

Library Signpost

Bookworms' Christmas

By Rev. Benedict Elmson

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 \$3 THE ROBE. Lloyd C. Douglas \$2.75 THE COMMON HEART. Paul Horgan \$1.50 FAITH THE ROOT. Barbara Flery \$1.75 FACE TO THE SUN. A. R. McGraw \$2.50 SEVENTEENTH SUMMER. Maureen Daly \$2.50 THE SHINING TREE. Lucille Barker \$2 GREAT MODERN CATHOLIC SHORT STORIES. Edited by Sister Mariella \$1

Biography and Adventure--

- ACROSS A WORLD. John J. Connelley \$2.50 a fascinating panorama of many countries now in the news as seen by a missionary on his tour of inspection. An excellent boy, in every way. THEY WERE EXPENDABLE. W. L. White \$2 THE RAFT. Robert Trumbull \$2.50 gripping heroism of the common man in the maelstrom of the present war. THE DAYS OF OFELIA. Gertrude Diamond \$2.75 charming and authentic scenes of Mexico. THE LONG SHIPS PASSING. W. Havighurst \$3 the epic of the Great Lakes from sailing vessels to tankers. AMBASSADORS IN WHITE. Charles Morrow Wilson \$2.50 how the men of medicine have worked in Latin-America. THE REED AND THE ROCK. Theodore Maynard \$2.75 the life of Bishop Brute, pioneer bishop of Vincennes. THE FAMILY THAT OVERTOOK CHRIST. Brother Raymond \$2.75 popular account of the life of St. Bernard and his family, by the author of The Man Who Got Even With God. RIG FOR CHURCH. Chaplain Wm. Maguire \$2 the U. S. Navy and one of its veteran chaplains who recently disavowed the authorship of a now popular slogan. DARK SYMPHONY. Elizabeth Laura Adams \$2.50 a young Negroess writes charmingly of her childhood memories up to the time of becoming a Catholic. MEN OF MEXICO. James A. Magner \$4 vivid biographies of all the Mexican leaders from Cortes to Camacho. DOGSLIP APOSTLES. Alma Savage \$2.75 the saga of religious pioneering in Alaska.

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 nerve, bearing, 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 15), William L. Shirer wrote in the Eastern 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. John Green \$3 distinguished and unassuming memoirs of a famous artist.

WE TOOK TO THE WOODS. Louise Dickson Rich \$2.75 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 Kennerly \$2.50

EVERYMAN'S THEOLOGY. Lee von Roedel \$2 THE CATHOLIC PATTERN. Thomas Woodcock \$2 THE BETTER LIFE. Edna Henrich \$2.50 THE MEANING OF THE MARE. Bernard Kirsh \$2.50

A BOOK OF SIMPLE WORDS. A Sister of Notre Dame \$2 MARY OF THE MAGNIFICAT. Mather Elizabeth Hart \$2

PHILOSOPHY FOR THE MILLIONS. J. A. McWilliams \$2 DEATH AND LIFE. Martin D'Arcy \$2

A SHORT BREVIAIRY. The Benedictees 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 E. Weiss-Brunell \$2.50

THE SOUL OF THE APOSTOLATE. Dom Chavard \$1.50 THE YEAR OF OUR LORD. Basiliana Lodge \$2.75

In Lighter Veil-- SEE IDERE, PRIVATE HARGROVE. Marion Hargrove \$2

GOLF IS A FRIENDLY GAME. Paul Geddes \$2.50 GOOD INTENTIONS. Ogden Nash \$2

Books for Children-- LAD OF LIMA: Blessed Martin de Ferrer. Mary F. Windeath \$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. Covelle Newcomb \$2 VAGABOND IN VELVET--Life of Cervantes. Covelle Newcomb \$2.50

PRINCESS POVERTY. Sara Maynard \$2 ST. THOMAS AQUINAS. Raina Marlain (Ages 12 to 16) \$1.50

THE LONG ROAD TO LO-TING, THOMAS, THE GOOD THIEF, THE IMPORTANT PIC. 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 \$2; CATHOLIC WORLD, AMERICA \$3; COMMONWEAL \$3; THE SPECTATOR \$2; ORATE FRATRES \$2; THE GRAIL \$1; POINE \$1.50 (formerly the CATHOLIC WOMAN'S WORLD); THE FIELD AFAR \$1.

