

Revealing Novel Portrays World of Worker Priests

SAINTS IN HELL. By Gilbert Cesbron. Doubleday. \$3.75.

Reviewed by JAMES G. WHARTON

This is a powerful piece of fiction, fresh, sharp, bitter, mature, and alive with meaning. It is a novel in which the mind is not permitted to overrun the emotions, nor contrivance; and it is a work in which a fine, free spirit — something rarer each year in present-day fiction — has free play.

It is an important novel, too; its theme and marvelous rich interplay of character and structure are something to behold in these days of psychologically distorted people and plotless incoherence. Its translation into English by John H. H. is a boon to U. S. readers who otherwise might never have experienced the work.

It's no novel for people who squirm at the stark and hopeless, who have become accustomed to the psychologically dreadful (even enjoy it), but can't take the slow, gnawing terror of physical death and disaster. "Saints in Hell" deals with the most painful distressing aspect of contemporary life: Men and women and their children exist in an existence in an industrial slum.

This slum is Sagny in the suburbs of Paris, and into its shambles of bodies and buildings goes Father Pierre, a worker priest. By day he works in a factory, and by night, or a great part of it, he is engaged in a harder work—feeding, finding shelter, giving comfort to

Exciting Narrative Of Trail Driving

THE TALL MEN. By Clay Fisher. Houghton Mifflin. \$2.50 hardbound. 35 cents paperback edition.

Only a man who thoroughly knows and loves his subject could write of the old West as it actually was as does Clay Fisher.

"The Tall Men" recreates an epic trail drive without parallel on the frontier. It recreates it so believably that the reader almost hears the rumbling of the great Texas herd, smells the lather of the horses and the sweat of the wranglers.

He'll live with them through the blistering days and the bitter nights on the tortuous trail from Texas to the rich cattle markets of Montana. And he'll respect the iron will of the men who took this herd through the heart of the Seven Sioux nation—something that had never been done before.

Clint and Ben Allison rode in from the South and the bitter memory of Appomattox and their 20 years of living by the gun, toward the Montana gold fields, their guns tied low on their hips ready for a fight or any easy mark.

They found the latter in Nathan Stark and took his \$40,000. But Stark made them a proposition. The \$40,000 in crisp Union greenbacks was to buy Texas cattle and make a fortune. Pitch in with him, he offered, and he would make them full partners in a fortune beyond their dreams.

And so, on Feb. 29, 1885, these three men set out on a 3600-mile journey that has no comparable parallel in western fact or fiction.

Check List of Other New Books Received

Reprints, Popular Editions

SIGNET BOOKS. 25c each. "Gigi and Julia in a Lamp for Nightfall" by Erskine Caldwell; "Depends What You Mean by Love," by Nicholas Monsarrat, three short novels; "Amazon Head Hunters" by Lewis Collow (35c); "Gandhi: His Life and Message for the World," by Louis Fischer; "How To Make a Success of Your Marriage," by Eustace O'Sullivan, M.D.; "Mentor Books. No. 2 Edited by Fernando Puma. Perma special. 50c continuation of a highly successful collection of poetry, essays, and pictorial and photographic art. The present volume contains work by Sean O'Casey, Bertrand Russell, Mark Van Doren, Lewis Mumford and many others. Many of the articles have never before been published.

THE CARE AND BREEDING OF RUDIGGS. (Shell Parakeets). By Cyril H. Rogers. Dover Publications. 65c.

AVON GIANTS. 50c each. "Master of the World," by Coburn O'Neal, novel of Tamerlane.

SIGNET GIANTS. 35c each. "Sanctuary," and "Requiem for a Nun," by William Faulkner (two volumes in one); "The Mountain and the Valley," by Ernest Buckler, a novel of Nova Scotia.

MENTOR BOOKS. 35c each. "The Life of the Spider," by John Crompton; "Highlights of Modern Literature," a collection of essays from the New York Times Book Review, edited by Francis Brown.

Miscellaneous Titles

G. P. A. HEALY, AMERICAN ARTIST. By Marie de Mare. Introduction by Eleanor Roosevelt. McKay. \$6. A full and interesting account of this "painter of presidents." Besides chief executives, many other American and foreign leaders sat for his talented brush. An interesting chapter concerns Healy's visit to Nashville to paint Andrew Jackson at the Hermitage. There are many reproductions of Healy's paintings.

TEA AND SYMPATHY. By Robert Anderson. Random House. \$2.75. A controversial play about life in a boys' boarding school.

ENEMIES OF THE STATE. An Account of the Trials of Mary Eugenia Surratt, Al Capone, Albert Fall, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. By Francis X. Eusech. Bobbs-Merrill. \$3.75. This is the fourth volume in this authors popular notable American Trials series.

