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The World Today in Books.

our regular monthly feature, is the largest and most complete non-fiction book section published by any general American magazine. This month's section is devoted to the outstanding 1938-39 non-fiction books published by University presses. In the deeply troubled state of the world today, the scholastic integrity of university press books makes them not only interesting but a highly valuable source of sound information. This month's *World Today in Books* is, therefore, full of reviews of books you will want to buy and read. If you cannot buy them at your local bookstore, write to *Current History* at 63 Park Row, New York, N. Y. We have a special book-service department which handles book orders for our readers. There is no charge for this service. Neither do we charge you postage for shipping.

Since book advertising makes possible such services as these, we are grateful to the university presses listed below for the space they have reserved in this issue. Our readers, too, will be glad to be reminded of the good books which have been contributed to good reading during the past year by these outstanding University presses:

Cambridge University Press
Cornell University Press
Harvard University Press
Johns Hopkins Press, The
University of Michigan Press

University of Minnesota Press
University of Oklahoma Press
Oxford University Press
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**CURRENT
HISTORY
MAGAZINE**

NEW YORK CITY

The World Today in Books

IN its annual university press article last year, this department expressed the opinion that many reviewers unjustly ignore books carrying a university imprint, even when such books are not specialized and deserve a wide audience. Among the half dozen rejoinders from literary critics who wrote back in varying degrees of hurt and huff was this note from a seaphic West Coast book columnist:

"You are unfair to unorganized literary critics. It's not our fault, as you seem to infer, that the general public is not better acquainted with university press books. Do you want to know whom to blame? Simple—the authors.

"Blame the authors, I say—especially those who are best known. Blame them because they flock to commercial publishing houses and seldom give university presses a chance to bid for their books, many of which are awaited by the public with more or less interest. And since these titles command most attention, they are generally—and not unnaturally—at the head of the critic's to-be-reviewed list. Now and then an unknown crashes through to top billing, but the occasion is not too frequent; too infrequent perhaps. Especially is this true in the non-fiction field where established names are so important.

"Ten years ago an author might have felt that a university press could not give his book a good selling and good publicity job. But I don't think it is true today anymore. There are a number of university presses in the country that go in for merchandising in a way that would do credit to any of the commercial publishers. Why don't the authors give them a chance at the long-term contracts?

"And so I suggest that you pick up those darts you tossed at us, re-feather them and aim at the authors—a much more deserving target."

We were disposed at first to run up the white flag and withdraw our complaint against reviewers. Especially were we willing to agree that the

presses have made great strides as merchandisers. But after recalling some of the well-known authors on university lists, we still felt our darts had been properly directed. We reminded our West Coast colleague of a half dozen books in the "popular" field—all authored by fairly "good" names and published by university presses—which received a fraction of the review space they merited. Hadn't he heard about Paul Sears' *Deserts on the March* and *This is Our World*. Both these books—published by the University of Oklahoma—were among the most important interpretations of science for the layman, yet both were disregarded or listed perfunctorily by many reviewers. And what about Harry Elmer Barnes' *A History of Historical Writing*, published a year ago by the same press? Or Marquis Childs' *Sweden: The Middle Way*—a Yale book which was a best-seller despite the comparative paucity of review space it received? Or Stanford University's *Hoover Library on War,*

Revolution and Peace? And what about North Carolina's *Southern Regions*, by Howard Odum—out of which the President's committee on the South drew a large part of its report? What were the reviewers doing when these and dozens of other deserving university books were published?

THE current publishing lists of the universities offer still more evidence that books of strong general appeal by well-known authors are not monopolized by commercial publishers. Examining the most important new university books, we find names such as David Lloyd George, Herbert Harris, Robert S. Lynd, R. C. Beatty; subjects as universal as biography, adventure, health, nature, history in the making.

