights, but all inspiration in this entire inspired universe will not do you any good without a vast amount of very hard work and slow, painstaking and conscientious work, at that

This department has reviewed few books in recent years which it can recommend with as much enthusiasm as *The Arts*. Here is not merely a compendium of facts on the history of the world's great painters, musicians, composers, architects, sculptors, but a live, moving translation of the life story of the arts with one of the day's outstanding minds as your guide There is no

such thing as a dead and buried past with Van Loon. "The Taj Mahal," he says, "is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful buildings ever devised by the genius of man, but when you approach Brooklyn Bridge without any prejudice it is quite as beautiful and even more imposing." Or, "The 'Harlem Blues' are nothing new. They are the wails of self-pity of the old Hebrew Psalmists put to music." Still another, "We admire the first steam engine of James Watt for its logical simplicity, but No. 1 of Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavichord* is beautiful for exactly the same reason."

The Arts is not to be judged on the basis of its reference value, for it was not the author's intention to write a reference work. Like a painting, its value lies in its interpretative qualities. He views the history of the arts as he would a beautiful panorama he might paint, seeing things that to others might remain obscure; passing over detail that to others might seem important; using blues and yellows where others might use pinks and greens. When you read *The Arts*, read it not for a list of names of history's great artists, nor for a list of their accomplishments, but for the depth and richness of Van Loon's observations, for the power of his perception that enables you to capture the dimensions—artistic, emotional, spiritual—of the people who stroll through his book. *The Arts* will vie with Van Loon's *Rembrandt van Rijn* as his greatest work.

Farewell to Panaceas

DISILLUSIONMENT is a bitter pill and in the case of Eugene Lyons it must have been doubly difficult to swallow. Lyons, we read in his *Assignment in Utopia*, was heart and soul absorbed in the cause of Soviet Russia when he was sent there as a correspondent for the United Press. Here, he felt, could be fulfillment. It would be possible to live among people who were making a "finer world"; it was an opportunity to see at first hand the miracles of the Russian Revolution.

But Lyons' "assignment in utopia" convinced him that Russia was a long way from reaching the promised land; in fact, she even seemed to be heading in the wrong direction. As year after year passed, he was forced to discard ideal after ideal, illusion after illusion, hope after hope. His eyes were open and he saw that all around him things were happening that belied the promise of a "more abundant life." There were hunger and starvation and famine. There were corruption and rotten politics. There were secret police, labor camps, terrorism. He saw that the dictatorship of the proletariat was in fact no better than any other dictatorship. When you defended it,

you were defending tyranny. "A socialism that offers to fill the bellies of its people but retains the privilege of slitting those bellies at will is reactionary; it cancels out ages of struggle and costly victory in the domain of the human spirit."

These were the hard realities facing Lyons His problem was whether to tell what he had seen —to tell the truth—or to keep quiet and hide from everyone his disillusionment and his great mistake. But he had to speak out He had to tell all who would listen that they were playing into the wrong hands when they believe that the only alternative to fascism is communism For he contends that there are parallels between fascism and communism which are dangerous to ignore. There is the mutual disdain for human life, the contempt for truth, the glorification of brute force, intolerance, and suppression And to think that under communism, at least, the dictatorship works for the advantage of the masses while under fascism it works against them, is to deny the history of Soviet rule in Russia. The very masses who were to be saved by the "cause" are being damaged by it, he claims

And so Eugene Lyons has joined William Henry Chamberlin, André Gide and other noted writers as those who have seen the Soviet at first hand and found it wanting His *Assignment in Utopia* bears eloquent testimony to the need for extreme caution in adopting social panaceas which in operation may prove to produce the very conditions we are striving to avoid.

