

Library Signpost

Bookworms' Christmas

By Rev. Benedict Egan

The current lists offer many exceptional books which would make very acceptable gifts to those of your friends who are interested in the profits and pleasures of reading.

FOR ADULTS

- Novels-- THE SONG OF BERNADETTE. Franz Werfel. \$2 THE ROBE. Lloyd C. Douglas. \$2.75 THE COMMON HEART. Paul Horgan. \$2.50 FAITH THE ROOT. Barbara Fleury. \$1.75 FACE TO THE SUN. A. R. McGearty. \$2.50 SEVENTEENTH SUMMER. Maureen Daly. \$2.50 THE SHINING TREE. Lucille Borden. \$2 GREAT MODERN CATHOLIC SHORT STORIES. Edited by Sister Mariella. \$2

Biography and Adventure--

- ACROSS A WORLD. John J. Conadine. \$2.50 THE WAYS OF OFFELIA. Gertrude Diamant. \$2.75 THE LONG SHIP PASSING. W. Havighurst. \$2 AMBASSADORS IN WHITE. Charles Morrow Wilson. \$2.50 THE REED AND THE ROCK. Theodore Maynard. \$2.75 THE FAMILY THAT OVERTOOK CHRIST. Brother Raymond. \$1.75 RIG FOR CHURCH. Chaplain Wm. Maguire. \$2 DARK SYMPHONY. Elizabeth Laura Adams. \$2.50 MEN OF MEXICO. James A. Magner. \$4 DOGSLED APOSTLES. Alma Savage. \$2.75

Sursum Corda

Sane Words on Germany

By Rev. James M. Gillis, C.S.P.

In the midst of this "total" war total in many unexpected senses when some Americans are losing their moral bearings, chucking their standards of conduct and their humanitarian ideals it is good to come across a sober, sensible book on Germany and the Germans.

Seldom if ever does the editor of the New York Times Book Review permit a reviewer to "go overboard" like that. Stranger still, now that Whack Germany seems to be the order of the day and when any suggestion that not all Germans are fiends is instantaneously damned as "fifth column stuff."

And now Lochner himself. "There are men of good-will in Germany, just as there are such men everywhere in the world. In proportion as we encourage such men with assurances that they too will have a share in the construction of a real New Order, in proportion as we furnish them with propaganda material and other aids for carrying on their struggle against Hitlerism, will the mistakes of Versailles be avoided, will this war be shortened, a quicker victory assured and the foundation laid for a peace that will give promise of enduring."

On the day that review appeared in the New York Times (November 19), William L. Shirer wrote in the Boston Globe that there was tremendous excitement in Germany on the night when President Roosevelt's message came through over the short wave radio, announcing an invasion of North Africa.

MEMORIES OF HAPPY DAYS

... distinguished and interesting recollections of a famous society.

WE TOOK TO THE WOODS

... hilarious recollections of a family who "left it all behind" and still like it in their Maine retreat.

Spiritual Light and Strength--

- THE WAY OF THE BLESSED CHRIST. Vincent Klueberger. \$2.25 EVERYMAN'S THEOLOGY. Leo von Roeder. \$2 THE CATHOLIC PATTERN. Thomas Woodlock. \$2 THE BETTER LIFE. Milton Henrich. \$2.50 THE MEANING OF THE MASS. Howard Kirsch. \$2.25 A BOOK OF SIMPLE WORDS. A Sister of Notre Dame. \$2 MARY OF THE MAGNIFICAT. Mother Elizabeth Hart. \$1 PHILOSOPHY FOR THE MILLIONS. J. A. McWilliams. \$2 DEATH AND LIFE. Maria D'Arcy. \$2 A SHORT BREVARY. The Benedictines of St. John's Abbey. \$2.50 THE LAYMAN'S CALL. William R. O'Connor. \$2 BE OF GOOD HEART. Joseph McSorley. \$1.50 SELF-DISCIPLINE AND HOLINESS. Dom B. Weld-Hansell. \$2.25 THE SOUL OF THE APOSTOLATE. Dom Chetard. \$1.50 THE YEAR OF OUR LORD. Emiliana Loch. \$2.75