The penalty for listening to any such broadcast is death, and yet the German 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. The citizens in Berlin and all other cities went for them like women for bargain counter on a Monday morning when the Sunday papers have carried "spread" advertisements.

Obviously there are people in Germany--I venture to think millions of them--who feel about Hitler as millions of Frenchmen feel about Lenin. Americans, safe and sound here at home who "why don't they revolt?" can have no slightest notion of what revolt means under a totally tyrannical, ruthless dictatorship. Perhaps the time will come when Germans in Germany who hate Hitler "because of their direct knowledge of his unspeakable crimes and out of deep shame" will be able to revolt.

Hitler was fool enough to give away his secret. He said "I will not run away as the Kaiser did, which means of course to anyone who knows his human nature, that the thought is in his mind and the fear in his heart. When Bismarck said "I will not go to Canossa as Henry IV did," he announced in effect that he was already on his way. Hitler of course will run or fly, if he can. When he starts, or when it is discovered that he is gone, or that he has committed suicide, or has been shot--then will be the time for revolt. When Germany is well rid of that fantastic madman, it will be well for us to remember those millions of Germans who wanted to revolt but couldn't, just as the French imprisoned in France were eager to break out but couldn't.

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. (Copyright, 1942, N.C.W.C.)

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 supposed that the General Judgment will take place in this particular valley. The word "Josaphat" means judgment of God and it may be that the prophet meant simply that all nations would be gathered for judgment in the Valley of the Judgment of God and did not refer to any particular locality.

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 consecrated they enjoyed immunity under Roman law, and, in the violent Roman persecutions of the time, were frequently used as worshiping 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 an 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 sorrow, through which he may regain sanctifying grace. However, he does not receive condign merit in the strict sense, for heaven is his due as a result of his state of sin. He does, though, receive congruous merit, some fitting reward.

When do impure and uncharitable thoughts become sinful?

Mere temptations, such as vaingrant and unwelcome thoughts against purity or charity, do not become sinful until they are deliberately entertained. As soon as a person advert 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 emphasis and distinction. Hence the name Rubrics. 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 harvest of thanksgiving would you include potatoes?

Generally a harvest of thanksgiving is made in connection with some special prayer for the obtaining of some favor, whether spiritual or temporal. If we proposed to make a harvest of thanksgiving for this favor we should surely not omit potatoes and not include any potatoes. It is perfectly all right to make another harvest, especially with the out of thanksgiving for any new harvest, as may be directed in Almighty God's will. Like grapes, etc., for the altar who finds himself in children's hands why people write them only to criticize. San Francisco Chronicle.

Getting On In The World

THE VALUE OF ADVERTISING

It is good for us to have trials and troubles 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 Invitation. It is good for us sometimes to suffer contradiction, to be misunderstood by men even though we do not and mean well. These things help us to be humble and shield us from vainglory. When in all our appearances men give us no credit, when they do not think well of us, then we are more inclined to seek God who sees our hearts. Therefore a man ought to root himself so firmly in God that he will not need the commendations of men.

When a man of good will is afflicted, tempted and tormented by evil thoughts, he realizes clearly that his greatest need is God, without whom he can do no good. He is aided by his miseries and sufferings, he laments and prays. He yearns for living longer and wishes for death that he might be disencumbered and be with Christ. That he understands fully that perfect security and complete peace cannot be found on earth.

Feast Days

- Sunday, Dec. 14--ST. LUCY Monday, Dec. 14--ST. SPIRITUS Tuesday, Dec. 15--ST. VALERIAN Wednesday, Dec. 16--ST. EUSEBIUS Thursday, Dec. 17--ST. LAZARUS Friday, Dec. 18--ST. ACCANZIUS Saturday, Dec. 19--ST. MEMPHIS

EDITORIALS

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

NOT CHRIST, NOT ELIAS, NOT THE PROPHET

Gaudete Sunday would emphasize in our hearts and minds the joy that is ours in the majesty and power of the Redeemer, whose coming we await. No man, however holy, however zealous, however loved 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 insincere 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 pointing out to men the way of