

# THE CHECK LIST

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*Times*, lived in Italy for many years, and covered the Italian invasion of Abyssinia and Mussolini's war against the Spanish republic. Mr. Matthews often leans over backward in his attempt to find something good in the past accomplishments of the fascist régime before the Abyssinia adventure, but his book on the whole is a sound and solid achievement.

**AMERICAN HEROES AND HERO-WORSHIP**, by Gerald W. Johnson. \$3.00. *Harper's*. A collection of political essays on Pierre-Samuel Du Pont de Nemours, Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson, Martin Van Buren and Henry Clay, William Henry Harrison, Thomas Edward Watson, William Jennings Bryan and Theodore Roosevelt, and Woodrow Wilson. While there is no new information in them, Mr. Johnson, who commands a clear and ingratiating style, manages to put his subjects in relatively fresh perspective. His general point of view is that the judgment of history is often sounder than contemporary public opinion. His chapter on Wilson and world peace is especially good and timely.

**THE AIR FUTURE, A PRIMER OF AEROPOLITICS**, by Burnet Hershey. \$2.75. *Duell, Sloan and Pearce*. A good, easy-reading journalistic account of the history of commercial aviation, its postwar problems and its perspectives.

**A SHORT HISTORY OF CHINESE CIVILIZATION**, by Tsui Chi. \$4.00. *Putnam*. An extraordinarily compact history of China by a Chinese who writes a remarkably lucid English. Mr. Chi begins with pre-historic times and carries his account down to the

present. At the end are excellent chronologies and bibliographies. There is a preface by Laurence Binyon.

**PRIMER FOR AMERICA**, by Robert P. Tristram Coffin. \$2.00. *Macmillan*. A collection of 138 robust ballads about the heroes, prides, attitudes, pieties, inventions, religious cults and regional folklore of the United States. Almost all of them could easily be set to music. There are many illustrations by the author.

**GIVE OUT! SONGS OF, FOR AND BY THE MEN IN SERVICE**, edited by Eric Posselt. \$1.25. *Arrowhead*. Over a hundred gay and heterogeneous songs, sometimes with music, which have come out of this war. Profusely and cleverly illustrated.

**THE PROGRESS OF PAN-AMERICANISM. A HISTORICAL SURVEY OF LATIN-AMERICAN OPINION**, translated and edited by T. H. Reynolds. *Public Affairs Press, Washington, D. C.* An intelligent collection of articles, reports, speeches and documents on all aspects of Latin American relations, culled mainly from the newspapers and magazines of the Latin American countries. There are also condensed reports of the various Pan-American and Inter-American conferences of Panama, Havana, Rio, Lima, etc. It is, however, greatly regrettable that this 250,000 word volume has not only no alphabetical index, but not even a table of contents.

## FICTION

**A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN**, by Betty Smith. \$2.75. *Harper's*. The childhood and adolescence of Francie Nolan of the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn just before and during World War I. Warm-hearted and

full of humorous and tragic incidents, it is a joy to read.

**TANGLEWEED**, by George Willis. \$2.00. *Doubleday, Doran*. Authentic story of a swing drummer who had to get with it. Written with perception and sensitivity. Several of the chapters first appeared in *THE AMERICAN MERCURY*.

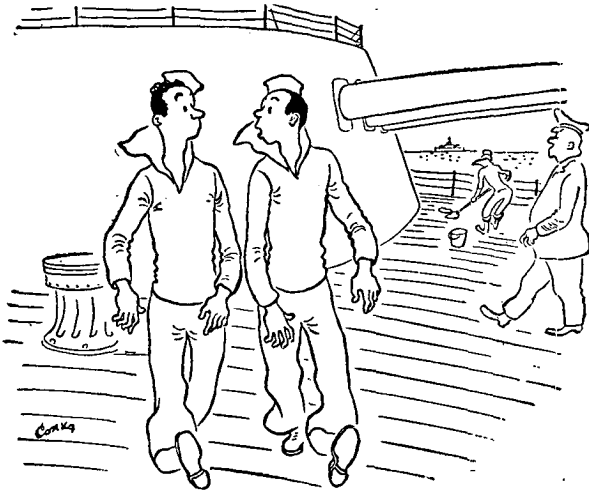
**GRAND CROSSING**, by Alexander Saxton. \$2.50. *Harper's*. The revolt of youth in this world, where the hero finds that it is better education to go hitch-hiking across the country than to study at Harvard, though he does the latter, too. Fairly interesting.

**THE BRIDE DINED ALONE**, by Vera Kelsey. \$2.00. *Crime Club*. Thrice-married, twice-widowed female returns home with her

new acquisition after a sojourn in South America—and several deaths occur. Although the reader is pretty sure where the guilt lies, the question remains, Will retribution come?

**COLOUR SCHEME**, by Ngaio Marsh. \$2.50. *Little, Brown*. Murder and espionage at a thermal resort in New Zealand. Excellent background and an entirely believable set of characters.

**THE BODY FELL ON BERLIN**, by Richard Lakin. \$2.50. *Putnam's*. Former Scotland Yard man, now intelligence officer at an English airfield, has a chance to practice his old profession when he discovers that a body was dropped on Berlin from the bomb rack of "N for Nuts." Excellent suspense and a romance thrown in for good measure.



*"Do you think the airplane will ever replace the submarine?"*