Jackson and Clay

WHAT are probably the two best biographies of the year have been published within the same month and deal with figures whose careers interlock each other This reference is to *Andrew Jackson Portrait of a President*, by Marquis James, and *The Life of Henry Clay* by Glyndon G Van Deusen. Between the two books, the reader is provided ample material for a thorough understanding of the historic feud between Jackson and Clay. Both competed for the Presidency. Both found the other's political philosophy untenable. At one point, Jackson started after Clay with a gun, intending to kill him

The most dramatic episode in which both Jackson and Clay were involved was the Presidential election of 1824 Jackson did little campaigning He was in the race against his will Clay had campaigned with all the resources at his command. In all, there were 15 candidates in the race, one of the most hectic in American history The vote in the national election stood, finally. Jackson, 99, John Quincy Adams, 84, Crawford,

41; and Clay, 37. But though Jackson had a plurality, he needed a majority and the election was thrown into the House of Representatives where Clay, as Speaker, was able to swing the support away from Jackson and elect Adams.

Mr. James does not deal lightly with Clay for his support of Adams, indicating that he is convinced of the truth of the charge that a "bargain" had been struck between both men. In return for the Presidency, Clay was to have the appointment as Secretary of State. Mr. James quotes Senator Thomas Benton, who said at the time that the appointment was another form of bribery, adding that "no man, in his right senses, at the public scene of action as I was, could believe otherwise."

But Mr. Van Deusen does not find Clay guilty as charged. He says that Clay's part in the election had been largely motivated by a combination of personal ambition and patriotic zeal, but there is every reason to believe that "he sincerely felt that such a combination, sponsoring his American system, was for the best interests of the country." The one great defect in his acceptance of the appointment was that it "could be twisted falsely into an accusation of bargain and sale."

Clay was never able to live down the stigma of the appointment, and Jackson, hammering away on that point during the next few years, was able to win both the Presidential nomination and election.

It is with Andrew Jackson's presidential years and his period of retirement that Mr. James is primarily concerned. In a previous volume, *Andrew Jackson: The Border Captain*, Mr. James portrayed Old Hickory as a personality and a soldier. Now we see how those same qualities which carried Jackson to the top as a soldier were to establish him as one of the greatest popular presidents in the history of the nation. To Jackson has gone the honor of having more towns, cities, and counties named after him in the United States than after any other president —or anyone else, for that matter. So deeply, in fact, has his impress been upon American history that we have come to refer to his period in office as the Jacksonian Epoch.

A Pulitzer Prize winner in history, Mr. James again demonstrates that he is one of America's greatest biographers. His new work is a distinctive contribution to historical literature.

Where Mr. James is concerned in his present volume only with his subject's later years, Mr. Van Deusen has chronicled the entire life of Clay, from his early days in Virginia to his apprenticeship as a lawyer and his early career in Kentucky. He showed an early bent for politics and soon found himself in Congress as Senator, filling out the unexpired term of Buckner Thruston. Almost without interruption, Clay was in Congress from 1810 to his death in 1852. Although he was a candidate for the presidency no fewer than three times, he never reached his lifelong goal.

