

I understand." And with that he gave the biggest Hunky a very hard slap on the back, not unlike an accolade too. And he tramped away up the little slope, and set off toward the far blue hills. And

there was mist on his owlish glasses and humility in his young green earnest soul. "Chivalry! So chivalry is dead, eh? Fat chance!" said young Professor Cheney, grimly, to himself. For, despite

all his dignity, all his erudition, there were times when this lofty spirit descended to the eminently colloquial. "Dead, your granny! Playing 'possum, you mean!"

The Book Table

Edited by EDMUND PEARSON

A Good Scout

Review by W. J. GHENT

"OLD GABE" BRIDGER, caricatured in a popular novel and burlesqued in a popular film play, receives in this extended biography¹ something of his just due. The author has sought to assemble every contemporary reference to the famous guide and to trace definitely his movements through all the long years of his career. In great measure he has succeeded. There are, as he admits, lapses in the record which may never be filled. But his unflagging labors have resulted in a work of great merit, which is sure to take high rank in the literature of the frontier.

The book, for all its merits, has certain faults. There are several slighting references to Kit Carson—all of them unjust—made apparently on the theory that a lessening of Carson's fame automatically heightens the fame of Bridger. Some valuable records have been overlooked—for instance, Osborne Russell's diary (1834-43), with its many references to Bridger, and George C. Yount's reminiscences, with their fresh light on the Hugh Glass episode. The account of the Mormon War (1857-8) is told with somewhat too much partisanship to make good history. The frontier yarn (told by Captain Lee Humfreville) that Bridger induced Frémont to engage Carson as the guide of his first expedition (1842), is naively accepted, though it has no historical basis. Both Frémont and Carson have told the story of their chance meeting on a Missouri River steamboat in the spring of that year, and the facts leave no room whatever for the intervention of Bridger. Moreover, Bridger was then in the mountains, and knew nothing of the expedition until he met it on the North Platte in July. Joe Meek's "Umentucken Tukutey Undenwatsy," as Sabin has shown, doesn't mean "Mountain Lamb," or anything else appropriate to the name of a beautiful Indian bride, and isn't Cheyenne, Sioux, Crow, Shoshone, or any other In-

¹James Bridger, Trapper, Frontiersman, Scout, and Guide: A Historical Narrative. By J. Cecil Alter. The Shepard Book Company, Salt Lake City. \$10.

dian tongue, but is merely a bit of Meek's mystifying gibberish.

Such faults, however, must count for little in a general estimate of the book. It is a monument of patient industry. It builds on the work of General Grenville M. Dodge, Professor Grace Raymond Hebard and E. A. Brininstool, Captain Lee Humfreville, and General Hiram M. Chittenden, adds an immense amount of material, and gives us for the first time a rounded biography of the great frontiersman. Strange it is that a life which so eminently deserved to be described in print has so long waited for a biographer. Carson, be it remembered, attained the distinction of a biography sixty-seven years ago.

Here is the real Bridger, "the one man of the time," as a contemporary wrote of him, "that I never heard anything but good spoken of." Of his marvelous skill in all the arts of the trapper, hunter, and guide; of his fearlessness, alertness, hardihood; of his uprightness, helpfulness, loyalty, so much has been told that the tributes would of themselves make a volume. Whether or not he was the "greatest of the frontiersmen" involves, of course, a comparison with Carson; and it is deplorable that a number of his admirers have sought to belittle Carson in their efforts to give Bridger pre-eminence. The comparison must in any case be futile. They had much the same training and were for several years constantly together; both illiterate (though Carson late in life learned to read and write), they were both exceptionally gifted; they had many of the same traits, they acquired the same proficiencies, they won from their fellows the highest degree of respect and trust, and the tributes paid to one can be matched with tributes paid to the other. But their paths diverged, and their subsequent careers were markedly different. It is perhaps best to say that each in his special field was supreme, and that nothing is to be gained for the reputation of one by depreciating the other.

It is sad to reflect that Bridger, who

had done so much for the West, was shabbily treated by the Government and that he died poor. The pathetic record of his vain attempts to obtain compensation for his loss of Fort Bridger illustrates again the old adage concerning a republic's ingratitude.

