



Some Looks At Books

By LOCKIE PARKER

THE DURABLE FIRE by Howard Swiggett (Houghton \$4.00). This tense account of business life on the higher levels will not disappoint readers of "The Strong Box" and "The Power and the Prize." In some ways I think this is the best of the lot, and I found it sufficiently absorbing to distract me during a fine case of poison oak.

The serious novel of business is relatively new with us. The first novels on this subject were scathing and satirical as witness "Babbitt" and "The Hucksters." Yet it was evident looking around the American scene that many business men were not fools or tricksters. Such men would have been incapable of organizing our leading industries and attracting and keeping good men on their staffs. Marquand advanced beyond the antagonistic or merely scoffing but he still saw business as a field of activity where the soul of man was not at home.

Swiggett goes further. He sees business on the higher levels as a field in which men of character and ability can fulfill themselves. His protagonist, Stephen Lowry, who has spent some years in government service abroad, joins the managerial staff of the Continental Industries Corporation at forty in the expectation of making enough money in ten years to retire and write a book. At first things go smoothly enough, and he finds himself partly amused and partly resisting the benign paternalism of the president and the chairman of the board. He and his lovely Estonian wife are determined to live the good life in their own way and not to lose any bit of it through anxious climbing of the business or social ladder.

Then come crises. Stephen is called upon to make a painful decision between protecting an old friend or doing his duty by the company. This in itself would have made a novel of suspense for some authors, but Swiggett continues with a chain of consequences in which men's characters are relentlessly revealed and the gold separated from the dross. It is excellent drama, the main scenes taut, the denouements satisfying.

Stephen himself comes through the tests by the integrity of his character but comes through with a new view of business, seeing that it could not be just a side issue with him any more. "Whatever else, however person-

ally important, he wanted to do was subject to its discipline. But he had been shown clearly today it was not the service of Mammon and there was a great company besides himself who, having been born men, were unwilling to die as grocers. And what demanded more from the talents, aspirations and energies of men than the relentless purpose still to seek and find wisdom and beauty in spite of the din of the marketplace?"

SILVER SPOON by Edwin Gilbert (Lippincott \$4.95). This novel is a study of an immensely rich American family of today. The Family, a large clan, live on a huge estate in Connecticut and make their millions from New York real estate companies and deals. The two chief characters are the younger son, nonconformist of the family, and a girl who is sent by a Life-type magazine to do a picture story of the Glenway estate and its owners.

I do not share Mr. Gilbert's great interest in the rich and I thought his story about them lacked drama, but I did become interested in his characters and thought them remarkably believable and real. The action takes place during one summer, and the family is revealed in all its diversity. The photographer and the younger son have a love affair, a marriage breaks up, scandal is threatened, there is a death, and in the end the non-conforming son comes back to the fold, prepared to carry on his family's interests and traditions.

This is a long, detailed, careful piece of work that I found interesting, the more so as I got deeper into it, but I still wished it had been a bit more exciting.

—JULIE ATTEBERRY

SUNLIGHT ON THE LAWN by Beverly Nichols (Dutton \$3.75). Beverly Nichols writes again of his life at Merry Hall and in this latest book we find many of the same neighbors. In the house are his cats and Gas-kin, his butler. Out of doors we find Oldfield, the old gardener who is now eighty-two and about to be forced to stop working. Mr. Nichols' project, finding and erecting balustrades and pillars in his water garden, and his scheme for changing the soil in his flower garden will be of interest to real gardeners. His tales of the feud between "Our Rose" and "Miss Emily" are most entertaining.

Perhaps Mr. Nichols' charac-

ters are getting more eccentric, but we shall not complain of that, for he writes so pleasantly of them. The book is charmingly illustrated by his friend, William MacLaren.

—JANE H. TOWNE

THE CRUEL COCKS by Garland Roark (Doubleday \$3.75). You might read this book for either of two reasons, as a story of cock fighting or as an uncommonly attractive picture of Cajun life in the bayous of Louisiana. As I knew nothing about cock fighting I was more interested in the latter.

Thirteen-year-old David Boutte had, had a Scotch-Irish mother but when the book begins his sole parent is the gay and irresponsible Jean, never 'able to hold on to his money or a steady job but beloved up and down the bayous for his kind heart and ready tongue. On an excursion across the bay to witness a cock fight where his father loses heavily, David is attracted to one of the losing cocks who has been thrown aside as finished. He picks it up, takes it home, nurses it back to health and soon finds that he has acquired a game cock of parts. Of course, Father Jean is just the one who would know how to make the most of this.

I found my credulity strained by how far and how fast they went in a few months, but the story has comedy, tragedy and some excellent minor characters.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

International Uniform Sunday School Lessons

BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Background Scripture: Genesis 1:27-28; 3:1-5

Devotional Reading: Psalm 90:1-12

Resourceful God

Lesson for May 5, 1957

THE BIBLE has a plot, take it as a whole, as much as any thriller you ever read. In fact the Bible is more thrilling, because it directly concerns each one of the human race. It is the story of age-long conflict between Good and Evil, portrayed as a personal conflict between God and Satan, a struggle for the control of the earth and of man. The story begins in a sunny, hopeful way. God makes a race of beings who would never be perfect robots, but free, and he calls into existence Man, Dr. Foreman and Woman, to live on this earth, to beautify and complete it further. They are to be God's friends and fellow-workers. But before the reader quite knows how it happens, the Serpent appears on the scene and persuades man that God is not his friend but his enemy. So the man rebels against his Maker, is faithless to his divine Friend. Philosophers and theologians have other ways of telling it; but from the simple picture-stories of Genesis shines the same double truth and tragedy: Man is made for fellowship with God and other human beings, but he has broken the fellowship, he has turned against his truest Friend.



