



# Some Looks At Books

By LOCKIE PARKER

**FIVE A. M.** by Jean Dutourd (Simon & Schuster \$3.00). Not without justice has Jean Dutourd been called one of the most gifted of the young French writers. "A Dog's Head" and "The Best Butter" were brilliantly executed satires in the tradition of Swift and Voltaire, and, despite the bite of their criticism, were irresistibly funny with moments of broad farce.

This book is less funny but a remarkable literary feat. The whole volume concerns just one hour in a man's life and that an hour when he is lying more or less quietly on his bed, from 5 a. m. to 6 a. m. Moreover it is not a flashback with a dramatic narrative of Fernand Doucin's past but an attempt to reproduce "the unbroken stream of feelings, emotions, motives" that pass through his mind at that hour when he habitually wakes and fights insomnia.

Coming from the pen of M. Dutourd it is hardly necessary to state that the account is threaded with irony. While the body of the book is written in the first person, purporting to be the notebook of this thirty-year-old bank clerk, M. Dutourd introduces Fernand Doucin and in this introduction he gives us an idea of what he is about. He wants to portray without alleviation or apology the mind of the average man when his guard is down—one can hardly be a poseur at 5 a. m.

Moreover, as Dutourd points out, you will find little that is particularly modern in this man's reveries. "Living in the age of Oppenheimer, he thinks and expresses his thoughts much as men did in the time of Copernicus of Archimedes."

Obviously this is less amusing than the author's earlier books, partly because one is bound to recognize too much of one's self in it and partly because of the discursive style inherent in the nature of the project. Yet the total effect is impressive, and this commonplace clerk will remain in your mind when more colorful characters of fiction have long been forgotten.

**COUNT ROLLER SKATES** by Thomas Sancton (Doubleday \$3.95). This novel about New Orleans is somewhat off the beaten path, too, but for different reasons. The style is straightforward narrative and conversation skillfully done, but the protagonist is a bizarre character who could not have been made real by a mediocre writer. Thomas Sancton is not that. In the early forties he made a reputation for his brilliant essays and short stories. In 1949 he left the staff of LIFE and returned to his home town, New Orleans, and a job on the New Orleans Item.

This book shows a wide knowledge of his home city from flowery myths to river wharves and political bosses.

The milieu of which he writes is "a street where boarding houses sheltered the empty, hungry, searching, bewildered lives within—drifters, schemers, Planet Planners, tinhorn gamblers; the ever defeated; the ever hopeful. . . who were eternally, in their phrase, 'an hour late and a dollar short.'"

The hero of the story is a magnificent specimen from these ranks, Count Casimir Poliatoffsky, born in Guatemala of a Polish father and a Mayan mother, a tall, lithe man of cool courage in a crisis, of deep pride and considerable moral force, widely read in poetry and the weirder philosophies, a bit of a mechanical genius, an ex-showman, a seaman—in short, a brilliant drifter.

The story begins when he meets Hilda Moreau who is beautiful, vital and determined to attain a place of security and prestige in the world. They fall deeply in love and then the conflict begins. Each wants to share the dreams of the other, each tries in an effort that goes on for years.

The author has avoided the exploitation of sex and depravity which he might easily have used in such a setting and written a first-rate novel based on character and whose developments grow out of the characters themselves.

**THE GREAT CHAIN OF LIFE** by Joseph Wood Krutch (Houghton Mifflin \$3.75). This eagerly awaited book by Joseph Wood Krutch will be published on January 7th. It is a lively, challenging and informative view of life in the world around us, from the paramecium, up through the insect world, mammals and man. Here is speculation and variety enough to challenge armchair philosophers and outdoor adventurers alike.

Anyone who has ever wondered about say:

- (1) Darwin's apparently ordered theory of evolution.
- (2) Whether animals have emotions, and the extreme complexity of many of them, including some who seem to reverse the process of evolution; or
- (3) Man's place in the whole scheme of things, and whether he is machine, God or animal, will find in this book stimulating observations and conclusions to argue about or uphold.

The book is studded with enchanting digressions. There is Mr. Krutch watching squirrels at play; his description of the change from caterpillar to butterfly; and, for contrast, the fights of the Rocky Mountain bighorns, all providing a fresh slant on the otherwise familiar. There are twelve decorative headings by Paul Landacre.

