

Foreign Literature

A Father of Revolution

LES RELATIONS DE VOYAGES DU XVII SIECLE ET L'EVOLUTION DES IDEES. Par GEOFFROY ATKINSON. Paris: Librairie Ancienne Edouard Champion.

Reviewed by S. G. ENDORE

THIS is a thoroughly interesting book, which is, I suppose, the highest praise one can pay any book. Mr. Atkinson's theory is that the source of the ideas of the French philosophers of the eighteenth century, the so-called "fathers of the French Revolution," is to be found in the books of voyages which became extremely popular in France almost immediately after the first great geographical discoveries. They influenced Montaigne as early as 1580 and after him, in the seventeenth century, Fénelon, Malebranche, Spinoza, Fontenelle, and Bayle, and finally in the eighteenth century, the great philosophers, who borrowed from their predecessors, and had their field prepared by these light books of travels, which were more widely read than the heavier tomes of, say, Spinoza and Bayle. And then, too, the latter had difficulties with the censor, which the former managed to escape, because their seditious thoughts were hidden among much other matter, and often variously disguised. Just as Montesquieu and Voltaire did later, these voyagers by criticizing foreign customs and pagan religions directed attacks against France and Catholicism.

For instance, the idea of original sin was attacked by statements that the savage mother arose immediately after child-birth and washed herself and her child. These savages had also no conception of shame and went around naked, and were not therefore any more lascivious, in fact less so, than the women of France. Thus were forged many of the weapons later to be used so effectively. For example, the idea of progress, the conception of the "good savage" (long before "Friday," and ages before Rousseau), the "Chinese sage" (c. f. Goldsmith's *Citizen of the World*), the actual existence of deistic peoples, and pagan religions with virgin-births, and also regions where the people lived in liberty, equality and fraternity, and were not Christians. From this storehouse of facts and fancy, the philosophers borrowed the examples which so considerably strengthened their works. From here, too, authors gathered material for their many romantic stories of Utopias, and other authors came here to plagiarize and improve upon the actual travels and construct more exciting and pleasing works. All these books, real, Utopian, and imaginary had large sales and went through many editions.

In considering the growth of ideas, Mr. Atkinson does not attach sufficient importance to human psychology which always juxtaposes opposites, thinks of freedom when under tyranny, dreams of riches when poor, and imagines a perfect world when he lives in one that is far from so. True, Mr. Atkinson is dealing with the influence of books of travel, and not why they sold so well, but one might wish that he had omitted some of the numerous repetitions, and devoted the space to a more thorough discussion of the reasons why the French were then so interested in travel, so determined to see the good side of life in foreign countries, so anxious to be instructed by savages, while other people and travellers in other times before and after saw little to praise or imitate.

On the whole one must commend Mr. Atkinson's perspective. The examining of a small topic has not made him myopic. Mr. Atkinson is, I suppose, an American. He writes in a brittle, choppy style, but his ideas are at all times expressed in clear grammatical French.

Foreign Notes

A VOLUME that should prove of much interest to students of history and geography has recently been issued in Cairo as the fifth volume of the *Mémoires de la Société Royale de Géographie d'Égypte*. "La Découverte de l'Afrique au Moyen Age," by Charles de la Roncière, contains a large number of mediæval maps with accompanying commentary upon the history of mediæval explorations in Africa. In the course of its more specifically geographic exposition, M. Roncière's book presents liv-

ly and interesting accounts of more general character, including, in especial, a discussion of pre-mediæval knowledge of Africa. The book is a work of much erudition.

Captain A. Thomazi, who was Chief of Staff of Admiral Ronarch, commander from 1916 to the end of the war of the French forces engaged in the task of safeguarding the British troops and supply ships that so constantly passed and repassed through the Channel, has now issued a chronicle of that service based on official records. "La Guerre Navale dans la Zone des Armées du Nord" (Paris: Payot) is a record of high achievement, one which not only bears witness to the courage and skill of the French but to the amicable relations that existed between them and their British allies.