Politics and Government

THE SOCIOLOGY OF REVOLUTION. By Pitirim A. Sorokin. The J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. \$3.

Professor Sorokin was formerly head of the Department of Sociology in the University of Petrograd. He remained in Russia during the Bolshevik régime until October, 1922, when he was expelled. For a time he lived in Czechoslovakia, and then came to the United States. He is now a Professor of Sociology in the University of Minnesota. It was in Czechoslovakia that this book was written. The English of the original must have been extremely crude, since even after a rigorous revision much of the diction remains awkward and bunglesome.

Nevertheless it is, in the opinion of the present reviewer, the most important work on a social theme that has appeared in a long time. It is a study of the genesis and results of revolutions—more properly, social revolutions, since it restricts its inquiry to upheavals within a single society, and excludes rebellions against a foreign society, such as that of the American people against the British in 1776-83. It considers the Russian revolutions of the seventeenth century, of 1905 and of 1917-24; the French revolutions of 1789, 1848, and 1870-1; the German revolution of 1848; the Cromwellian revolution in England; and a number of mediæval and ancient upheavals.

Professor Sorokin sees in revolutions, first, a change in the psychology of a people, and then in its behavior. There is a progressive "biologizing" of the population; the human being reverts to the animal, casts off the inhibitions that have been developed in him by civil order, and gives way to primitive instincts. There follows a deformation of the social structure of society and a change of fundamental social processes. Crime and sexual perversion run rampant. Chaos

continues until gradually a sense develops that the situation is intolerable; restraints and inhibitions once more begin to find expression, and order is slowly resumed. Society has had its revolution; it may have scored a few gains; more likely it has suffered losses; but, even if it has won anything, it has paid for its gain at a disproportionate cost.

In support of these propositions he gives voluminous data. Naturally, the Bolshevik Revolution furnishes the greater part. It is the instance about which he knows most, and the one which bears most aptly upon the validity of his theories. Moreover, lest he lay himself open to the charge of having selected his data from unfriendly sources, he confines himself almost wholly to official and semi-official statements of the Bolsheviks themselves. The record is an amazing one, even to those who have followed the events closely since the beginning; and perhaps it may serve to enlighten those who heretofore have eagerly fed upon the familiar Soviet fabrications intended for foreign consumption. Here are carefully documented reports of the "biologizing" of a people on a scale perhaps unparalleled in history.

Revolution, the author shows, is a poor mode of improving the material and spiritual condition of the masses. It does not tend to socialize society, but to give it over either to anarchy or to despotism. It reduces the sum of liberties, it impairs the economic and the spiritual state of the people, and its heaviest burden of disaster invariably falls upon the poor. Reform or reconstruction, he maintains, is won and maintained only by legal and constitutional means, and not by acts which outrage human nature and contradict its fundamental instincts.

Biography

ROBERT E. LEE, THE SOLDIER. By Major-General Sir Frederick Maurice. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. \$4.

General Maurice has studied Lee and his campaigns for many years. What he offers is not a biography, but a review of the military career of Lee and an estimate of his rank as a soldier. Following Henderson, the author of a life of Stonewall Jackson, General Maurice picks Wellington as the commander with whom Lee is most closely to be compared. That Wellington was probably superior as an organizer is admitted, though the contrasting conditions under which the two commanders operated is held to make any decision in the matter impossible. In other respects—and especially in the devotion which he was able to inspire in his troops—Lee is declared to be the superior. The author follows the "Virginia school" in attribut-

ing the disaster at Gettysburg to the conduct of Longstreet. To Longstreet's statement that, though in science and military learning Lee was greatly the superior of Grant, yet "in the art of war I have no doubt that Grant and several others were his equals," the author attaches the comment that Lee's greatest defect as a general was his unwillingness to control Longstreet.

The author treats with respect the statement of General Grant to J. R. Young that he did not regard Lee as so dangerous an opponent as any one of several other Southern commanders, particularly Joe Johnston. One must remember, however, he says, that Grant never met Lee until after the Gettysburg defeat had forced him into a strategy purely defensive. The Lee who drove McClellan from the Peninsula, routed Pope, and defeated Hooker would have appeared to Grant in another way. Finally, the author places Lee as a captain somewhere in the company of Alexander, Hannibal, Cæsar, Gustavus, Turenne, Eugene, and Frederick. Though the mention is not clear, presumably he means also to include Napoleon.