Dr. Foreman

Mysteries darken our knowledge here. But of some things we can be sure. One is that God does not deal with his world and his creatures haphazard. He is a planning God. Another thing that seems clear is that man has freedom to obey God or to disobey; to fit in with the Plan or to reject it; and the Planner, God could, no doubt, have made a race of beings who could not possibly do anything but right, a race of perfect robots; but for some reason God chose to make man free. One suspects that the reason is that God would rather be loved by persons who would love him freely, than to be loved by creatures "wound up," so to speak—bound to love him whether or not. (Would that be real love?) Another thing that stands out is that God is resourceful; in one sense his Plan can be broken, when men go contrary to his will. In another sense men do not break his Plan, for God appears in Genesis like a wise general who has more than one plan of strategy—all pointing to victory.

God Rejected

Man is not free unless he is free to do wrong as well as to do right. And if he is free to do wrong, which is a short way of saying free to go against the will and plan of God, then he is free to destroy himself. For the Plan of God for man, born as it is infinite Wisdom and infinite Love, is always for man's best. For man to resist God, to ignore him, scorn him, live by man-made plans, is to choose the way of death. Genesis shows dramatically how the sin of man grows worse as a snowball grows larger—the farther it goes the more rapidly it grows. Adam's sin seemed a rather slight thing—then his son is a murderer, and his descendants so bad that God could scarcely find one good family among them. The story in Genesis is the story of mankind; men prefer their own way to God's way—the way of hate and conflict rather than the way of fellowship and love; and they suffer the judgment of God; namely that those who take their own way must accept the inevitable disaster.

God Undefeated

Many religions know of just and righteous gods who have been rejected by wicked or careless or ignorant men. But the God revealed in the Bible does not act as the "gods of the gentiles" are said to act. For man's sin, other gods may have resentment, vengeance, punishment. But these things leave man as he was, an enemy—a conquered enemy perhaps, but with rebellion still smoldering in his soul. Other religions provide elaborate methods by which men may pay for their sins—going long pilgrimages, undergoing self-imposed tortures. But the true God is quite different from the gods whom men imagine—a god undefeated, infinitely resourceful. He never gives up his Plan for a people in fellowship with him. Men are changed, saved, made fit to be God's friends, only by steadfast undiscouraged love.

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NOTICE

North Carolina Moore County

The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of Gordon H. Clark, deceased, late of Moore County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of April, 1957, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 24th day of April, 1957.

RUTH ANNE CLARKE, Executrix of the Estate of Gordon H. Clark, deceased.

Pollock & Fullenwider, Attorneys for Estate. a25m2,9,16,23,30c

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF MOORE

The undersigned, having duly qualified as the executrix of the Estate of John Hichnor Young, deceased, late of the above named County and State, all persons having claims of whatsoever nature against the said John Hichnor Young, deceased, are hereby notified to exhibit the said claim or claims to the undersigned on or before the 28th day of March, 1958, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the said John Hichnor Young, deceased, are hereby requested to pay the said indebtedness to the undersigned immediately.

This the 28th day of March, 1958.

GERTRUDE B. YOUNG, Executrix

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Rotarians Play "What's My Line?" With Three Guests

Those four panelists on the "What's My Line?" television program are pretty smart, after all, members of the Southern Pines Rotary Club learned at their regular meeting Friday.

Four of the Rotarians, Dr. Leonard Daniels, Arch Coleman, Roy Council and Garland Pierce, were appointed as a panel to try and guess their guests' occupations. They failed in each case, but provided one of the most amusing programs at the club this year.

The guests were Everette Allen, Harrisburg, Pa.; Floyd Chilton, Akron, O.; and O. V. Vandervoort, Hancock, N. Y.

Occupations? Still unknown. Earl Hubbard, incidentally, served as moderator.

Other guests were Dr. Eugene Grace and Don Madigan, both of Southern Pines.

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WE ALL HAVE OUR DREAMS

Yes, we all have our dreams. Perhaps sometimes, they are mere projections of our selfishness... hopes unfair to others... ambitions dangerous to ourselves.

But often, they are healthy, honest aspirations... opportunities which zeal deserves... victories which justice demands.

Is it wrong to dream such dreams? Does God frown on honest hope and love?

Of course not! Rather, God has given us minds able to dream, and souls courageous enough to seek the difficult—even the impossible.

But the Divine Architect helps man to model his castles in the air, and provides the tools for their building. With faith and the guidance of the Church a man may realize hopes and aims which a cynical world calls futile.

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: (1) For his own sake. (2) For his children's sake. (3) For the sake of his community and nation. (4) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

Day	Book	Chapter	Verses
Sunday	Joshua	1	1-18
Monday	Matthew	25	1-30
Tuesday	Matthew	25	31-46
Wednesday	Luke	18	9-30
Thursday	Galatians	6	1-18
Friday	James	2	1-26
Saturday	1 John	2	1-24

BROWNSON MEMORIAL CHURCH (Presbyterian)
Cheves K. 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 Fellowships 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
Glover 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
Midland Road
Robert L. Barne, Minister
Church School, 9:45 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m.; W. S. C. S. meets each third Monday at 8 p.m.

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