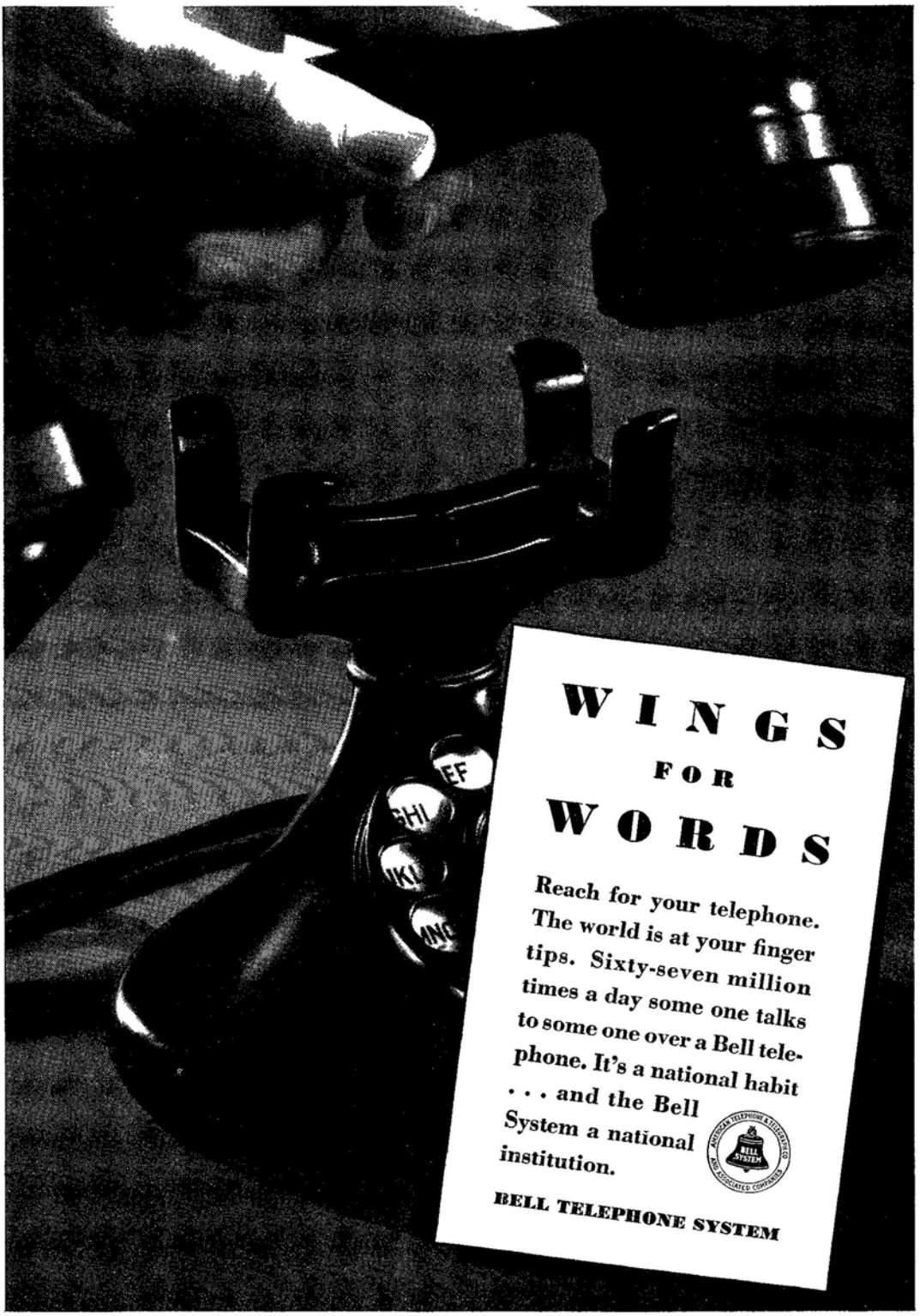
Mr. Van Deusen is more than a first-class historian; he is a first-class writer. The combination makes *The Life of Henry Clay* a notable book and one which will establish itself high on the list of the many biographies that have been written about Clay.

Twenty-Year Adventure

THESE are the ingredients out of which *Free Lance*, by E. Alexander Powell, is made: biography, travel, adventure, and politics. Mr. Powell, it will be remembered, is the man who has been to Everyplace and Back; who has had a regiment's share of experiences; who has interviewed rulers and ragamuffins; and who, by and large, seems to have found life fairly interesting.

One reads his book and comes away with the conviction that most of the experiences would warrant separate books. This has been the case. *Free Lance* has a little from each of the thirty-odd books of travel and adventure that Powell has written. He has selected the highlights of his life during the last twenty years, brought them into a single focus and the result has been a pleasant, enjoyable congeries. There is so much here that it is difficult to know just where to begin and where to end, for it seems as though there is a different experience for each page and there are approximately half a thousand pages.

The most likable aspect about *Free Lance*, perhaps, is Powell's utter simplicity; in an unassuming and matter-of-fact way he will discuss his interview with a Mussolini or a Hitler and give it as much emphasis and space as he would to an account of a talk with one of the citizens. Powell found Mussolini even shorter than he had thought, swarthy and as "sleek as an actor in a society drama—just a shade too sleek to be well-dressed. In the vigilant eyes, the aggressively out-thrust jaw, the squat, powerfully muscled frame, there was the suggestion of a prize-fighter." He saw Hitler when Der Führer was in fine fettle and had dropped his stern mask. He observed that Hitler's most arresting feature was his eyes, "bright blue and, like those of all fanatics and fighting men, widely opened and unblinking."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