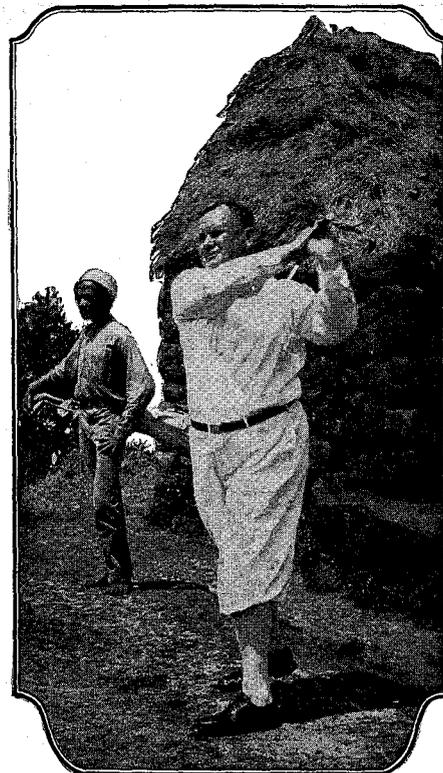
Fiction

THUS FAR. By J. C. Snaith. D. Appleton & Co., New York. \$2.

Mr. Snaith's new novel is a murder mystery, fantastic, gruesome, and exciting, excellently told for perhaps three-quarters of the way, with a marked decline toward the conclusion. Although advertised as "impressively showing the dangers of the path when man seeks to create superman," neither its pseudo-science nor its super-monster possesses any serious significance; both are interesting so far as they have power to entertain, and no further. "Thus Far" is far enough, and it is unwise and unnecessary to claim more.

SERENA BLANDISH; OR, THE DIFFICULTY OF GETTING MARRIED. By a Lady of Quality. The George H. Doran Company, New York. \$2.50.

Hints are thrown out that this is really by an English Lady of Quality and written out of her own experience. We take it to be a witty indiscretion by some skillful writer—Arnold Bennett, say. Its style, like its title, goes back a century or two, and is so carefully blended that we hardly know whether it reminds us chiefly of Jane Austen or Smollett or Fielding. Or isn't its bland naughtiness French rather than English of any period? There is something refreshing here, anyhow—a lightness and gayety especially grateful in this day of heavy-handed traffic with the business of sex. Not much can be said for Serena, but the need of saying anything for or against her somehow does not actively present itself. She is an engaging spec-



"Tee up" this Autumn in Hawaii

Barefoot native caddy—Hawaiian grass-hut shelter—a sunny tee and rainbow-vaulted, velvet-smooth fairway—here's a new golf experience awaiting you this fall.

After the children are in school, rest and play several weeks or months in this sunny mid-Pacific Territory of the United States. Return home for Thanksgiving or Christmas if you wish. Autumnal seas are exceptionally smooth. Cool days invite you to outdoor sports—golf, motoring, tennis, hiking, deep-sea fishing, inter-island cruising. Crisp, quiet nights for sound sleep.

Try the golf courses on all the four larger islands. Between times, enjoy tropic fruits, exotic flowers, Hawaiian music. Swimming and surfing at Waikiki. Ample hotels, modern conveniences and moderate living costs. Volcanic wonders of Hawaii National Park are especially accessible in autumn.

Easy—and inexpensive

Book through your nearest railway, travel or steamship agent direct to Honolulu. Enjoy the 5- to 6-day voyage in luxurious liners via Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Vancouver or Victoria, B. C. Round trip can be made from the Coast in 3 or 4 weeks, allowing a week or two in Hawaii, for as little as \$300 to \$400 including all travel and sightseeing costs.

If you wish a descriptive, illustrated brochure—



223 MONADNOCK BLDG., SAN FRANCISCO
352 FORT ST., HONOLULU, HAWAII, U. S. A.

In writing to the above advertiser, please mention *The Outlook*