

The Book Mark

By Joseph C. Keeley

Divorce and After

CALL IT FREEDOM. By Marian Sims. 320 pp. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. \$2.50.

Back from Reno, where she has divorced her drunken husband, Martha Freer Harvey is faced with the problem of starting life anew in the little North Carolina city that was her husband's home. How she meets many difficult situations and develops so that she can calmly meet the future make a story that is well worth the reading.

In writing "Call It Freedom," Marian Sims has drawn a picture of a small community that will be familiar to many. It is a community of average people, pre-



MARIAN SIMS

occupied with golfing, dancing, drinking and card-playing. Into this society, Martha attempts to resume her former place, but learns that things are different when one is divorced, particularly when one is an attractive divorcee of only thirty-four.

As one who has been to Reno, Martha is looked upon as fair prey by the males of the community. There are three men, however, who are most intrigued by her, and it is her experiences with these three which cause her to realize that she can at last stand alone, even though it means the renunciation of the man she loves.

The general interest of the theme, and Miss Sims' sympathetic and delightful presentation of it make this one of the season's best books of fiction. It is just about perfect for warm-weather reading.

1937 Messiah

GOD IN A ROLLS ROYCE. By John Hoshor. 272 pp. New York: Hillman-Curl. \$2.50.

This story of the little Negro enigma, Father Divine, unlike Parker's "The Incredible Messiah," does not attempt to explain why such a phenomenon came to be; it states the case in the form of good reporting. If you are interested in the social implications of Father Divine, we recommend you to Mr. Parker's book; if you want to know as much as possible about the good Father's strange cult, we refer you to Mr. Hoshor's study.

He has done a remarkable job of compilation, considering how shy Father Divine and all his angels and disciples are of publicity—of certain kinds. He tells of the hazy, down-South background of George Baker, who used to cut hedges in Baltimore. He tells how Baker came in contact with a missionary of his own race, called Father Jehovia, and how the man's teachings influenced him.

With careful attention to detail, Mr. Hoshor traces the rise of the undersized Father from the time he identified himself with Father Jehovia until he became a figure of at least national prominence. Or, as Mr. Hoshor puts it: "This un-schooled negro . . . directly affects the daily lives and actions of more individuals in these United States than any other living person." We can't quite agree with that statement, but there is no denying the power of the man.

It is an absorbing story of a fascinating character, and we recommend it to your attention. Of late, Father Divine and his enthusiastic followers have become more and more prominent in the headlines. Mr. Hoshor's book will give you some interesting highlights on those black headlines.

From Abroad

WE COVER THE WORLD. By Sixteen Foreign Correspondents, Edited by Eugene Lyons. 441 pp. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co. \$3.

A magic carpet piloted by sixteen of the world's best known newspapermen is "We Cover the World." In it they take the reader to every corner of the world in which things are happening, and show him the what, who, when, why, where and how. In many cases the why and the how are explained as they never were in the dispatches of the correspondents—a case in point being James A. Mills' thoughts concerning Queen Marie of Rumania.

To present an idea of the amount of territory covered by this book, following are the correspondents who contributed: James A. Mills, of the AP; Karl von Wiegand, of Universal Service; Frazier Hunt, now with NEA; Linton Wells of INS; Negley Farson, author of "Way of a Transgressor"; Hallett Abend, of the New York Times; Junius B. Wood, formerly of the Chicago Daily News; William Henry Chamberlin, of the Christian Science Monitor; George Seldes; Mary Knight, now with Literary Digest; Frank H. Hedges, with the North American Newspaper Alliance; Randall Gould, with the Christian Science Monitor; Jack Starr-Hunt, of the New York Herald-Tribune; H. R. Ekins, the Scripps-Howard reporter who made the first trip around the world on commercial airlines; Eugene Lyons, former UP correspondent and author; and Webb Miller, chief of the UP service in Europe.

There is no point in trying to describe all that these international newshawks tell about. Russia, Ethiopia, the Orient, the Near East, Spain, the Balkans—these and way stops are the scenes of the activities they describe. What they saw there makes fascinating reading. An obvious advantage of the form in which the book is written is that, besides being authoritative, it maintains interest because of the different styles of writing.

To those who are interested in what is happening in the world today—and who isn't?—this book will prove highly valuable in showing what is happening behind the scenes.

Want A Hobby?

If you ever find yourself feeling listless and losing interest in life generally, don't think you need a doctor or even a psychiatrist. You will probably find a remedy in "Hobbies for Everybody," by Ruth Lampland.

Although "Hobbies for Everybody" was published in 1934, by Harper's, it is still, in our opinion, the finest book on hobbies ever issued. It is complete, covering subjects from autographs and cartooning to pottery, model-building and yachting. In all, more than fifty different types of hobbies are discussed, and a further guide to each is presented in the form of a bibliography concerning each—just in case you become interested.

