
SCIENCE

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a practice of purchasing ethnological material just before breaking up camp at each locality, and many boxes of native instruments, baskets, and carvings were sent home to enrich the museums at Cambridge.

Nine months were spent at various sites, ranging from cold and misty forest-covered highlands where torrential rains often made a problem of drying skins, to hot and steaming sections of river-bottoms where the thermometer seldom ventured below ninety degrees in the shade. The author timed his visit to coincide with the rainy season, for during the dry periods most amphibians are likely to be inactive. After heavy rains, flowers bloom where there had been only sun-scorched bushes, insects appear in profusion, and the whole animal world seems to come to life. Only at such times can one hope to fill his collecting bags with snakes and frogs and lizards.

For the first half of the safari, or *ulendo*, as it is termed in that part of the Dark Continent, the author was accompanied by his wife, Mary, and by her sister Billy, the latter acting as driver of the Dodge truck provided for the expedition. Both girls distinguished themselves during their part of the trip, Billy for successfully piloting the heavily laden truck over roads never intended for such a vehicle, and Mary for gleefully bringing a live cobra back to camp, securely tied by its middle to a short-handled hoe. Each day the girls sloshed through marshes and creeks or overturned stones in the never-ending search for

specimens. They also acted as expedition photographers.

On one occasion Loveridge wanted some frogs from a certain lake. Upon arriving he discovered that lack of rain had shrunk the lake to a very small area completely surrounded by soft mud, so that it was impossible to get anywhere near the water. It looked like no frogs from that lake. But acting on a hunch, Loveridge shot an ibis as it flew over his head, coming from the water's edge, and the party recovered four or five of the desired frogs from the bird's craw.

Mr. Loveridge writes with a keen sense of humor, his smooth style making the book a pleasure to read, even for one who doesn't know a sedge frog from a tree lizard. After a few chapters one feels that he knows the personalities of the porters, the bird skimmers, the cooks, the "wood and water" boys, and the others that go to make up the *ulendo*. One also meets the various government officials, some helpful and some officious, and, so far as the native population is concerned, gets the impression that present-day Africa is a curious mixture of ancient superstitions and modern "time-and-a-half-for-overtime" ideas.

For every animal that is added to the collection of skins and pickled specimens, Mr. Loveridge gives us its scientific name; footnotes take care of the few that were new or unidentifiable on the spot. This makes the book important for professional herpetologists, but this reviewer cannot stress too strongly that it is just as interesting to the layman. One learns much about the natural behavior of the cobra and deadly mamba, a giant frog that eats birds, and many others, while such diverse animals as leopards, bats, baboons, and crocodiles stalk or fly throughout the book.

Those Green Little Men

FLYING SAUCERS. By Donald H. Menzel. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press. 319 pp. \$4.75.

By FLETCHER PRATT

PROFESSOR Donald H. Menzel, who is peculiarly qualified for his task by being an astrophysicist well acquainted with meteorology, here takes up the most controversial scientific question of our time—the flying saucers. It is not too much to add that he takes it all apart, in a highly civilized and rational manner and without raising his voice. When he is through there is not much more to be said, not even by Frank Scully, who did so much to start the excitement, or by the Air Force, which kept it going by a series of bureaucratic blunders.

Dr. Menzel begins with the observations of Kenneth Arnold, the businessman and amateur aviator whose unexpected observation started the furor in 1947, lists the other observations, giving full and perfectly fair descriptions of what each person saw; and then clears the ground away by eliminating the obvious or admitted cases of hoax. He then proceeds to do what none of the proponents of the extraterrestrial theory have thought of doing—he examines the records of the past. From this examination emerges something not very comforting to the extraterrestrialists; namely, that there have been flying saucers around since Biblical times, only people didn't call them that. There was a big seeing in 1897, for instance, generally referred to as airships. There was another in 1882, seen by numbers of people, some of them astronomers who put spectographs on the flying saucer. This was peculiarly fortunate as it established the giant saucer as almost certainly an auroral phenomenon in a turbulent layer of upper air.

Similarly with all the other saucer appearances; they have explanations. Dr. Menzel does not question that people saw something and he reprints the more important photographs, including those of the Lubbock lights. But he does question most severely the interpretations put on these sightings by people who wanted desperately to believe in something sensational, and even more severely he questions whether any of the saucers were solid objects.