England is about to have another review in *The Calendar of Modern Letters*, the first number of which is to be issued in March. The monthly will be edited by Edgell Rickword, and will include among contributors to early numbers Bertrand Russell, D. H. Lawrence, Desmond MacCarthy, Aldous Huxley, W. J. Turner, Robert Graves, Siegfried Sassoon, and A. E. Coppard.

What is said to be a powerful study of military idealism in its best aspects is the volume in which André Maurois, author of "Les Silences de Colonel Bramble," answers Jean de Pierrefeu's "Plutarque a Menti." "Dialogues sur le Commandement" (Paris: Grasset) is in the form of a dialogue in which a young soldier presents his point of view to a philosopher who differs from his theses. It is written with spirit and grace, and is of interest to a general public as well as to one specifically interested in the problem of militarism.

Charles de la Roncière, the historian of the French Navy, has issued a volume, entitled "La Carte de Christophe Colomb" (Paris: Champion), in which he sets forth what he is convinced is an important discovery. He is certain that he has found the original map used by Columbus on his first voyage to the west, the very one which the explorer showed to the Spanish sovereigns. He produces the map—unfortunately the impression is, doubtless owing to the faded character of the original, very indistinct—and sets forth his reasons for believing in its importance and genuineness. The chart has not been unknown to other students, but its significance has not been evident to them. M. de la Roncière's thesis will doubtless find many to take exception to it.

Lucien Fabre, whose "Rabevel" made his name known in this country as well as in his own, has issued a volume of essays entitled "Bassesse de Venise" (Paris: Nouvelle Revue Française). The book contains three essays, one of which, the description of an airplane flight from Strasburg to Belgrade, is said to be a remarkable piece of writing.

The Freudian method has now been applied to that forceful figure in French literary annals, Mme. de Staël. In his "Madame de Staël: La Vie dans l'Oeuvre" (Paris: Champion), David Glass Larg attempts an interpretation of the author of "Corinne" not only on the basis of what she said, but also on that of what she left unsaid. He applies the psychological method to her various works, with interesting results.

Another volume has been added to the already vast literature on Balzac in André Bellesort's "Balzac et Son Oeuvre" (Paris: Perrin). The work is in the main a biographical sketch with a number of chapters outlining the contents and character of the novelist's works. It makes little attempt at criticism, but presents a lively portrait of the man.

"Die Befreiung Ostpreussens," the second volume of the German official history, entitled "Der Weltkrieg 1914 bis 1918," has recently been published (Berlin: Mittler). It covers the operations in East Prussia up to the middle of September, 1914, embracing discussion of the plan of campaign, developments before Hindenburg's arrival, the Battle of Tannenberg, and the Battle of the Masurian Lakes. Despite its official character, it is a narrative of little interest.

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Announcement

We'll risk the scoffs of the sophisticated by declaring that more people were interested in the little news story about how careful President Coolidge is to wear rubbers on wet days than in his scholarly address on the Budget. Naturally and humanly enough. It's the intimate side of *The Great* that beguiles us. And that is what makes biography and memoirs so fascinating. For all around enjoyment, we'll stack up Fuchs, Corbett and Minnigerode against any six novels of the season. They present a glittering array of notables, off stage, with halos checked, and in a confidential mood.

Practically all the famous people in the worlds of art, music, literature and politics figure among the friends of *Emil Fuchs*. He knew Victoria, Edward VII., Alexander, King George and Queen Mary, The Kaiserin, Sir Ernest Cassell, Isadora Duncan, Arthur Wing Pinero, "Silent" Smith, John Singer Sargent, Lina Cavalieri, Maurice Maeterlinck, Baron Rothschild, and The Duchess of Manchester, and he writes of them as he saw them in the intimate atmosphere of the studio and home. In *WITH PENCIL, BRUSH AND CHISEL*, all these people and many others play their parts in a series of delightful stories and amusing anecdotes. The illustrations are magnificent, many of them never having been published before. \$7.50



