

ship is more than valuable production or cheap production; it is something exemplary and essential. And this applies not only to production itself but to the methods of production, to the technique, the schooling, the organization, the manner of thinking." (p. 146.)

The lesson of the Russian experiment, brought to a crisis by shortage of technicians and sabotage by the intellectuals, must be for any country the strongest stimulus to unite the productive and creative forces—workers by hand and by brain—upon a constructive program animated with the human spirit to *give and serve* instead of the animal craving to *take and hold*.

WALTER N. POLAKOV.

## Meadows Taylor

*The Story of My Life*, by Colonel Philip Meadows Taylor. New York: Oxford University Press.

COLONEL MEADOWS TAYLOR has been called the last of the adventurers. All his life he breathed the air of romance, from those days a century ago when, a boy of sixteen, he was articled to a merchant of Bombay, through all his long life in India, his service in the army of the Nizam of Hyderabad, his thirty odd years at Ahmadnagar, Berar, Naldrug and in many another strange-named province as soldier, peace-maker, administrator, "protector of the poor." If Taylor did not wonder much at what England was doing in India, if he accepted the Mutiny as a rebellion pure and simple, he had a deep sympathy and understanding for the natives, he knew their ways and languages, he was fascinated by their story and their mystery, and made these things a part of himself.

It was this identification of himself with the people and the country, so that at times he almost seemed to see the world through Indian eyes, that gave its particular fascination to whatever he wrote of India. The Confessions of a Thug is a better example than the Life. Here is the story of that awful secret confederacy of highwaymen, killing whole caravans of travellers, not alone for plunder but also out of fanatical devotion to Bhowanee, the goddess of strangulation. Told without ingenuity, or intricacy, or any great variation in the pitiless succession of murders, with no very sharp eye for the shapes and colors of Indian men and things, it was yet a strangely fascinating book. Where in others foreign words, foreign phrases are so often irritating, Taylor had the art—though indeed it came quite naturally to him—of using them as keys to unlock some dream world of romance all the more charming for not being clearly seen.

While the Story of My Life rambles along a little garrulously, recalling, in amazing detail, events, places, names by no means important to us now, it has some of the fascination of the Confessions of a Thug. Here again is the excitement, the stir of India, but here again it is almost hidden behind a screen. For Taylor's talent was much less to describe things than to tell stories about them. His style, if rarely crystal, was in the Confessions of a Thug clear and direct as cut-glass, while in the Life it has too often the mere limpidity of water. And though his age is stamped on many of his pages—it was written when he was well over sixty—it reveals a mind at once stalwart, naive, incurious, untroubled, but profoundly sensitive to the beauty and mystery of the East.

R. L.

## Bertrand Russell on Bolshevism

*Bolshevism: Theory and Practise*, by Bertrand Russell. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co.

IT might have been anticipated that Bertrand Russell would experience toward the Russian Revolution the same unfavorable reaction which he experienced toward the war. For war and revolution have many common psychological factors. Both are products of faith, rather than of reason. Both ruthlessly subordinate the individual to the mass. Both engender demagoguery, intolerance, fanaticism, suppression of hostile criticism,—all the things which are most repugnant to such a sensitive, logical and sceptical intellect as Mr. Russell's.

And so, while Mr. Russell tries very hard to be scrupulously fair to the Bolsheviki, his intellectual bias against them is sometimes hard to overcome. The general tendency of his conclusions may be inferred from the fact that Mr. Lloyd George enthusiastically recommended them to the attention of every man and woman. It is safe to say that the British Premier did not make any similar pronouncement about the observations of Ransome, Wells or Brailsford.

Of course Mr. Russell towers above the semi-illiterate journalists who have written so many books of stupid and unimaginative propaganda about Soviet Russia. He has no picturesque stories about the secret prisons of the Extraordinary Commission, manned by legions of Chinese executioners. He repudiates the more vulgar calumnies against the Soviet leaders: He admits that the majority of the Russian Communists are courageous, hardworking and sincere, submitting voluntarily to the sternest discipline and undertaking the most difficult and dangerous tasks. His assertions about the violent and undemocratic character of the present Russian regime, where absolute power is concentrated in the hands of approximately 600,000 Communists, are also founded upon fact.

His unconscious injustice to the Soviet regime reveals itself rather in what he does not say, and in some of the conclusions which he draws from his statements. He scarcely mentions the preferential feeding of children and expectant mothers, the transformation of palaces into hospitals and summer colonies for children, the truly heroic efforts to stop the spread of epidemics despite the blockade which prevented the importation of drugs and surgical instruments,—all the vast program of social relief which has been carried on by the Soviet government and which has done much to reconcile outside observers to its harsher and more oppressive features. He gives the Bolsheviki no credit for abolishing the evils of large scale landownership and for making a bold, if premature effort to introduce the principle of collectivism into industrial life. Certainly no impartial historian of the French Revolution, however much he might abhor the Jacobins and their misdeeds, would fail to give them credit for sweeping away the abuses of the feudal system.