In Lighter Veils--

- SEEK HERE, PRIVATE HARGROVE. Marion Hargrove. \$2 GOLF IS A FRIENDLY GAME. Paul Gallen. \$2.50 GOOD INTENTIONS. Ophelia Nash. \$2

Books for Children--

- LAD OF LIMA: Blessed Martin de Porres. Mary F. Windsatt. \$1.75 GAY LEGENDS OF THE SAINTS. Frances Fox. \$1.50 THE GOOD BAD BOY. Gerald T. Brennan. \$1.50 THE RED HAT: Cardinal Newman. Cecelia Newcomb. \$2 VAGABOND IN VELVET--Life of Cervantes. Cecelia Newcomb. \$2.50 PRINCESS POVERTY. Sara Maynard. \$2 ST. THOMAS AQUINAS. Ralena Marchia (Ages 12 to 16). \$1.50 THE LONG ROAD TO LOSTING, THOMAS, THE GOOD THING, THE IMPORTANT PM. All three by Julie Bodler, and each for \$1

Stories about two small children in a Chinese mission.

THE CHURCH'S PLAY. Grace Hurrell. \$1.50

Magazine Subscriptions--

- CATHOLIC DIGEST \$1; CATHOLIC WORLD \$4; AMERICA \$5; COMMONWEAL \$5; THE SIGN \$2; ORATE PRAYERS \$2; THE GRAIL \$1; POISE \$2.50 (formerly the CATHOLIC WOMAN'S WORLD); THE FIELD AFAR \$2.

The penalty for listening to any such broadcast is death, and yet the Germans listened. Indeed Mr. Shirer says they listen always, even though in doing so they risk their life and the life of everyone in their family. That they were listening on that all important night was evidenced by the rush for the news-stands in the morning. Ten minutes after the papers appeared on the stands they had been gobbled up.

Obviously there are people in Germany--I venture to think millions of them--who feel about Hitler as millions of Frenchmen feel about Laval. Americans, safe and sound here at home who ask "why don't they revolt?" can have no slightest inkling of what revolt means under a totally tyrannical ruthless dictatorship.

Hitler was fool enough to give away his secret fears. He said "I will not run away as the Kaiser did." Which means of course, to anyone who knows human nature, that the thought is in his mind and the fear in his heart. When Blumarek said "I will not go to Canossa as Henry IV did," he announced in effect that he was already on his way.

Incidentally be it not forgotten that in Germany and Austria there are some 40 million Catholics. They are not all madmen, or beasts, or sadists like the heads of the Nazis. We must remember them as well as remember all the "men of good will in Germany" of whom Mr. Lochner speaks, when the time comes for the next treaty of peace.

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FIVE and TEN Years Ago--

From Dec. 9, 1937, Edition The Rev. John M. Sellinger, pastor of St. Anthony's Church, Groton, received the "Silver Star Citation" medal with oak leaf cluster from the War Department, awarded for gallantry in action with the First Division in France in World War I.

From Dec. 9, 1937, Edition The faithful Catholic in Nazi Germany is an outlaw in his own country declared the Most Rev. Konrad von Preysing, Bishop of Berlin, in a Pastoral Letter.

Quiz Corner

Where will the General Judgment take place?

In the Prophet Joel we read: "I will gather together all nations and will bring them down into the Valley of Josaphat." The Valley of Josaphat is a valley lying between the City of Jerusalem and Mount Olivet. It is commonly believed from this word of the Prophet Joel that the General Judgment will take place in this particular valley.

What are the catacombs?

The catacombs are subterranean places of burial, principally in the city of Rome, where Christians of the first three centuries hid their dead. Because of the places being cemeteries they enjoyed immunity under Roman law, and in the violent Roman persecutions of the time, were frequently used as meeting places by the Christians. The bodies of the principal martyrs were translated from the catacombs to churches in the eighth and ninth centuries, but the catacombs have been preserved as valuable Christian archaeological memorials by the Holy See.

Will we live upon this earth after the resurrection?

The only thing that is revealed in the fact that after the resurrection our bodies and souls will be united and that we will enjoy the Beatific Vision.

