

ing the mob of revolutionaries how to die, then I hurl the book out of my sight and my blood boils.

Why jumpin' Jehosaphat, that's standing all history on its ear! Who for ages has done the bloody work and died ungloried on a million unknown battlefields but that mob of poor people whom our snobs would teach how to die! Good Lord, that seems to be about what poor people have done best, die, die as heroically as you please all over the map. Italians dying for Mussolini and also in the construction of every bridge and skyscraper in the United States, poor girls dying of radium poisoning, Negroes in Gauley Tunnel dying of silicosis, poor people everywhere dying of pellagra and scurvy and beri-beri and rickets to teach medicine what it might have known all along: that human beings need fresh and ample food. Four million skeletons at the bottom of the Atlantic marking the course of the slave trade, holocausts of poor people armed with sticks and pitchforks dying in jacqueries in Germany, in Russia, in China, in Japan, in some country of the globe in every year of history. And now Germans being groomed by the millions to die for Hitlerism, and every country in Europe sprucing up its soldiery. Poor men all, mind you. I say absolutely nothing of their rightness or their wrongness, I speak only of their dying. Mock them as much as you please, Mr. Gorman, for their poor table manners, decry the mob for its cruelty and stupidity if you like, but by all that's holy I forbid you to have your bluebloods teach the poor how to die! In the matter of dying they have nothing new to learn, but they can, in a final conflict, teach the aristos a lesson that will never be forgotten.

Well, there's no need to get myself excited. I take consolation in the fact that novels are losing their once great role in history. Witness this paragraph from a recent newspaper:

A careful survey of those who attended performances of the motion picture *Anthony Adverse* during the past two days revealed that only six out of 5830 persons present had read the "popular" book from cover to cover; 141 others admitted starting the book, but never finished it.

It is important that we who know who the real terrorists are should also know that the people, the people, yes, may be bamboozled into buying what passes for literature, but they can't do much more than start the book. People, however, do go to pictures and they sit right through. That's something we must think about.

GUY ENDORE.

Poetry Against Death

MAN ANSWERS DEATH. *An anthology of poetry edited by Corliss Lamont. G. P. Putnam's Sons. New York. \$3.*

A COLLECTION of poetry with a basis in apologetics is fairly calculated to make a reader suspicious. The task of the anthologist—keeping to a distinguished level

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of taste without reintroducing us to all our old friends—is sufficient without introducing a purpose beyond the simple enjoyment of poetry. It must be said, however, that Mr. Lamont's humanism, if it seems inadequate as a viable philosophy, has a generous æsthetic range: more than a few good poets have written from the humanist point of view he celebrates, even to the confusion of the creeds they professed. In the present anthology, seizing on the familiar aspects under which man has always considered death, Mr. Lamont has made the most of a felicitous opportunity by grouping together a generous number of the interesting lyrics on life's transiency, and the affirmations man has made in the face of that fact, to be found in English and, here translated, a number of other tongues. *Man Answers Death* has fewer than the usual number of set pieces, and few poems, even among those selected from contemporaries, which seem not worth inclusion. It would be easy to demonstrate that the editor has kept up his level of choice partly by a generous welcome to poets who would be likely to give a wry reception to the humanistic homilies with which Mr. Lamont has prefaced the various sections of his anthology. The point is not worth laboring, however, since despite it, *Man Answers Death* remains one of the most judicious of contemporary anthologies.

MAURICE ENGLISH.

★

Brief Reviews

COVERING THE FAR EAST, by Miles Vaughan. Covici, Friede. \$3.

In the early pages Mr. Vaughan puts himself out to climb into the ranks of the George Seldeses, Vincent Sheeans, Walter Durantys, and John Gunthers of his profession. He even rings in a Chinese girl Communist to offset Sheean's Rayna Prohme. The effort proves too much for him, and Mr. Vaughan settles down to the routine, shouted small talk of the routine correspondent, too ill-informed to understand the history he transmits almost as automatically as the telegraph key, and with automatic class reactions, all of which makes him slander the Chinese people while paying homage to Chiang Kai-shek and the Japanese militarists.

THE THEATRE OF THE MOMENT, by George Jean Nathan. Alfred A. Knopf. \$2.50.