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With the same piquant humor and skillful construction of picturesque background which made "The Fabulous Forties" one of the notable books of the season, Mr. Minnigerode revivifies four interesting characters of early American days in his new book, *LIVES AND TIMES*. They are Stephen Jumel, merchant; William Eaton, hero; Theodosia Burr, prodigy, and Edmond Charles Genet, citizen. A vivid biography destined to excite fresh interest in colonial days. It is illustrated with old portraits, prints and documents of the time. \$3.50



In these days when biologists and psychologists are at odds as to the relative importance of heredity and environment, much interesting and important information is to be found in *M. I. B. Saxby's THE EDUCATION OF BEHAVIOR*. The author is well known for his sound work in the educational institutions of Great Britain, and is considered one of the greatest authorities in the field. In his new book he takes up education as a proper preparation to adult life and efficient citizenship. \$2.50

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The New Books

The books listed by title only in the classified list below are noted here as received. Many of them will be reviewed later.

Belles Lettres

GETTING A LAUGH AND OTHER ESSAYS. By CHARLES HALL GRANDGENT. Harvard University Press. 1924. \$2.

"These rambling meditations," says Professor Grandgent in his preface, "bear witness to occasional hours of relaxation in the busy life of the last three years." That is an accurate but far from complete account of these essays. They are discursive and they are obviously written for the fun of it; in addition, moreover, they bear witness to a singularly full and well-spent life. They have all the charm of casual conversation with a remarkably genial and humorous gentleman, who has traveled widely and read widely, and observed all things with shrewdness. They are personal and reminiscent, ranging from adventure in the bar-rooms of Williams, Arizona, to Christmas cards and the superstitions of childhood. They are written with ease and with wit.

FIELDS OF GLORY. By Russell H. Conwell. Revell. \$1.25.

SUPERLATIVES. By Grant C. Knight. Knopf. \$2 net.

ART AND MAN. By C. Anstruther-Thomson. Dutton. \$4.

TRADITION AND JAZZ. By Fred Lewis Vattell. Century. \$2.

Biography

RECOLLECTIONS OF A BUSY LIFE. By JAMES B. FORGAN. New York: Bankers Publishing Co. 1924. \$6.

Mr. Forgan tells his life story with a bare and methodical simplicity, an adherence to its purely financial activities, which gives us scarcely any view at all of the personal man apart from his work. For over thirty years he has been closely connected with powerful Chicago banking institutions, a directing force in their growth and prosperity, so his business career is related in the terms by which he traces the history of these vast enterprises.

It would be difficult to imagine material success won by a more logical and consistent devotion to constructive hard work than Mr. Forgan's. Yet, it seems to us that an eminent man himself is far more interesting than his work, and we, therefore, wish that Mr. Forgan's recollections dealt more with his human, intimate side than with the impressive figures of his worldly success.

THE LAST OF A RACE. By De Mercy Argen-teau, Princesse de Montgion. Doran. \$4 net.

A SOLDIER'S MEMORIES. By Sir George Young-husband. Dutton. \$6.

REMINISCENCES. Written by Mr. Horace Wal-pole in 1788. Oxford University Press.

A BRIDGEMAN OF THE CROSSWAYS. By Justin Heresford, Jr. Marshall Jones.

MY DIARY 1915-17. By Benito Mussolini. Small, Maynard. \$2 net.

SAMUEL BUTLER. By C. C. M. Joad. Small, Maynard. \$1.75 net.

MICHAEL FARADAY. By Wilfrid L. Randell. Small, Maynard. \$1.75 net.

LORD LISTER. By Cuthbert Dukes. Small, Maynard. \$1.75 net.

WILLIAM HARVEY. By R. B. Hervey Wyatt. Small, Maynard. \$1.75 net.

MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT. By Madeline Linford. Small, Maynard. \$1.75 net.

QUEEN ELIZABETH. By Gwen John. Small Maynard. \$1.75 net.

Drama

TOO MUCH MONEY. By ISRAEL ZANGWILL. Macmillan. 1925. \$1.50.

