

Literary Cavalcade

By John O'Connor

'Reveille' is Most Challenging Work

You may not agree with many of the points brought forth in the latter part of 'Reveille for Radicals' by Paul D. Alinsky (Chicago University Press, \$2.50). It is one of the most stimulating and challenging works to come along in some time. It has received praise from such men as Bishop Sheil in Chicago, Jacques Maritain, famous philosopher and now French Ambassador to the Vatican, and former Assistant Secretary of State, G. Howland Shaw. It has earned these endorsements.

The author is after real democracy. The economic royalists are briefly pointed out for what they are — and we are used to that. But the author points out that while ultimate democracy lies in the people's actions, groups that profess to bring it to them must be truly democratic in form and in action. A union that preaches democracy but bars Negroes is an example. The unions that deny monopoly, but then emulate it are another example. This is too important a work for a short review and I hope to return to it at length a few columns hence. Suffice to say the current domestic crises make it a necessary book for community leaders, pastors, editorial staffs and labor leaders.

It was inevitable that some one would come along with a short work on the atom and ethics. Fortunately, for our case, that someone was Monsignor Ronald Knox. His short work 'God and the Atom' is the first of the Catholic books to come out in this new field (Sheed and Ward).

Frankly, I don't think it is Knox at his best. Perhaps the terrible implications of atomic energy has served to dull his brilliant style. He rather soberly states that faith, hope, and charity are not causal things. They never were, but now they are necessary and must be achieved unless... the next development of atomic energy ushers man out of this world altogether.

Beyond the treaties and the pacts, the problem is essentially a moral one and the guiding principles in the minds and the hearts of those concerned must be true ones. And, lest any modern fall into the old error of thinking they have found the source of all life and all creation, remember: Who created the atom?

When this column first started, I vowed not to review books designed for children. Well, Coville Newcomb's book on Cardinal Gibbons was the most recent example of the broken vow. Then came 'Sinbad' — and I withdraw the vow. It shall be made again.

Neither will there be a dog like Sinbad along again for many a year — nor will the book about him be duplicated in its field for a long time to come.

Which is by way of saying that 'Sinbad of the Coast Guard' by George Foley, USCGR, is one of the most engaging works that Dodd, Mead has ever published. And I'll wager the price of the

AWARD FOR IRISH AUTHOR



Although Malina Cregan in Ireland received her silver Dúnwy Award Medal for her book, 'Radicals,' a few months after its formal New York presentation, December 8, 1945, another ceremony was held December 8, 1945, in Dublin, Irish Minister to the United States, Robert Brown, paying his first visit to Ireland since 1941, formally presented the Dúnwy Award to Malina Cregan personally, in the presence of the Prime Minister, Mr. Eamon de Valera. (NC Photos).

book that most parents finish that long before the children do!

If Sinbad isn't the most travelled dog in the world, he'll do until one comes along. His ports of call have been many; his adventures ludicrous, dramatic — and always unusual and entertaining. Probably the most widely known war animal in history, he has gone down the gangplank or over the side at Greenland, Iceland, Portugal, Casablanca (where he was received at the Sultan's Palace!) Rio de Janeiro, the Panama Canal, Pearl Harbor, Guam, Manila, Tokio — and all stations in between.

Sinbad is strictly an entitled man's dog. Cabins and "the bridge" simply bore him. The focal men of yore would have loved him. His companions of eight years cherish this intelligent companion who has even "jumped ship" — once in Greenland.

I don't know how many people George Foley interviewed in writing this very smooth book, but he has put together an admirable and warming story that stands in contrast to the heavy non-fiction and the fiction "with a message" that weary a reviewer. The simplicity of the story and the smoothness of the writing make it an intelligent book — one, I repeat, adults will probably enjoy more than the early teen-ager it is designed for.

Eight years ago I knew a serious law student at evening college. Someday, after he was established in law, he intended to write. This is his first book. It will not be his last, for from the promise shown in this book, Mr. Foley will probably be heard from a great deal in the future. We can stand sincere and plain-

lacking writers. As for the law...

The law was the loser and literature the winner when this energetic and talented writer finally returned to the pursuit he has always dreamed about.

A final note: New Yorkers are having difficulty in purchasing Carlton J. H. Hayes' book on his experiences in Spain. Several responsible people tell me that the left-wing is buying up all the copies it can. Make it a point of Catholic Action to notify the Macmillan Company if you cannot get one in your area.

Catholic Information

Pork-Chops and Immortality

G. K. Chesterton has said that a man's desire for a pork-chop is literally as mystical and ethereal as his desire for heaven. It is remarkable that Mr. Chesterton's observations are usually not only startling but also true. In this instance he wants to make clear by a very homely example that man is not mere matter. If his readers have never experienced the desire for heaven he is quite sure that they have at least experienced at one time or other a longing for a tasty pork-chop. And since both desires come from the same source, namely the intellect, either is qualified to demonstrate the existence of the soul in which the intellect resides.

To advance a step further... Suppose in addition to the keen desire for a pork-chop, the desired piece of meat is suddenly placed before us. A new and wondrous power asserts itself. We have the LIBERTY to take the pork-chop, or not to take it. We are conscious of the power to act either way. No one can reasonably contend that we are forced to eat the pork-chop, nor can anyone claim that we are necessitated to pass it by.