Joseph Wood Krutch now lives in Tucson, Arizona. He has been a New York dramatic critic, professor of drama criticism at Columbia, essayist and biographer of Samuel Johnson and Thoreau. He is perhaps best and most recently known as one of our most distinguished nature writers. THE DESERT YEAR won for him the John Burroughs Medal for Nature Writing in 1954, and THE MEASURE OF MAN won the National Book Award for Non-Fiction in 1954.

Entomologists with the U. S. Department of Agriculture report that they have been working for a long time to find an insecticide that can be fed or injected into the bodies of beef cattle to destroy heel-fly grubs before they bore holes in the hide of the animal's back. Many insecticides have been tried and rejected either because they were ineffective or because harmful residues remained after their use.

**THE BIBLE SPEAKS**

International Uniform Sunday School Lessons

BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Background Scripture: Revelation 21.  
Devotional Reading: Revelation 7:9-17.

## All Things New

Lesson for December 30, 1956

ON THE verge of New Year's Eve, our thoughts go forward to the New Year. But what will be new about it? We shall mostly have to "make do" with what we have, rather than find much that is brand-new. We shall be the same people. Sleeping between Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 is not going to change us a great deal. We shall live in the same house, have the same neighbors, the same problems, temptations, brains, bodies, bank account (if any), tax bills, diseases and prospects. What we can have that is new, is a new attitude to some of these things. But that is another story. What we have to think about here is another of the great chapters of the Bible, the one in which come the thrilling words, "Behold, I make all things new." What will life be like in that "new heaven and new earth" which is described here in shining pictures in the very last chapter of the Bible?

**Death Behind Us**  
In that life wherein all things are made new, not by clumsy man but by the power of God, what will be especially new—if you like, shockingly new, so new we shall not perhaps easily become used to it? First we can see a complete contrast with this present life, in that death will be always in the past, never in the future. The one thing that is certain about life on earth is that we shall all die. Death is the one certain prediction that can be made about every one who reads these lines. (Or, if Christ should come in your lifetime, you would undergo a radical change, just as radical as death itself, in any case.) But in that world where all is made new, death is behind every one, not in front, a memory, not a hope or a fear. The one experience which unites all men in this world is one which they have not yet had. But in that world of the redeemed, the experience of death is one they all shall have had. We cannot even imagine this, just how it will be. But think how much activity in this world is devoted to one object alone—to stave off death. All that will vanish with death itself.

**Evil No More**  
Another absolutely and unimaginably new thing will be the complete riddance of all forms of evil, especially suffering and sin. (Ignorance and ugliness too no doubt will be done away with, but they do not weigh upon us here quite so painfully as the other two.) No matter what your idea may be about sin and suffering, what they are and where they came from, you have to admit that human life is woven of these threads. At this very moment every reader's life would be radically different if he himself had never sinned, and as for our neighbors' sins, and the sins of our ancestors, the world we have inherited is a world fashioned and controlled by sinners. It is only by the mercy of God that it is not worse than it is. Try to think what life would be if there were no form of evil affecting it whatever. You can't really think it; but that goes to show what an amazingly new state of things the "new heavens and earth" must be.

**At Home With God**  
Most wonderful, and least imaginable, of all the new features of that life to come, is the presence of God. It is true, God is everywhere. But it is also true that God is in some places and situations and occasions more than others. What is said in Revelation about God's coming to dwell with men leads us to think of God's presence in the truly New World as being far more direct and less veiled than for us at our present stage of existence.

Indeed, as God is real, to us in prayer far more (as a rule) than when we are feeding the hogs or getting a haircut, so the presence of God in the all-new World may be as far beyond our highest awareness of him here, as the prayer is more spiritual than the haircut or the hogs. All we know is that in this world we seldom do feel quite at ease in God's presence, and may even be seldom certain that he is near. But "over yonder," we shall be at home with God as we never been in this life. Foretastes of the New Life we may enjoy here, in freedom from fear of death, in a life growing more purified by the Spirit, in the "practice of the Presence of God"; but the fullness of glory we cannot imagine, only trust God that these things shall be.

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## Hobbs Inducted As Kiwanis President

James D. Hobbs of Southern Pines was inducted into office as the 36th president of the Sandhills Kiwanis Club at a recent meeting, succeeding John L. Ponzer, also of Southern Pines.