In his discussion of Bolsheviki theory Mr. Russell expresses his faith in communism as an ideal, but repudiates the rough and violent methods by which the Russians have sought to put the ideal into practice. He outlines a series of gentle and peaceful measures, by which the working class may emancipate itself from capitalist domination without the risks and sufferings entailed by the Russian experiment. Unfortunately history shows pretty conclusively that fundamental alterations of existing property rights can seldom, if ever, be accomplished without resort

to bloodshed. The supplanting of the aristocracy by the middle class as the dominant power in France, the abolition of Negro slavery in America were comparatively minor social changes, compared with Mr. Russell's prospective transition from capitalism to communism. Yet both involved years of stubborn fighting. It certainly requires an optimistic conception of human nature to believe that the beneficiaries of the present system of production and property distribution will give up their privileged position without a struggle.

There is one conclusion in Mr. Russell's book with which all impartial and humane observers of the Russian situation, regardless of political differences, may agree. "I have no doubt whatever," he says, "that the sole cure for the evils from which Russia is suffering is peace and trade." And peace and trade are just the things which the Soviet government has been long, and vainly, seeking from America.

W. H. C.

## Selected Current Books

The Analysis of Mind, by Bertrand Russell. Macmillan.

Lectures on feeling, desire, memory, habit, etc., combining the lessons of behaviorists in regard to matter with the lessons of physicists in regard to mind.

Modern American Poetry, by Louis Untermeyer. Harcourt.

"A guide to the best new poetry of America," revised and enlarged. Includes ninety-eight of our best poets.

Industrial Government, by members of the Department of Economics, Wisconsin. Macmillan.

A report on the present labor situation, based on an investigation from Wisconsin to Maine, 1919.

The Labor Problem and the Social Catholic Movement in France, by Parker Thomas Moon. Macmillan.

An exhaustive study by the assistant professor of history in Columbia University.

Dogtown Common, by Percy Mackaye. Macmillan.

A long poem "set in the bygone Puritan community of a deserted village."

Models of Speech Composition, ninety-five complete speeches, compiled by James Milton O'Neill. Century.

"Models" for all occasions, seriously classified in 849 pages.

## Contributors

JOHN W. OWENS for a number of years has been political reporter on the staff of the Baltimore Sun. Since the election he has been connected with the Sun's Washington Bureau.

LEWIS MUMFORD has been associate editor of the Dial and acting editor of the (London) Sociological Review.

KATHARINE FISHER was formerly a member of the Federal Employees' Union and has frequently written for labor papers.

SOPHIE KERR has been managing editor of the Woman's Home Companion. She is a contributor of short stories to Harper's, the Century and other magazines.

REV. LEWIS R. LOWRY is pastor of the Church of the Redeemer (Universalist) at Nunda, New York.

MOISSAYE J. OLGIN, a Russian writer who came to America a few years ago, has recently returned from a six months' visit to Russia. He is the author of The Soul of the Russian Revolution and A Guide to Russian Literature (1820-1917).

## THE MANHOOD OF HUMANITY

The Science and Art of Human Engineering

By **ALFRED KORZYBSKI**

Mr. WALTER POLAKOV describes it as: "A book of tremendous force and beauty, possessing almost unlimited influence on the future development of mankind . . . a supreme logic of mathematically rigorous thinking . . . but so simple, so beautiful and so complete that it is within easy grasp of a child."—*The World To-morrow*.

CASSIUS J. KEYSER, Professor of Mathematics, Columbia University: "It is momentous in what it contains, even more so in what it suggests, and most of all, I dare say, in the excellent things it will eventually help men and women to think and say and do."

Price \$3.00

"The Next War"

By **WILL IRWIN**

"It is one of the most massive and well-ordered arguments that has ever been made against the institution of war. It is plain, clear, even-tempered, and sober. To read it is a duty, because in compact form it organizes a case against war on a plane that people can appreciate . . . but its real message is its conviction that we ourselves in America can show the way out."—From an extended review in *The New Republic*.

\$1.50

Out of Their Own Mouths

By **SAMUEL GOMPERS**

President of the A. F. of L., with the collaboration of **WILLIAM ENGLISH WALLING**.

A revelation and indictment of sovietism compiled from Bolshevik sources and showing the aims and intentions of the soviets relating to the workingmen and the governments of other countries.

\$2.00

These can be bought in any bookshop or from

**E. P. DUTTON & CO., 681 Fifth Ave., N. Y.**

Whatever book you want

*Harvard*

has it, or will get it.

We buy old, rare books, and sets of books

NEW YORK and PHILADELPHIA

## The Children's School

For boys and girls from 2 to 12 years

The aim of the school is to prepare each child for a complete life, both as an individual and as a member of the social group. All-day activities make best use of advantages of city life. Hot lunches served. Afternoon trips in connection with school work. Athletic field; swimming; large roof playground; carpentry shop; auditorium for music and dancing; outdoor nature study; art and Indian craft work. Particular attention to spoken French and Science. Write for booklet.

MARGARET NAUMBURG, Director

32-34 W. 68th Street

New York City