Yale University's outstanding current title is *Memoirs of the Peace Conference* by David Lloyd George, a two-volume pandect on the history that was made at Versailles. The work, in

University Press Books Reviewed in This Issue

BOOK	AUTHOR	PUBLISHER	PRICE
<i>Memoirs of the Peace Conference</i>	David Lloyd George	Yale University Press	\$10.00
<i>American Labor</i>	Herbert Harris	Yale University Press	3.75
<i>A Short History of International Affairs</i>	G. M. Gathorne-Hardy	Oxford University Press	3.50
<i>The Refugee in the United States</i>	Harold Fields	Oxford University Press	2.50
<i>Lord Macaulay</i>	Richmond Croom Beatty	University of Oklahoma Press	3.00
<i>The Social and Political Doctrines of Contemporary Europe</i>	M. Oakeshott	Cambridge University Press	3.50
<i>Health at Fifty</i>	Dr. William H. Robey	Harvard University Press	3.00
<i>Figures and Features of the Past</i>	V. I. Gurko	Stanford University Press	6.00
<i>The Golden Plover and Other Birds</i>	Arthur A. Allen	Cornell University Press (Comstock Publishing Co.)	3.00
<i>The Brandeis Way</i>	Alpheus Thomas Mason	Princeton University Press	3.00
<i>Chaereas and Callirhoe</i>	Warren E. Blake	University of Michigan Press	2.00
<i>Jamestown and St. Mary's</i>	Henry C. Forman	Johns Hopkins Press	4.50

effect, is an elongated epilogue to his six-volume survey of the World War in *War Memoirs of David Lloyd George*. Like an endless spool, these memoirs have been spinning out for half a dozen years. Thus far, including both sets, almost two million words have been run off the spool; is the story finally complete? Technically, yes. The entire war—from beginning to “peace” settlement—is covered in the two sets, but it would be a rash prediction that would have Lloyd George stop here. For just as Versailles grew out of the war, so have the events of the last twenty years largely been shaped by what happened in the Hall of Mirrors in 1919. And since Lloyd George, who was a central figure at Versailles—has never dropped completely his role as a history-maker, we may expect that there is much more thread yet to be unwound.

Memoirs of the Peace Conference should read like something out of a dim and detached past; like something that happened long enough ago so that we moderns should possess that much-desired and amorphous quality known as the historical perspective in relation to it.

It should read like that—but it doesn't. It may not read like the day before yesterday but it is at least the day before Munich. The issues that rumbled through the hall at Versailles are rumbling again today: German aggression, Palestine, colonies, armaments, minorities. Most of the personalities have passed on—with the notable exception of Lloyd George himself—but the problems they fought over—and thought they settled—are still with us.

Why?

They are with us, says Lloyd George, because European “statesmen” fumbled and bungled and blundered almost endlessly. Contrary to their pledge, they did not follow Germany's example once the Reich disarmed. Nor did they, “in one case after another,” come to the aid of weak League members who were being threatened or attacked by larger nations. They have not—and Lloyd George places emphasis upon this point—lived up to their obligations as respecters of minority rights as promised in the Peace Settlement.

In telling the full story of what happened at the Peace Conference, Lloyd George has not muted his horn in the slightest; it still blares with the same intensity and even on the same

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pitch as it did two decades ago. He still feels that Wilhelm II was personally responsible for what have been called Germany's crimes against international morality, though he now denies ever inspiring or supporting the movement to “Hang the Kaiser.” He is still bitter about many of the principals who participated in the Conference, just as in his *War Memoirs* he was bitter about many military leaders, including General Pershing.* Thus he still regards Poincare as a com-

monplace, rather tricky and comparatively dull-minded little man whose implacable hatred for Germany was largely responsible for the extreme measures taken against the Reich. Poincare is therefore “the true creator of modern Germany with its great and growing armaments, and should this end in another conflict, the catastrophe will have been engineered by him. His

* In Volume V of his *War Memoirs*, Lloyd George sharply criticized General Pershing for insisting that the American Army be operated as an autonomous unit.

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inside story of the Peace
of Versailles that can ever
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Memoirs of the Peace Conference

By
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LOYD
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American Labor

By HERBERT HARRIS

"The most readable and reliable one-volume history of the American labor movement yet produced."—*N. Y. Herald Tribune*. "A keen book, written with verve and drive . . . much better than anything else in the field . . . human and sympathetic."—*The New Republic*. *Illustrated* \$3.75

These books on sale at all bookstores

YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS
New Haven, Connecticut

dead hand lies heavy on Europe today."

There are relatively kind words for Clemenceau and Wilson, but even here there are reservations. Clemenceau was an obstructionist at times; Wilson was an "idealist who at first regarded himself as a missionary whose function it was to rescue the poor European heathen from their age-long worship of false and fiery gods."

As pointed and sharp as are his personality sketches in this volume, so are his observations of the events at the Conference lucid and trenchant. Every important detail of Versailles is here recorded and interpreted. The fact that *Memoirs of the Peace Conference* is a personal narrative does not detract from but adds to its significance as an historical record.