What were they, then? No one an-

Subaqueous

By James L. Rosenberg

I WILL go where night moves like a mist among the stars
 And all is quiet-carved and beat to silvern silence.
 No violence is there; I will be peaced to purity and washed
 To wisdom by white tides of flowing and of light,
 And bright as bones beneath the sea my thoughts will lie
 And bud forth pink rosettes into a coral labyrinth of dream.
 Flame will not blacken whiteness there, nor worm sicken
 The hurt rose; only the work of water carving rock
 And the hushed recurrent shock of sea-green time
 From smoke-gray night to phosphorescent dawn; from time to timelessness
 Some silver supple shape may flash among the reeds,
 Among the flowing weeds, to vanish in a flirt of fins, like a falling star.
 The fractured houses, motionless in underwater moonlight,
 White will stream upward through refracted deeps of green.
 And evermore forevermore the surface of my dream
 Will give back gleam for gleam to a silent blaze of stars.

Edmund W. Sinnott, author of the recently "Two Roads to Truth," is dean of the Yale Graduate School.

swer will do, as should be evident from the almost fantastic variation in the sizes, shapes, and colors reported seen. Among the many answers are mirage, auroral phenomena, formations of ice crystals in the upper air, sun dogs, moon dogs, reflections of earthly objects or the moon on layers of mist so thin as to be practically

invisible from the ground, weather balloons and their shadows, radar ducts caused by temperature inversion, meteors, lenticular clouds in broken light, and, in the famous Arnold case, a thin layer of cloud or dust shattered to fragments by air rising along a hogback, but still capable of giving off brilliant meteorological

reflections to exactly the right angle.

In other words, almost anything but little green men from Venus or educated bees from Mars. It is rather a pity that a good scientist had to take time from his work to clear up this clotted nonsense, but now that he has done it we can all be glad he did, and it certainly makes good reading.

Just Published



Lack of space prevents us from reviewing this week the books described below. In many instances, however, reviews will be published in early issues.

THE ART SONG. By James Husst Hall. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. \$4.50. American, English, French, German, and Russian schools of composition are compared primarily in respect to the techniques they employ in relating text to music and vice versa.

DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE. By Richard Gordon. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co. \$2.75. With humorous aplomb a young British doctor describes the trials and antics of a group of medical students.

ECONOMIC ESSAYS. By R. F. Harrod. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co. \$4.50. Written over two decades, these critiques by a noted English economist cover a variety of subjects, from population to competition. Mr. Harrod is author of "The Life of John Maynard Keynes."

ENCHANTED ISLAND. By Walter Lowrie. New York: Philosophical Library. \$3. The island of Ischia near Naples receives the accolades of a traveler who has fallen in love with it and who recounts its historical and literary past.

THE ENGLISH PRIMERS (1529-1545): Their Publication and Connection with the English Bible and the Reformation in England. By Charles C. Butterworth. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. \$6. The author of "The Literary Lineage of the King James Bible" examines the religious handbooks that enjoyed tremendous popularity in the sixteenth century.

EXPLORER'S ENGLAND. EXPLORER'S SCOTLAND. By Martin Thornhill. New York: Roy Publishers. \$4 each. Unexplored as well as historic spots are described for the benefit of potential and armchair travelers.

GERMANY PLOTS WITH THE KREMLIN. By T. H. Tetens. New York: Henry Schuman. \$3.75. The director of the Library on Germanic and Related International Problems presents evidence to show that a line of contact exists between Bonn and Moscow which bodes ill for the United States.

FREUDIAN PSYCHO-ANTICS. By Maurice Natenberg. Chicago: Regent House Publishers. \$2. An attack on the techniques and practitioners of psychoanalysis.

JAMES I. By Charles Williams. New York: Roy Publishers. \$3.50. A noted English poet and essayist portrays "the most grotesque of our Kings," the son of Mary Queen of Scots.

JAMES STEWART, EARL OF MORAY. A Political Study of the Reformation in Scotland. By Maurice Lee, Jr. New York: Columbia University Press. \$4. The first full-dress historical study of James Stewart, bastard brother of Mary Queen of Scots, who successfully led the Calvinist

nobility against the sixteenth-century Catholic Church of Scotland.

LIVING TIME. By Maurice Nicoll. New York: Hermitage House. \$4.50. A British psychologist picks up strands of thought from his earlier study, "The New Man," and, following the footsteps of Gurdjieff and Ouspensky, expands them into an explanation of a continuously living past and a six-dimensional world.

MARRIAGE, MORALS, AND SEX. By Sidney Ditzion. New York: Bookman Associates. \$4.50. Next to the weather, the most talked about subjects from Puritan times to those of Kinsey have been the ones chosen by Dr. Ditzion, a City College librarian, who offers a history of American attitudes.