BREAKTHROUGH ON THE COLOR FRONT. By Lee Nichols. Random House. \$3.50. Story of the integration of the Negro into the U. S. armed forces.

THE Random Reader

Edited by RALPH MORRISSEY

Gems From 'Incomparable Max'

Rich Essays Charm Heart, Enliven Mind

AROUND THEATRES. By Max Beerbohm. Simon and Schuster. \$6.

Reviewed by KATE TRIMBLE SHARBER

"The Incomparable Max" is now as firm a fixture in lettered circles as "O Rare Ben Johnson," and when such a term is applied surely the tribute is more to the man than to his works no matter how high his attainments.

Bernard Berenson is not known over the civilized world as B. B., for example, merely because he stands head and shoulders above art critics. So Max the man who recently celebrated his 82nd birthday is always heard above the hum of his humor; his humanity ahead of even his genius.

"I hold no high opinion of the satiric temperament. I despise Therapist and the whole lot of which I happen to be one," he admits in the dedication to Britannia of "A Survey," a volume of his postwar political caricatures; and since Therapist is a scholar and a gentleman compared with a dramatic critic (in Thespian annals) we find the opening essay of this peerless group entitled: "Why, I Ought Not to Have Become a Dramatic Critic." He succeeded G. B. S. as critic of London's Saturday Review you remember, but "I am not fond of the theatre. . . . Literature I love best of all. . . ."

So there is small wonder that some of the heaviest nuggets to be picked up out of this mine have to do with writers rather than actors. Not that the stage is not always the focal point, but the stage here has a way of broadening and coming close, of yielding effects like those of the recent cinema.

The publication of this work in one volume in America has



A rare early portrait of Max Beerbohm. The picture is from "Men of Mark," a collection of photographs by Alvin Langdon Coburn.

already commanded immediate and minute attention. The essays start in the late 90s and run for a decade, so that the stars of that meteoric moment of history are all here.

Nowhere is acumen keener or candor more admirable than in the 1904 survey of "Some Irish Plays and Players."

Now this big, handsome volume of nearly 600 pages popping with opinions which posterity will prize, is in no sense a tome treasured only by theater folk. On the contrary lovers of literature will have it as handy as their Bartlett or their biographical dictionary.

For where, for example, in all the language of James criticism which has thundered down during the past decade can you find anything comparable with "Mr. Henry James' Play" published in the Saturday Review in 1907? For Robertson is duly evaluated for his ability to rise to the requirements of "The High Bid," after the banalities of "The Passing of the Third Floor

Back," then we read of James: "Greater than all my aesthetic delight in the books is my moral regard for the author. . . . an artist's business is not to keep pace with his admirers, and their business is to keep pace, as he is in the passion for literature as a fine art. . . . Civilization, and a high state of it at that, is the indispensable milieu for him. . . . I do not happen to have heard any preacher in whom was a moral fervor so great as (with all its restraint) is Mr. James' fervor, or one whose outlook on the world seemed to me so fine and touching and inspiring. . . . More perfectly, perhaps, than in any other work of his do we find expressed in that dear masterpiece 'The Altar of the Dead'—but I am coming to the end of my 'space' and have done so little to justify the title of my article."

Present-day critics with their million words have said far less.

The publication of this work in one volume in America has

Varied Religious Books

Reviewed by JAMES W. CARTY JR.

Religious News Editor

YOU CAN BE HEALED.

By Clifton E. Kew and Clinton J. Kew. Prentice-Hall. \$2.95.—The authors, identical twins, believe religion and psychotherapy go hand in hand—the former to give peace of soul and the latter to provide peace of life. Their opinions stem from experiences relating to both areas: One is an Episcopal clergyman and the other a psychologist. They describe group therapy: A few individuals talk together and help resolve their problems of fear, hostility, aggression, loneliness, grief and tension.

LIFE, FAITH AND PRAYER.

By Miss A. Graham Ikin. Oxford University Press. \$2.50.—Miss Ikin explains how to develop a spiritual maturity that will help people in their adjustments to social life, courtship, marriage and old age. She suggests religious and psychological insights for problems which confront people from youth through old age. Now retired to write, Miss Ikin formerly lectured and did research work in psychology and organized conferences and study groups for doctors, psychiatrists, and clergymen.

THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE.

By J. R. MacPhail. Oxford University Press. \$3.50.—MacPhail, professor of English at Madras Christian college in South India, has outlined essential doctrines of the Christian faith and suggested ways to apply them to daily living. He discusses belief in God, the ministry of Jesus Christ, the authority of the Bible, the Holy Spirit and the church, and the Christian way.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEGRO RELIGION.