THE most important book on Yale's winter list was *American Labor*, by Herbert Harris, an expansion of a series of articles which appeared under the same title in *Current History* a year ago. Already described in several reviews as the best one-volume history of American labor yet published, Mr. Harris' book does two things: it provides a broad general view of American labor as a movement, and contains individual histories of the largest unions.

American Labor is timely and enlightening reading. It furnishes the background necessary for a competent understanding of labor today.

THE University of Oklahoma's leading new book is *Lord Macaulay* by Richmond Croom Beatty, author of *William Byrd of Westover*. In publishing this work, Oklahoma has put in its bid for the outstanding biography of the year. Burton Rascoe, one of the members of *Current History's* Literary Advisory Board, recently nominated the work for the Pulitzer Prize.

Mr. Beatty, about whose ability as a biographer there can be no doubt—he is one of the top-ranking Southern writers—has chosen as his subject one of the most colorful "liberals" of the nineteenth century. The quotation marks are prompted by the author's own remarks about the word:

"The term liberal has been handled so often it seems today almost too slippery to take hold of. . . . This formerly nice word has become suspect through long sorting with questionable company."

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Macaulay's nineteenth-century type of liberalism consisted of the sanctity of property, dominance of the middle class, freedom of trade and enterprise, and abolition of slavery. But it was not the Jeffersonian or Paine-ian type of liberalism. In fact, Macaulay had a contempt for American democracy. He said he was convinced that purely democratic institutions must destroy—sooner or later—liberty or civilization, or both. He felt that America could afford democracy only until her physical development was completed. He predicted that when our last frontiers disappeared we, like England, would be faced with a population problem and find it necessary to discard democracy: "Wages will be low [as England's] and will fluctuate as much with you as with us. . . . How will you pass through it? I cannot help foreboding the worst."

It has remained for an American to contribute the best-rounded biography of England's "Great Whig" since George Otto Trevelyan wrote his Macaulay's *Life and Letters* more than sixty years ago. Macaulay emerges from this book as a brilliant, hard-minded and somewhat smug exponent of aristocrat rule. Mr. Beatty believes his subject never quite thought things all the way through:

"Macaulay never paused to consider what would inevitably happen to the restrictions hedging his sacred ballot once a sufficient number of the 'lower orders' had become well enough informed to use it with tolerably good sense. . . . On that doctrine which identified the well-being of his class with the well-being of the nation he took his stand, nor did he ever desert it."

Thomas Babington Macaulay — statesman, lawyer, author of *History of England*—has found a fair, careful, considerate, though not necessarily sympathetic biographer in Richmond Beatty, whose book is richly flavored and beautifully written.

THE "we or they" question so frequently the subject of books these last few years apparently has been the inspiration for *The Social and Political Doctrines of Contemporary Europe*, by Michael Oakeshott, published by the Cambridge University Press. The plan for the book was suggested by Ernest Barker, author of *The Citizen's Choice*, which presented the case for democracy as against dictatorship. Mr. Barker suggested a collection in one volume of

the basic and most important documents of social thought. Out of that suggestion has come a handbook of social and political philosophy.

This book deals with fundamentals in a way that will please those who are tired of bubbly discussions on this theory or that and who want, in reference form, one volume which will enable them to consult source material. Thus, *The Social and Political Doctrines of Contemporary Europe* contains not only important extracts from *Mein Kampf* and *Lenin's State and Revolution*, but legislative texts which give such doctrines added meaning. Divided into five main chapters, each of which is devoted to a separate school of political thought—Representative Democracy, Catholicism, Communism, Facism, and National Socialism—the book contains leading doctrines and documents of each.

OXFORD University Press' *A Short History of International Affairs*, by G. M. Gathorne-Hardy, published in 1934, has been revised and brought up to date. The current volume presents a summary of events from 1920 up to the fall of last year. The Czechoslovakian crisis is covered in a post-

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Bolivar and the Political Thought of the Spanish-American Revolution

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The author has outlined the thought of Bolivar not *en bloc*, as the common procedure has been in the past, but as the ever changing and sometimes contradictory manifestations of a great mind, tragically divided by loyalty to preconceived ideas of perfectionism and clear understanding of political reality.