This problem of choice or free will presents a strange paradox to the gentleman who persists in his belief of the existence of matter only. His own experience of free activity must constitute quite a problem for him, even if that problem is concerned merely with eating or not eating a pork-chop.

But if the soul is of the same nature as these spiritual acts of intellect and will which proceed from it, how do we know that this soul will live forever? The philosopher would answer that the very fact that the soul is spiritual, hence not composed of physical or material parts, it is not subject to wear and tear, and consequently cannot dissolve. While Catholics have the great-

New Books Arrive

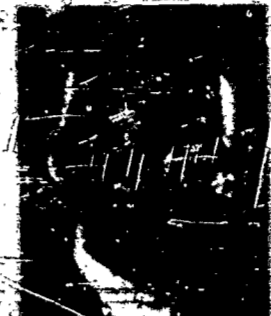
By Rev. Benedict Ebanese

Twenty-two books were added to the Catholic Evidence Library in January. Here is a guide for prospective readers.

The Psalms, Latin-English Translation, Benziger, 1945, \$1.00.

In parallel columns, the new Latin translation of the Psalms commissioned by Pope Pius XII and a good English translation.

Its purpose was announced by the Holy Father as a special study project to provide a version of the Psalms which will be free, as far as possible, from the "subtleties and errors" of the Latin version now in use, and will show forth clearly the meaning and sense of the Psalms. This new version and its English translation will give joy and inspiration to those who desire to have the Psalms, which may be called the prayerbook of the Holy Spirit.



A Catholic Looks at the World, by Francis J. McMahon, Vanguard, 1945, \$2.75.

An informed and intelligent layman's view of contemporary problems in the light of a strong Catholic faith. While some of the verdicts are pressed a little too hard for their controversial character, the book is still required reading for the educated Catholic who is not inclined to shirk his responsibility toward bringing order into the world.

Molders of Opinion, edited by David Hulman, Bruce, 1945, \$1.75.

A revised collection of articles on current commentators which originally appeared in The Sign. The background, methods and attitudes of such columnists and radio "voicers" as Gabriel Heatter, H. V. Kaltenborn, Drew Pearson, Raymond Gram Swing, Westbrook Pegler are effectively presented and tested. One of the

most striking is Fr. John S. Kennedy's article on Walter Winchell.

Changling Listening Post, by Rev. Mark Twain, Creative Arts, 1945, \$2.50.

Wartorn China through the eyes of one of Marston's best men a record of almost incredible adventures, of human endurance, of heroic fortitude, to keep the spirit of man alive against superhuman odds. Fascinating paragraphs without which no Marston book would be complete. All introduced by General Strickland and Lieutenant General Woodruff.

Brideshead Revisited, by Evelyn Waugh, Little, Brown and Co., 1945, \$2.50.

Reviewed at length in the January of the Catholic World, this extraordinary novel deserves a "repeat" presentation. I do so in the words of my favorite critic, Charles A. Brady, in The Catholic Library World of January 1945:

"With Brideshead Revisited Mark Waugh climbs from the commonplace plane where, in the Thirties, he used to reign supreme, into the three dimensions of the true novel. Franchy is risky, but excellence bears a certain hallmark that cannot be denied; and Brideshead may well read among the great novels of the first half of the present century. At all events, this story of adultery and penitence, of unrepented sin and endless transgression within the ranks of those 'fallen men' like Rex Mottram for whom there can be no real sin, for there is neither knowledge nor responsibility, must be recognized as one of the best novels in the language. Parents and teachers should realize, however, that its appreciation demands an armory of mature experience which adolescents do not possess." Thanks, Mr. Brady, and editors of The Catholic Library World!

Practices of the Presence of God, by Brother Lawrence, Newman Book Shop, 1945, \$2.25.

A translation by Sister Mary David, S.S.N.D., of the spiritual maxims and letters of Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection, disabled Carmelite lay-brother of the seventeenth century. He calls the practice of the Presence of God "the schooling of the soul to find its joy in His divine companionship." Himself fused into God and infused with the living thought of Him, Brother Lawrence teaches the simple secret which does to much to simplify and organize the spiritual life. His is not a method of prayer; he did not believe in "methods." It is a way of life.

MOLDERS OF OPINION

Edited by DAVID HULMAN



The dramatic stories behind 14 of the outstanding columnists and commentators. "This is not only a welcome but an invaluable book for those who are confused by the big names they religiously read or fervently listen to." — Boston Globe. \$1.76

AT YOUR BOOKSTORE.

THE BRUCE PUBLISHING COMPANY

Advertisement for TRANTS Valentines. Features a large graphic of a valentine with a 'T' in a circle. Text includes: 'NEW AND INTERESTING BOOKS', 'GOD AND THE ATOM' by Ronald Knox, 'WAR TIME MISSION IN SPAIN' by Carlton Hayes, 'BRIDESHEAD REVISITED' by Evelyn Waugh, 'THE PSALMS' Latin-English Edition \$3.85. Address: CATHOLIC SUPPLY STORE, 86 Clinton North—115 Franklin St.