By Ruby F. Johnston. Philosophical Library. \$3.00.—This book interprets religion in terms of the American culture. It starts with the coming of the Negro to America, shows the various

changes in religious manifestations, and current trends based on interviews and surveys.

A COMPEND OF WESLEY'S THEOLOGY.

Edited by Robert W. Burtner and Robert E. Chiles. Abingdon Press. \$3.75.—This valuable, highly readable reference book contains statements of John Wesley, British founder of Methodism, of his theological beliefs. The selections are grouped under 10 themes: Religious knowledge and authority; God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, man, salvation, the moral ideal, the moral standard, the church, and eschatology. The excerpts are drawn from the journal, sermons, letters, notes, poetry and other works of Wesley, and are supplemented by bibliographies and introductory statements by the authors, who are pastors of Methodist churches in Ohio and Oregon.

PREACHING.

By Walter Russell Bowie. Abingdon Press. \$2.75.—Dr. Bowie interprets the preacher as "a channel of communication from the living God to the living souls who are there before him." His practical book will help ministers communicate more effectively. The book contains concrete guidance on sermon preparation and delivery, including suggestions about background reading in the Bible, the text, outline and construction of the sermon. Dr. Bowie is professor of homiletics in the Protestant Episcopal Theological seminary in Richmond, Virginia.

PRACTICAL CHURCH PUBLICITY.

By Richmond O. Brown. Broadman Press. \$2.25.—This book shows how churches can interpret their program to members of the congregation and others and also extend their influence. Brown, an associate in the advertising department of the Baptist Sunday school board, has prepared concrete chapters on sources of church news, writing a story, and such communication media as newspaper stories and advertisements, the church paper, direct mail, posters, photographs, signs and billboards.

THE INNER SPLENDOR.

By L. L. Dunnington. MacMillan. \$2.75.—Dunnington, pastor of First Methodist church, Iowa City, Iowa, describes man's greatest problem as "finding a technique of spiritual power that will turn the mind away from these destructive emotions toward the radiance and love of God." As a means of releasing the imprisoned splendor present within people, the author suggests the use of silent communion affirmations at the start and end of each day. Each of the 21 chapters conclude with a recommended affirmation.

EASTER BOOKS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

GEORGE WASHINGTON, First President (7-11) Elsie Ball — Washington's Boyhood to President in an accurate biography. \$1.50

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Strong Plea For Courage In Bleak Age

THE MEASURE OF MAN. By Joseph Wood Krutch. Bobbs-Merrill. \$3.50.

Reviewed by ROBERT HAYDEN

Mr. Krutch's new book is a sort of humanist manifesto which refutes the claims of the determinists and emphasizes the uniqueness and worth of man.

Man, in the author's view, is not to be measured in mechanistic terms and with all his shortcomings is of more value than any number of electronic brains.

This book is no effusive outpouring of banalities about man's unquenchable soul or a cliché-ridden diatribe against all science. Neither is it another example of the intellectualized revivalism which many writers are today resorting to in their efforts to point out the road to physical survival.

What we have in this book is a critical examination of assumptions made by mechanistic determinism and a re-affirmation of man based upon ineluctable relationships between metaphysics and the physical sciences.

Scientists like Einstein and Comstock have made clear that the space-time continuum theory and the whole matter-energy relationship, far from solving the mysteries of the universe, have brought us to the threshold of new mysteries both physical and philosophical in aspect.

The recognition of these mysteries is central to the author's thesis that man is not merely a "thinking machine" to be conditioned (rather than educated) by "human engineers" and demagogues.

It is (not) necessary, he says, "to solve with absolute finality the metaphysical problem of the freedom of the will any more than it is necessary to solve the paradoxes of time and space in order to live in both. What is necessary is to recognize the fact that belief in some sort of autonomy is not incompatible with what is actually known about the behavior of either animate or inanimate matter."

Mr. Krutch makes us aware of the dangers inherent in attempts to condition man and reduce their actions to problems in statistics. These are denials of free will and moral responsibility, liable to result in thought control, brain washing, totalitarianism—evils he feels democracy is not successfully avoiding.

The author has hard words to say about sociologists and psychologists. It is obviously true that these specialists alone can never provide the medication our sick world needs.

It is also equally true that they are not entirely responsible for the misuse to which their discoveries have so often been put.

"The Measure of Man" is on the whole a book eminently valuable for what it has to say about the basic problems of the Age of Anxiety. It is a brilliant discourse, developed with lucidity and admirable logic.