The Johns Hopkins Press
Baltimore Maryland

script. "I have had to pluck my material from the blazing fires of contemporary controversy, over which not even the thinnest crust of dead embers has had time to cool," says the author in his preface to the new edition. But he has been signally successful in giving his book an atmosphere of detachment and calm, measured judgment.

The years from 1930 to 1938, says Mr. Gathorne-Hardy, whose book is issued under the auspices of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, represent the "period of collapse," although in the earlier edition he referred to 1930-1934 as the "period of crisis." For the last few years have convinced him that the crisis has come to a head:

"To call this any longer the 'Post-War Era' would savor of bitter irony. War has already broken out in the east and in the west, while many nations still technically at peace are enjoying only the immunity of the victim who surrenders his property with the bandit's pistol at his head."

Looking back through the events recorded in this volume, he remarks (as did Hamilton Fish Armstrong in his *When There is No Peace*) at the appropriateness of the Biblical sayings of Jeremiah: "They have seduced my people, saying, 'Peace; and there was no peace.'"

The value of *A Short History of International Affairs* is that it sews together into one coherent pattern the many divergent strands of recent history.

ANOTHER important and recent Oxford book is Harold Fields' *The Refugee in the United States*—a pertinent and authoritative discussion of a subject which has caused so much recent controversy. Mr. Fields, director of the National League for American Citizenship and an official of the New York City Board of Education, has been a specialist on immigration problems for twenty years. His long familiarity with the problem has convinced him that partisan viewpoints about the refugee are exaggerated. On the one hand are those who regard all immigrants as subversive aliens and therefore undesirable; while on the other are those who regard all immigrants as bearers of intellectual wealth who are culturally and economically assimilated with ease. It is the middle ground between these extremes that Mr. Fields, who

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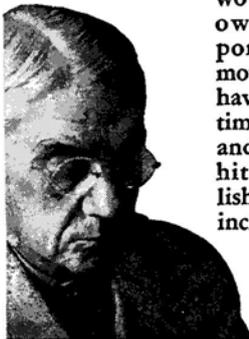
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has buttressed his book with a wealth of supporting statistical data, explores in this book.

The Refugee in the United States lays the basis for a sensible American policy towards those who turn to us for their ideological and even economic salvation.

ALPHEUS THOMAS MASON, a professor of politics at Princeton University, has for a number of years been interested in the career and philosophy of Louis D. Brandeis, recently resigned as Justice of the Supreme Court. Six years ago he wrote *Brandeis: Lawyer and Judge in the Modern State*, a semi-biographical tribute to the famed jurist, analyzing his legal and judicial career. The book sold more than 50,000 copies, an extraordinary record considering that 2,000 is a good sale for a non-fiction book. Mr. Mason has again written about the former justice. His new book is called *The Brandeis Way: A Case Study in the Workings of Democracy*.

Mr. Mason believes that Louis D. Brandeis represents, as did Thomas Jefferson, the closest approach to the true "American democratic way." The former justice, says the author, has concerned himself with the problem of how best to build and adapt our institutions and laws to meet the special requirements of the machine age, yet "retaining the human-economic values implicit in laissez-faire, democracy and individualism." No man of our generation has "created so successfully the social and legal devices competent to solve hard American problems."

As a specific example of the "Brandeis way," Mr. Mason discusses in detail—and this is the brunt of the book—the life insurance reforms which Mr. Brandeis brought about almost single-handedly in Massachusetts thirty years ago. His fight is proof, declares Mr. Mason, that democracy can and does work if given intelligent and courageous leadership. Such leadership, he adds, is not only the "safeguard of democratic institutions which so-called conservatives would overthrow in purblind desperation to maintain their power immune from progress," but the "salvation of private business enterprise."

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10 WORLD'S FAIR GRAND PRIZES

ians who devoted their careers to nature study, Professor and Mrs. J. H. Comstock. The latest and most important of the Comstock nature books is *The Golden Plover and Other Birds*, by Arthur A. Allen, another in the author's popular "bird biography" series.

Mr. Allen has not written the conventional type of bird-study book. *The Golden Plover* is the result of his own observations from travels all over the country. He has illustrated his book with more than 200 action photographs of North American birds. In addition, the book contains color plates of seven paintings by Dr. George Miksch Sutton, noted bird artist. Illustrations and content are brightly and colorfully presented.

The Comstock Press, incidentally, has just brought out a new, revised edition of the famous *Handbook of Nature Study* by Mrs. J. H. Comstock.