If Miss Lampland had discussed each hobby herself, telling of its good points, the book undoubtedly would have been worth reading. However, that was not her procedure. Shrewdly, she persuaded experts in those hobbies to describe them. Now if there is anything more enthusiastic than a confirmed hobbyist, I don't know what it is. And with more than fifty hobbyists selling you on their enthusiasms, the reader is soon faced with the problem of diminishing sales resistance. Particularly when the hobbyists are such eloquent advocates as Crosby Gaige, Ellis Parker Butler, Eva Le Gallienne, Tony Sarg, Ely Culbertson, Fannie Hurst and Don Marquis. Mr. Marquis' hobby, incidentally, is beans.

The sum total of their arguments is that there's still plenty of fun left in the old world—if we just find ourselves a hobby. If you're interested, get yourself a copy of "Hobbies for Everybody." But we warn you, before you're finished you'll be collecting something or other, or going in for sports or having fun in any one of fifty-plus ways.

A NATION'S RISE

THE MIRACLE OF ENGLAND. By Andre Maurois. 500 pp. New York: Harper & Bros. \$3.75.

One of the most fascinating books of the year is this brilliant story telling of the growth of England from an island kingdom overrun by successive waves of conquering hordes, to an empire comprising a third of the earth's surface.

With his usual clarity and his genius



ANDRE MAUROIS

for organizing facts and disposing of the superfluous, Andre Maurois has made "The Miracle of England" more than a history. He has peopled its pages with

human beings, and in doing so has made the book a glowing, living narrative.

Fittingly, M. Maurois has gone back into antiquity to trace the tangled racial threads that make up the Englishman. Stonehenge, with its evidences of Mediterranean origin, is his starting point in this, and from that beginning he brings in, in their turn, Celts, Romans, Angles, Jutes, Saxons, Germans, Danes and Normans. The effect that each race had upon the ultimate Englishman makes up the first part of the book.

With this background the reader is prepared to understand what caused England to become great. Providing a key to the British character, it gives one a truer insight into the reasons for the nation's development. Knowing the Briton, one more readily understands why he cast off feudalism more quickly than did most other medievalists. The religious wars are more understandable as well as the growth of democracy, and all the other elements that entered into Britain's development into the most powerful empire the world has ever known.

This, of course, provides merely the "plot" of this absorbing story. Even more fascinating, because of the magic of Andre Maurois' pen, is the cast. In this cavalcade can be found Caesar and his legions, William the Conqueror, Queen Elizabeth and the titans who surrounded her, Henry VIII with his wives and church troubles, Nelson, Wellington, Disraeli, Queen Victoria, King Edward VIII, and, bringing up the rear, King George VI.

If you have been intending to look more deeply into the subject of English history some day, here is your chance to fulfill your promise to yourself, and at the same time secure a great deal of enjoyment. "The Miracle of England" is one of the important books of this or any year.

Peggy Had A Manuscript



H. S. LATHAM

Blackstone Studio

The discovery of "Gone With the Wind" will go down in publishing history as one of the most fortunate happenings that ever befell a publishing house. Whether it was a matter of luck or not, is a debatable question.

H. S. Latham, vice president of Macmillan's, was traveling through the South in 1935 to look up new authors. In Atlanta he had dinner with two women friends, and they discussed new writers. Finally one of the women, a Mrs. Perker-son, timidly said: "Peggy has a manuscript."

Mr. Latham expressed a polite interest in it, and asked to see it. When it was delivered to him he did more than give it a mere courtesy reading, even though that was the only thing necessary. But it was just as well he did give it the same careful attention he would have given the manuscript of a big "name" writer. As you have probably guessed, the story was "Gone With the Wind" and "Peggy" was Margaret Mitchell.

Footnotes

Can you imagine a detective story without a detective? That's the case in "The Borgia Blade," just published by Appleton-Century. The mystery is solved by a crook.

Simon & Schuster clarify a point concerning the best-seller, "The Outward Room," which they publish. The title, they point out, comes from the lines of John Donne:

"Think then, my soule, that death is but a Groome,
Which brings a Taper to the outward roome. . . ."

In a previous issue of this magazine we referred to the book on marriage written a number of years ago by Leon Blum, who is now Premier of France. The volume is said to contain statements that are now embarrassing to M. Blum. American rights for the book have been obtained by the J. B. Lippincott Co., and it will be issued by them under the title "Marriage" on June 30.

Well up in the list of current best-sellers

are two books reviewed on this page a few weeks ago—"Boy in Blue," by Royce Brier, and "The Laurels Are Cut Down," by Archie Binns. We were correct in hailing them as potential best-sellers, even though we did transpose the cuts of the authors.

Irene Wicker, known to radio listeners as the Singing Lady, can well be considered an authority on children's books. It is interesting, then, to learn that she considers the Mary Poppins books for children as among the finest juvenile stories ever written.

"What Ho!" by Richard Connell, published by Putnam, will be produced by Paramount with Gary Cooper in the leading role. The picture is supposed to be ready for release in the Fall.

The publishers of "Gone with the Wind," Macmillan, are ready with a successor to be issued late in July. The name of the book is "And So Victoria." The author is Vaughn Wilkins, it is said to run to approximately a thousand pages, and the setting is English.