Mr. Zangwill is an uncommonly clever man, with notable gifts of irony, wit, and satire, but humor is not one of his strong points. In his case it is too apt to assume the form of wild exaggeration. This is the trouble with this farcical piece in which the effect of much very smart and occasionally brilliant dialogue is greatly lessened by the extravagance of both characters and incidents. Even in farce there ought to be some approach to the plausible. In a prefatory note he explains that he wrote it to find relief from the tragic tension of war time and this doubtless accounts for the fact that the whole thing is far more suggestive of labor than inspiration. The motive of it is not entirely new. It tells the tale of an enormously wealthy capitalist, who pretends to be ruined in order to bring to her senses a lackadaisical wife, who thinks herself ne-

glected, and him a Philistine, because he will not sympathize with her affected devotion to prehistoric art and other fashionable foibles. The result of the experiment is that she is magically transformed into a most energetic and capable financier, who, supposing her husband to be a pauper, insists on maintaining him in luxury, while she foots the bills and treats him as an infantile nonentity. Mr. Zangwill knows his theatre, and has been able to accumulate a rapid succession of broadly comical but entirely arbitrary situations, which individually are amusing enough, but in its entirety the piece is too preposterous to invite serious comment. The literary adornment is scarcely compensation for the cheapness of the dramatic fabric.

OLD ENGLISH. By JOHN GALSWORTHY. Scribners. 1925. \$1.

This play, although it has acting qualities which have made it successful on the stage, is not good Galsworthy. The chief strength of it resides in the central character which is drawn with great vigor and consistency. Apart from this fine bit of work, there is little in the piece worthy of the great reputation and indisputable ability of the author. Even the motive which inspired the writing of it is not entirely clear, although, presumably, the dominant figure of old Sylvanus Heythrop is presented as the embodiment of that unscrupulous egotism which, when triumphant, not only covers a multitude of sins, but is apt to be regarded as one of the chief national virtues. The delineation is rich in irony and satire, but the dramatic environment is conventional and insignificant.

Heythrop is a man with the manner and morals of the fourth George, but a much more liberal allotment of brains. A dignified old reprobate, he has led a double life. In Liverpool he has been a merchant prince, elsewhere the gayest of free livers. At eighty, though reputed wealthy, he is practically a bankrupt, an illustrious "guinea pig," subsisting chiefly on the fees of the various directorships conferred upon him in recognition of his known business capacity and his supposed impeccability. Over all opposition he rides roughshod. He is the personification of imperturbable bluff. When confronted with the necessity of providing for his illegitimate family, he secures funds, by a gross betrayal of trust and blackmailing his most intimate friend, being careful, however, to keep outside the clutches of the law. When a sharp lawyer—a defrauded creditor—accidentally stumbles upon his secret and threatens him with exposure, he defies him to do his worst, pointing out that he has no evidence and will be met by the lie direct. Then, hard, wilful, selfish to the last in the face of impending disgrace and disaster, heedless of medical warnings and the expostulations of his legitimate daughter whom he despises for her piety, he sits down to drown care in forbidden port and brandy, and so dies in a fit of apoplexy.

So the play closes, without definite issue, at loose ends. There is a moral, of course, in the spectacle of the abrupt snuffing out of an ill-spent and unlovely life, and the questions prompted by it, but one that is scarcely dramatically complete. And the plot and subsidiary personages are—for Galsworthy—somewhat trite and trivial. But the one outstanding portrait, if a trifle exaggerated, is powerful and vital, and not without its prototypes in an earlier, if not in this generation. Moreover, it offers magnificent opportunities to the actor.

HURRICANE. By Olga Petrova. Four Seas.

THE CALL OF THE NIRVANA. By Rudolf Broda. Four Seas.

PROFESSIONAL. By John Howard Lawson. Seltzer. \$2.

Economics

GERMAN TRADE ASSOCIATIONS; THE COAL KARTELL. By Archibald H. Stockder. Holt.

THE LABOR MOVEMENT IN THE SHOE INDUSTRY. By Augusta Emile Galster. Ronald Press.

THE GROWTH OF AMERICAN TRADE UNIONS, 1880-1923. By Leo Wolman. New York: National Bureau of Economic Research.

THE ELEMENTS OF RAILWAY ECONOMIES. By Sir William M. Acworth. Oxford University Press.

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