ONE of the most Herculean and important undertakings in modern publishing is the Hoover Library on War, Revolution and Peace. Published by the Stanford University Press, the library now numbers fourteen volumes dealing extensively with significant historical events. Half the books in the series are concerned with various aspects of the World War, such as the rise of the German Empire and its collapse, Allied propaganda, treaties, China's part in the War, and relief in Belgium.

Latest in the series, No. 14, is *Features and Figures of the Past*, by Vladimir Iosifovich Gurko, a member of the Imperial Chancellery during the reign of Nicholas II. Mr. Gurko, whose father was Field Marshal in the Russo-Turkish War of 1877, has written of the old Russia—the Russia of the pre-revolutionary days of Nicholas II, 1894-1917. Mr. Gurko's purpose is to reconstruct—now that we are beginning to forget that the old Russia had a distinct personality of its own—the personalities of her leading statesmen, her political and diplomatic complexions, and her trends of public and bureaucratic thought.

Notwithstanding his personal background, Mr. Gurko is concerned only with the historical perspective and not prejudice. He finds that the revolution was the direct result of the ineptitude of Russia's leaders, who had opportunities to make important and necessary concessions and changes in the government but who closed their eyes and blindly continued to ride the old

tide. The book is excellently annotated and documented. It does for pre-revolutionary Russian history what William Henry Chamberlain's *The Russian Revolution* did for the period 1917-21. It is an historical work of the first importance.

IN 1907, Harvard University, observing that the public was becoming increasingly health conscious, began a series of free Sunday afternoon health lectures, open to all. That series has been maintained without interruption and is still in operation today. So popular have the lectures become that they are an established part of Cambridge's community life and are attended every week by large capacity audiences.

A number of the most recent of these lectures, given by members of the faculty of Harvard's Medical School, is now embodied in *Health At Fifty*, edited by Dr. William H. Robey,

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and published by the Harvard University Press.

Consisting of twelve chapters, or lectures, the book contains clear, lucid information, explanation and advice on health problems which concern middle-aged persons: heart disease, blood pressure—low and high, underweight and overweight, eye-trouble, diet, etc. A sharp warning is underlined in all chapters against misleading advertising of "purely commercial remedies, the unwarranted use of the nomenclature derived from scientific discoveries, and the fraudulent claims of charlatans." The physicians contributing to this book examine and appraise recent developments in their respective fields.

OF strong literary importance is the publication by the University of Michigan of a new translation of Chariton's *Chaereas and Callirhoe*. This is the first time that the earliest romantic novel in European literature has been translated into English directly from the Greek text. Previously, the only existing English version was based on the Italian translation.

Warren E. Blake, associate professor of Greek at the University of Michigan, has succeeded through this translation in giving new life and influence to Chariton of Aphrodisia, whose works represent the only surviving novels of Greece's romantic writers. The reconstruction is clear and complete. Professor Blake has made the translation as sharp and as readable as a new work by a contemporary novelist.

The format of *Chaereas and Callirhoe* entitles it to a rating among the beautiful books of the year.

THERE is a lot of talk about America being a young, upstart continent. But here is one indication that at least and at last we have begun to adolcesce. An archaeologist, Henry Chandlee Forman, has been excavating and has written a book—not about ancient Greece or Rome—but about two American cities which have virtually passed into decay: Jamestown and St. Mary's, which the author calls the "buried cities of romance."

Jamestown and St. Mary's, as his book is called, tells the story of two historic New World settlements—the manner of living, architecture, tools, art; in short, their culture and civilization.

All that remains of old Jamestown



Why Dad! Do YOU Question the Future?

DAD may question. In his lifetime he's seen electric lights replace oil lamps; the widespread installation of sanitary plumbing and central heating. He's seen the growth of automobile and radio, of airplane, motion picture, and electric refrigerator. Dad, wondering whether we can keep up this pace, sometimes finds it hard to share his son's confidence in the future.

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today are the ruins of a church tower; all that remains of St. Mary's are the frames of a few buildings. The other historic landmarks have settled into the soil. It is from these ruins that Mr. Forman has drawn his material.

Mr. Forman, former head of the architectural unit of the government's archaeological project at Jamestown, combines in this book the results of his official and personal investigations into the early life of the two cities. The work is illustrated with hundreds of the author's sketches and maps. In addition, it contains numerous half-tone photographs.

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