Here and there Mr. Nathan remarks upon the ineffectiveness of old tricks. He proves it when repeating his own. Fresh ventures, such as his comments on radical writers, reveal both ignorance and malice.

Outstanding Reprints

THE WORKS OF LEWIS CARROLL. Modern Library Giants. \$1.10.

This volume contains not only the immortal Alice books, but everything Carroll wrote, excepting the specifically scientific works, and includes material unobtainable in most other editions.

THE CONQUEST OF MEXICO and THE CONQUEST OF PERU, by William H. Prescott. Modern Library Giants. \$1.10.

Two masterpieces of American historical writing, the first unavailable formerly except in an edition of two or more volumes, are here presented together in a well printed and durably bound single volume.

SEVEN PILLARS OF WISDOM, by T. E. Lawrence. Doubleday Doran. Illustrated. \$3.

A work of genius, influenced by and sharing many of the virtues of Doughty's classic, *Travels in Arabia Deserta*. Its subject matter is the Arab struggle for national independence against the Turks and the use made of it by Great Britain for her own ends in the World War. This edition presents the complete text from which an abridgement, *Revolt in the Desert*, had previously been abstracted.

MAN'S FATE, by André Malraux. Modern Library. 95c.

It is a pleasure to greet what is quite generally regarded as the masterpiece of contemporary revolutionary literature, offered in this popular series.

Also Published This Week

(A listing of important new books not necessarily recommended.)

An American Testament, by Joseph Freeman. Farrar & Rinehart. \$3. Book Union choice for October.

The Story of the Supreme Court, by Ernest Sutherland Bates. Bobbs, Merrill. \$3.

Golden Wedding, by Anne Parrish. Harper. \$2.50. Novel.

Electricity: For Use or for Profit? by Bernhard Ostrolenk. Harper. \$2. Economic and political.

The Higher Learning in America, by Robert Maynard Hutchins. Yale University Press. \$2.

Phoenix: The Posthumous Papers of D. H. Lawrence. Viking. \$3.75.

Stravinsky. Simon & Schuster. \$3. Autobiography.
The Tallons, by William March. Random House. \$2.50. Novel.

Recently Recommended

Moscow Skies, by Maurice Hindus. Random House. \$2.75.

The Brothers Ashkenazi, by I. J. Singer. Translated by Maurice Samuel. Knopf. \$3.

The Trouble I've Seen, by Martha Gellhorn. Morrow. \$2.50.

We Have Been Warned, by Naomi Mitchison. Vanguard. \$2.75.

Green Margins, by E. P. O'Donnell. Houghton Mifflin. \$2.50.

Three Score, by Sarah N. Cleghorn. Random House. \$3. Autobiography.

Rubber: A Story of Glory and Greed, by Howard and Ralph Wolf. Covici, Friede. \$4.25.

Seventy Years of It: An Autobiography, by Edward Alsworth Ross. Appleton-Century. \$3.

Was College Worth While?, by John R. Tunis. Harcourt, Brace. \$2.

Now That April's Here, by Morley Callaghan. Random House. \$2. Short stories.

The Bells of Basel, by Louis Aragon. Translated from the French by Haakon M. Chevalier. Harcourt, Brace. \$2.50. Revolutionary novel.

A Time to Remember, by Leane Zugsmith. Random House. \$2.50. September Book Union selection.

The Rise of Liberalism, by Harold J. Laski. Harper. \$3. Political science.

The People, Yes, by Carl Sandburg. Harcourt, Brace. \$2.50. Poetry.

The Flowering of New England, by Van Wyck Brooks. Dutton. \$4. Criticism.

FOR CHILDREN

Palaces on Monday, by Marjorie Fischer. Illustrated. Random House. \$2.

The Story of English Life, by Annabel Williams-Ellis and F. J. Fisher. Illustrated by Wilma Hickson. Coward-McCann. \$3.75.

Turning Night into Day, by M. Ilin. Translated by Beatrice Kinkead. Illustrated by N. Lapschin. Lippincott. \$1.

Tales from Grimm, translated and illustrated by Wanda Gág. Coward-McCann. \$1.50.