MONKEY ON MY BACK. By Wenzell Brown. New York: Greenberg Publisher. \$3.50. A first-hand account of the author's attempt to salvage several lives embroiled in drug addiction, with explanation as to how drug buying and selling festers in slum areas.

OUT OF THE MIDWEST. By Frank Siedel. Cleveland: World Publishing Co. \$2.50. In an informal and popular vein, Mr. Siedel retells the stories of such colorful regional figures as Clarence Darrow, Zane Grey, Knute Rockne, and Clark Gable.

THE PILGRIM READER. Edited by George F. Willison. New York: Doubleday & Co. \$3.50. The author of "Saints and Strangers" supplies comment to link the records left by prominent Colonial figures. Wanderings from the shores of the Old World to those of the New and experiences in the various settlements till the end of the eighteenth century are included.

PHANTASY IN CHILDHOOD. By Audrey Davidson and Judith Fay. New York: Philosophical Library. \$4.75. Dr. Davidson, a psychoanalyst, and Miss Fay, a writer and teacher, discuss and illustrate a varied set of children's experiences and fantasies and cautiously suggest interpretations.

THE PROTESTANT CRUSADE: 1800-1860. By Ray Allen Billington. New York: Rinehart & Co. \$6.50. A reissue of a study on anti-Catholic prejudice in early nineteenth-century America.

THE SEA WALL. By Marguerite Duras. Translated by Herma Briffault. New York: Pellegrini & Cudahy. \$3.50. A widow and her children take a pounding from the Pacific, which inundates their land and life in this novel with a French colonial setting.

7 ARTS. Edited by Fernando Puma. New York: Permabooks. Paperbound, 50¢. A brilliant array of figures represent all art fields in a symposium of text and pictures, some old, some new, but all stimulating.

SWORDS OF ANJOU. By Mario Pei. New York: The John Day Co. \$3.50. Mr. Pei,

known for his work in the field of linguistics, essays the novel form to recreate the chivalric and bellicose spirit of Charlemagne's eighth century.

THESE MARRIED PEOPLE. By Corinne Running. New York: Rinehart & Co. \$3. Intra- and interdomestic psychological meanderings link three families in the web of this story.

21 VARIATIONS ON A THEME. Edited by Donald Webster Cory. New York: Greenberg Publisher. \$3.75. The theme is homosexuality and the literary variations are provided from the writings of such notables as Sherwood Anderson, Guy de Maupassant, and Stefan Zweig.

U.S. 40. By George R. Stewart. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co. \$5. The portrait of a well-traveled transcontinental highway in text and photographs.

WANDERLUST. By Hans deMeiss-Teuffen and Victor Rosen. New York: McGraw-Hill Co. \$3.75. A passion for real-life adventure took Mr. Teuffen to Africa, Asia, America, and Europe in capacities that ranged from farming to hotel managing to banking.

THE WHEEL AND THE HEARTH. By Lucia B. Moore. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co. Clothbound, \$1.50. New York: Ballantine Books. Paperbound, 35¢. Moving from hearth to hearth in the rugged pioneer days with its countless dangers, Michael and his wagonload of family responsibilities provide the subject of this Western.

WHY DID THEY KILL. By John Bartlow Martin. New York: Ballantine Books. Clothbound, \$1.50. Paperbound, 35¢. Sometime ago the killing of a nurse by three teen-agers made the headlines. Mr. Martin digs into the background of the trio and their social environment for answers to his query.

WITH WINGS AS EAGLES. By Helen Chappel White. New York: Rinehart & Co. \$2.75. A deeply personal recounting of the psychological upheaval created by the news of the death in Korea of Mrs. White's son and her struggle to find spiritual balance.

THE WORDS OF JUSTICE BRANDEIS. Edited by Solomon Goldman. New York: Henry Schuman. \$3. The late and noted jurist's views on significant contemporary matters topically arranged.

EDITOR'S NOTE—After *SR*'s issue of Feb. 21 was on the press, word was received from Farrar, Straus & Young that Frank Gibney's "Five Gentlemen of Japan" (\$4), reviewed in that number, had been postponed until March 16. *SR* regrets any inconvenience this may have caused readers seeking a book which Kenneth Scott Latourette recommended as "a thoughtful, charmingly written, well-balanced interpretation of Japan, with especial emphasis upon the recent years. . . . If the busy American can find time to read only one book on Japan, this is the one it should be." —S. M.