Does Man Survive? Author Says 'Yes'

IMMORTALITY. By Alton J. Smith. Prentice-Hall. \$3.

"The Scientific Evidence" is the subtitle of this scholarly and comprehensive work which must surely take its place among the very best of its kind in recent years.

There is no sentimentality, no table-thumping, no absurd leap to conclusions. The plea is ably presented that if the human race held a conviction of survival of bodily death it would mend its ways. It is at the opposite pole from the ardent bishop who would abolish alcohol to save the world.

"The Church, it must be remembered, is based squarely on a psychic phenomenon — the resurrection of Jesus. . . . the last of the church can only be restored through a verification, by science through experiment, of the psychic phenomena in which the church was originally built. Men . . . will turn in joy and gratitude, to a church which not only asserts the primacy of the spiritual world but demonstrates that primacy in its own corporate life. . . ."

Readers familiar with the subject will find many well-known names here, from Socrates to Sidgwick, with many false allusions to F. W. H. Myers and his mighty contribution. Dr. Rhine's experiments at Duke University are thoroughly considered, along with those of Prof. Thouless, of Cambridge, and it is pointed out that several other famous universities now have departments of parapsychology.

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THE NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN, Sunday Morning, April 11, 1954 21-2

Under the Green Lamp

By RALPH MORRISSEY

A Rare Professional Writer

Few indeed are the distinguished authors who make their living today entirely by their pens.

Of this small, exclusive group H. E. Bates is a splendid example. His first book was published when he was 21 and his writing has brought in his bread and butter steadily ever since (he is now 49).

He is a member of that small band of craftsmen to whom literature is a life's work—a true professional whose books please both readers and critics.

James Agate once defined a professional as one who day after day turns out work of uniformly high standard despite all obstacles or lack of inspiration.

Writing Is My Life

With such a gifted professional as Mr. Bates, however, things are a bit different.

"Writing is my life," he said in a recent interview in New York, "it gives me more pleasure than anything else."

He was on his way to the Bahamas where he is doing a history of the islands for the British government, and had stopped over briefly between books.

Little, Brown will publish "The Nature of Love," a collection of long-short stories or novellas later this month. His latest, a novel called "The Feast of July" is scheduled for fall publication in England.

Born in Rushden, Northamptonshire ("the Middle of England") Bates has spent most of his life in small towns and villages and is unhappy if he is away too long from the country. He now lives in Kent with his wife and four children. His hobbies are gardening and collecting impressionist paintings, at both of which he is naturally an expert.

Since writing occupies his full time and his subject are near at hand, he has had little occasion for travel.

Served in RAF

He did leave his retreat, however, during the war when he joined the RAF, about which he was commissioned to write short stories under the name of "Flying Officer X." Several millions of copies of these tales, which comprised two volumes, were sold.

His later novels "The Jacaranda Tree," "Fair Stood the Wind for France," and "The Purple Plain" grew out of his army experiences in Burma and India.

His favorite writers include Conrad, de Maupassant, Chekhov, Coppard, Stephen Crane, the early Hemingway, D. H. Lawrence and Sherwood Anderson. He has an especial regard for Joyce's "Dubliners" which he never tires of reading.

Though his output has been tremendous (he has written nearly 40 books which include novels, short stories, essays, history, biography and plays), he has seldom trimmed his sails to popular opinion. He writes, primarily to please himself and in his own most exacting critic. Deep sincerity and sensibility are reflected in his sensitive lips and frank, clear eyes. About him is the quiet dignity of the mature artist.

A Rigorous Schedule

Such sustained, copious production obviously requires a rigorous schedule. "Even though I usually write only from early morning until lunch, I carry stories around in my mind 24 hours a day until they finally come to life." He composes usually in longhand in a small, neat script liberally peppered with revisions.

A slightly-built, ruddy-faced countryman, Mr. Bates is not much impressed with cities, even New York. He finds them brittle and very much unlike his great loves are wood and stream, farm and field and working man and women. His chief concern is the ruthless influence of nature on the lives of rural people.

And from "The Grass God," one of the stories in "The Nature of Love":

"Outside he walked, some distance before realizing how warm and beautiful the evening was: that the oaks, merely sprigged with buds a week ago, were now in full flower, lovely tasseled curtains of olive-yellow, already browned at the tips by the great burst of sun. All among them too, down the road, big hawthorns were in solid pulpy white bloom, and he could smell the heavy vanilla fragrance of them as it weighted the warm wind."

For his luminous imagery Bates has been compared with Keats.

Bates is a poet, too, who has perceived "the tiger-moth's deep-damask'd wings."

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