Other officers, all taking their oath from Glenn Webb of Laurinburg, lieutenant governor of this division of the Carolinas district of Kiwanis International, were Lawrence Johnson of Aberdeen, vice-president; J. Vance Rowe, Jr., Southern Pines, secretary-treasurer; and directors L. B. Creath, Pinehurst; Dr. Bruce Warlick, William T. Huntley, Jr., Joe Montesanti, Jr., Major Edward Kitchen, Dr. Harold Johnson and Thomas T. Hayes, all of Southern Pines.

At the meeting Sheriff Charles J. McDonald was presented with a Legion of Honor certificate from Kiwanis International for 30 years of active membership in the club. Paul Dana of Pinehurst made the presentation.

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## Attend The Church of Your Choice Next Sunday

**THE GLEAM FROM BEYOND THE CLOUDS**

There may be folks who dream of a new year with no clouds over the horizon. But life has taught most of us that there is never a day free of uncertainty.

Some like to rejoice in the calm of today and give no thought to the clouds of tomorrow. There is a contentment without strength, a happiness empty of hope.

But stronger souls see both the calm and the clouds. And they look beyond the clouds to the Light whose rays bathe the horizon. These are the souls who face the new year with faith in their God. They know the days will not be without shadow. The ripples may sometimes become angry breakers. But they follow the gleam across another year . . . the Gleam from beyond the clouds.

The Church is for those who would look ahead . . . ever toward the Light.

**THE CHURCH FOR ALL . . . ALL FOR THE CHURCH**

The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For the sake of his children and nation. (3) For the sake of his community and world, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

Day	Book	Chapter Verses
Sunday	Psalms	27 1-14
Monday	Psalms	90 1-17
Tuesday	Psalms	97 1-12
Wednesday	Psalms	102 23-28
Thursday	John	12 20-36
Friday	I Corinthians	15 38-58
Saturday	James	3 7-18

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Cheves E. Ligon, Minister  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship service, 11 a.m. Women of the Church meeting, 8 p.m. Monday following third Sunday.  
The Youth Fellowship meet at 7 o'clock each Sunday evening.  
Mid-week service, Wednesday, 7:15 p.m.

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH**  
New Hampshire Ave.  
Sunday Service, 11 a.m.  
Sunday School, 11 a.m.  
Wednesday Service, 8 p.m.  
Reading Room in Church Building open Wednesday 3-5 p.m.

**THE CHURCH OF WIDE FELLOWSHIP (Congregational)**  
Cor. Bennett and New Hampshire  
Wofford C. Timmons, Minister  
Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service, 11 a.m.  
Sunday, 8:30 p.m., Pilgrim Fellowship (Young People)  
Sunday, 8:00 p.m., The Forum.

**EMMANUEL CHURCH**  
(Episcopal)  
East Massachusetts Ave.  
Martin Caldwell, Rector  
Holy Communion, 8 a.m. (First Sundays and Holy Days, 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.)  
Family Service, 9:30 a.m.  
Church School, 10 a.m.  
Morning Service, 11 a.m.  
Young Peoples' Service League, 6 p.m.  
Holy Communion, Wednesdays and Holy Days, 10 a.m. and Friday, 9:30.  
Saturday—6 p.m. Penance.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
New York Ave. at South Ashe  
David Hoke Coon, Minister  
Bible School, 9:45 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Training Union, 7 p.m. Evening Worship, 8 p.m.  
Scout Troop 224, Monday, 7:30 p.m.; mid-week worship, Wednesday 7:30 p.m.; choir practice Wednesday 8:15 p.m.  
Missionary meeting, first and third Tuesdays, 8 p.m. Church and family suppers, second Thursdays, 7 p.m.

**MANLY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Grover C. Currie, Minister  
Sunday School 10 a.m.  
Worship Service, 2nd and 3rd Sunday evenings, 7:30. Fourth Sunday morning, 11 a.m.  
Women of the Church meeting, 8 p.m., second Tuesday.  
Mid-week service Thursday at 8 p.m.

**ST. ANTHONY'S (Catholic)**  
Vermont Ave. at Ashe  
Father Peter M. Denges  
Sunday masses 8 and 10:30 a.m.; Holy Day masses 7 and 9 a.m.; weekday mass at 8 a.m. Confessions heard on Saturday between 5-6 and 7:30-8:30 p.m.

**SOUTHERN PINES METHODIST CHURCH**  
Robert L. Bame, Minister  
(Services held temporarily at Civic Club, Ashe Street)  
Church School, 9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service, 11 a.m.; W. S. C. S. meets each first Tuesday at 8 p.m.

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