Can a sinner do good?

A person in the state of mortal sin can perform some acts of natural virtue and with the help of actual grace he can also perform supernatural acts, such as acts of faith, hope and charity, through which he may regain sanctifying grace. However, he does not receive condign merit (merit in the strict sense, for heaven) for his good acts while in the state of sin. He does, though, receive condign merit, some fitting reward.

When do impure and uncharitable thoughts become sinful?

Mere temptations, such as vainglory and unwelcome thoughts against purity or charity, do not become sinful until they are deliberately entertained. As soon as a person adverts to the fact that he is unwarrantedly thinking about illicit pleasures or imagining hateful thoughts, he must try to rid his mind of them. Even persistent thoughts of this nature are not sinful unless the person undergoing the temptation deliberately keeps them in mind or does not make an effort to expel them.

I have frequently seen the word Rubrics used in the question box columns of Catholic papers. What does the word mean?

The Rubrics are rules laid down for the conduct of the services of the Church and for the performance of any liturgical rite. These

rules are often printed in red for the sake of distinction and indicate when the same function. The Rubrics are prescriptive, i.e., they impose an obligation of observance, the gravity of the obligation varying with the importance of the matter to which they refer.

In making a Novena of thanksgiving should one make positions? Generally a Novena of thanksgiving is made in connection with a promise made prior to the obtaining of some favor whether temporal or temporal. If we promised to make a Novena of thanksgiving for this favor we should carry out our promise and not neglect any positions. It is perfectly all right to make another Novena of thanksgiving with the use of thanksgiving for any new request we may be directing to Almighty God.

Like books like, yet the writer who limits himself to political questions is by people who are only to criticize. -San Francisco Chronicle.

Getting On In The World

THE VALUE OF ADVERSITY

It is good for us to have trials and tribulations at times, for they often remind us that we are on probation and ought not to hope in any worldly things, says the author of The Imagination. It is good for us sometimes to suffer contradictions, to be mistreated by men even though we do not and mean well. These things help us to be humble and kind to those who are unkind to us.

When a man of good will is afflicted, tempted and tormented by evil thoughts, he should cherish that his greatest need is God, with whom he can find his rest. He should be patient and suffering, he laments and prays. He wishes of living longer and wishes for death that he might be delivered and be with Christ. Thus he understands fully that perfect security and complete peace cannot be found on earth.

Feast Days

- Sunday, Dec. 14--ST. LUCY. Monday, Dec. 15--ST. STEPHEN. Tuesday, Dec. 16--ST. PETER. Wednesday, Dec. 17--ST. PETER. Thursday, Dec. 18--ST. LAZARUS. Friday, Dec. 19--ST. ANNE. Saturday, Dec. 20--ST. THOMAS.

EDITORIALS

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opportunities to gather their families about them and begin this devotion. Your Home, Your Country, Your boys on the Fighting Front need Mary - The Queen of the Rosary.

NOT CHRIST, NOT ELIAS, NOT THE PROPHET

Gaudete Sunday would emphasize in our hearts and mind the joy that is ours in the majesty and power of the Redeemer, Whom We await. No man, however holy, however zealous, however fired with burning zeal, can take the place of Christ! Only Christ is divine, only Christ can save, only Christ can be unto the world a Saviour!

John the Baptist made an impression on the people such as only a man sent by God could make. So deep was this impression that the Pharisees felt it needful to make inquiries of him as to who he was, what authority he had for his message. They knew the celebrated Old Testament heroes; they asked him if he were the Prophet of old, if he were Elias of sainted memory; he denied that he was either of these. Then they asked him if he were the promised Messiah, the anointed Saviour of men, the Christ, to which he again answered that he was not. How often in the history of the world have men, weak men, misguided men, often impostor men, taken unto themselves the authority, the power, of the Christ! How often they have dared to attempt to improve on His work in the world! To supply from their limited and short-sighted strength and knowledge, what they dared to assume as lacking in His infinite wisdom and power as manifested in the founding of His Church!

The best of men, inspired by God and not by self, will always follow the way of John the Baptist.