

Our Guests

We are not the only ones in our house,
We must remember the others and be kind
To the small ones that shelter under our roof
And eat the crumbs we drop, the seeds, the
rind.

No deed, no wood or plaster can shut out
Creatures that go on toes silky and wild,
There is no law in bronze that can maintain
The sole heir to our house shall be a child.

Our house is large, there are the dwelling
places
Too high, too deep and dark for us to keep,
Small love and quiet feasting will go on
After the masters are possessed by sleep;
When we who live by lights and fires go
To our cool dreams which have not any words,
Then our cooled chimney, roofed with gentle
stars,
Fills with the wings and winsomeness of birds.

When our doors are closed, below our stoop,
Under the granite stone, a door of earth
Opens, and below our cellar floor
The woodchuck's halls and rooms quiver with
mirth;
Hairy faces touch in shrewd embrace,
There is the tender language of soft paws;
The slim skunk prowls our shed. These are
good guests,
They have their hour; they keep the starry
laws.

—ROBERT P. TRISTRAM COFFIN



JASPER R. LEWIS

Books in brief

If the reader of *The Cold War, A Study in United States Foreign Policy*, by Walter Lippmann, (Harper's, \$1.00), decides to expend all his resources in one staggering "bust," who can blame him? For Lippmann has set a series of firecrackers under the Truman Doctrine and the several schools of thought on how to reach a peace in Europe. In particular, it is a blast at the article, "The Sources of Soviet Conduct," written, it is believed, by an official of our State Department.

Lippmann condemns our policy of containment of Russia and the hope of her eventual mellowing as wishful thinking. His theory is simple: to get peace in Europe it is necessary to head off Russia's encroachments. Since peace in Europe would mean practically universal peace, there is no question of its importance. While we stumble in incompetent diplomacy, however, the Red Army is in the center of Europe, and where the Red Army is, there is the advance guard of communism. Here Lippmann makes a point usually overlooked; it is not communism that is moving Russia; it is her old imperialism and lust for power, by chance now dominated by Marxian disciples.

The way to stop Russia, and it is definitely Russia that has to be stopped, is to arrive at a peace treaty by which all of the occupation armies, of all nations, will be withdrawn from Germany and other defeated countries. Once that is achieved, one of two things must happen. Russia will withdraw her forces, and that will remove the pressure on the small nations so that they can be self-determining in their choice of government. If she does that, her power in Europe will wane. If she does

not withdraw, as she probably won't, at least the issue will be clear. Another result would be the political leaning of the smaller nations toward the West, since there they would find sympathy against the unwanted usurper. That would mean, at least, a moral cordon against the Soviet.

The worst move would be a separate peace, without Russian participation. That would entail a sovereign German government, with power to make treaties with Russia, and under present conditions the result is fairly certain. Lippmann likes the Marshall Plan, particularly its demand for serious studies abroad, and the fact that it would liquidate the Truman Doctrine. He also prefers to know, and have all other nations know, just where Russia stands. Anyone who can read will know where Lippmann stands, and many will stand with him.

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Seen through the eyes of Ernest Erich Noth, the master key to world peace is a permanently fangless Germany. *Bridges Over the Rhine*, (Holt, \$3.00), is his passionate plea for the future security of France. There he lived after his forced exit from Germany, and the larger part of his book is addressed to Frenchmen, and devoted to a denunciation of Prussian and Hitler Germany, in particular the Herren or master caste.

His argument is that while Germany must be given opportunity for rebirth, that is secondary. The vital point is making safe the borders and the future of France, which he calls the foremost and greatest European state. The threat of communism, while not to be