

By LOCKIE PARKER

Some Looks At Books

AN AUTUMN IN ITALY by Sean O'Faolain (Devon-Adair \$3.50). This is the book of a traveller who is also a thinker, who uses the stimulation of travel to deepen his understanding of history, other people, himself. The keynote is sounded when he describes a foreigner watching a ball game and saying to himself, "I might have been one of you," and wondering, "How different could I be?"

In Naples he passes over lightly the magnificent views of the bay, the fine hotels and restaurants and takes us with him into the swarming, colorful, narrow streets behind "the golden facade." He gives an unforgettable account of mingling with the crowd that gathers to witness a miracle, an annual occasion, when the dried blood of a fourth century martyr is liquified. He is swept along on the emotions of these souls "intent on self-explosion, on blowing themselves out of their mortal frame and dancing in wild-fire among the clouds."

Then he goes south of Naples into a strange, bitter land, tourist less known to the tourist than any part of Europe, a land that is Mediterranean more than European. Once it was Magna Graecia, the richest colonies of Greece, and even today there are said to be villages where a Greek dialect is spoken. Later came the Carthaginians, the Romans, Normans, Arabs, Spaniards. "In the pavements are patterns from the Levant, contrasting with the figures of Arthur and Roland. The Orient and Occident meet here."

O'Faolain has much to say about the architecture of castles and churches, but is even more profoundly interested in people. He notes the poverty of the peasant under a land system "politely called feudal," sees thousands living in caves in Matera and recalls that remarkable book by Carlo Levi, "Christ Stopped at Eboli." He is hourly teased and enchanted by the mysteries of this strange people and takes to reading histories of South Italy.

Sometimes he turns from the crowds to the silences of this ancient land and in the end, these

made the strongest impression—the silence in a ruined Greek temple, or a little Renaissance chapel or on some bare Calabrian hill. Finally he achieves what he sought, some feeling of identification with this odd corner of Europe, some illumination of his own country. "The strange has become more familiar, a life that I have always known has deepened and become more strange." So he keeps alive the faculty of wonder and is a good traveller whether at home or abroad.

PERIOD PIECE by Gwen Raverat (Norton \$3.75). There are many chuckles here for those who like a gentle social comedy. The time is the end of the Victorian era and the place, the ancient university town of Cambridge, England. The author of these childhood reminiscences is a granddaughter of Charles Darwin. Her mother was an American, and the opening chapter quotes largely from the letters this young lady wrote to her family in Philadelphia on the occasion of that visit to Cambridge when she was courted by several young men whose legs and beards are fully described. It ended, of course, by her marrying Charles Darwin whose legs were quite straight.

The author was the eldest child of this marriage, a trying position because, as she says, "the full force of my mother's theories about education were brought to bear upon me, and it fell to me to blaze a path to freedom for my juniors, through the forest of her good intentions." For example, the children's moral fibre was to be strengthened by having no fires in the bedrooms and seasoning the breakfast porridge with salt instead of sugar. However, Mrs. Raverat is not harsh in judging her parents, for she has observed in the course of a lifetime, that whatever method one may follow, "the parent is always wrong."

Despite this grim conclusion, the author's memories of childhood are warm and gay. The uncles, the aunts, the distinguished visitors, the struggles with protocol at Cambridge dinner parties are described with affection as

well as humor. Chapters on Clothes, Sport, Religion, Propriety, Ghosts and Horrors will give you an idea of the range. As the author suggests, it does not much matter which chapter you read first. You can have a good time anywhere. In the right company, it would be an excellent book to read aloud. Then you will want to pass the book around for its witty black and white drawings. Don't miss page 120, the scene in the Ruskin and Morris drawing room where Uncle Richard is being sent to bed.

JOURNEY CAKE, HO! by Ruth Sawyer, illustrated by Robert McCloskey (Viking \$2.50). This is a folk tale retold by a past master of that art. The build-up is perfect for a young child who can sit by you as you turn the pages and read about life on Tiptop Mountain—the old man, the old woman, the bound-out boy and the chickens, the cow, the pig, the sheep and the crow.

Then, when we are all very well acquainted, the action begins. Disaster strikes, the problem of eating gets serious, a little boy starts down the road alone with his bundle on his back. But happy things can happen as unreasonably as bad ones, and the Journey Cake saves the day. The strong pictures in two colors, the lively action and the gay rhymes give you a flavorsome, charming book for four to eight.

School Property Of Moore Insured For \$3,439,500

Forty-seven buildings of the Moore County school system are insured for a total of \$3,057,450. Contents of the buildings are insured for an additional \$382,050, to make the total insured value of the county's school property \$3,439,500.

The figures are taken from a tabulation in the 1953-1954 edition of the Moore County Public Schools Handbook, an annual mimeographed publication that contains more information about the county schools this year than in any previous edition of the handbook. The listing does not include school property at Southern Pines or Pinehurst.

Insured values of buildings range from a low of \$450 on the pump house at the Huey Davis elementary school near Robbins to a top of \$279,000 on the Vass-Lakeview school's main building.

Where gymnasiums, auditoriums, agriculture buildings and other structures are separate from school buildings, they are insured separately.

Second highest buildings valuation is at Aberdeen where the elementary school is insured for \$215,100. Contents of this building and the contents of the Vass-Lakeview building are valued at \$30,000 each.

The list of insured buildings shows that the county maintains three homes for principals or teachers—for the principal at Aberdeen and at Farm Life and for teachers at Farm Life. The county owns the home of the janitor at Vass-Lakeview school.

NEED VITAMIN 'A'

Corn kept under good storage conditions is an excellent source of protein and energy in animal feed, but it should be supplemented with some other source of Vitamin A, according to E. H. Garrison, Moore County farm agent.

Recent tests show that stored corn is not a dependable source of important Vitamin A, so essential in maintaining the health of livestock. Green forage is one of the best sources of Vitamin A, according to Mr. Garrison, but when it is not available, alfalfa leaf meal, or any leafy hay, especially alfalfa hay, can be substituted. Grass or corn silage is also a good source of Vitamin A.

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No Liquor Defense

Lesson for October 25, 1953

ON THE SOUTH side of a large sign in front of a Methodist church on a main highway are the words: LIQUOR HAS NO DEFENSE. The church did not invent that expression; it is a quotation from Abraham Lincoln. On the opposite side of the sign, drivers coming the other way see this:

Drive
death

Even the companies that make money out of drunkenness (the more liquor, the more profits) know that the north side of the sign is true, and will say so in large paid advertisements. Liquor certainly has no defense as a drink for drivers. But some of the defenses put up for alcoholic liquor as a beverage that "belongs," that is part of the social scene, do not sound so good when they are taken down and looked at with a cold and sober eye.

Alcohol Is A Drug

The one thing that defenders of alcoholic beverages invariably keep quiet about, is the simple fact that alcohol is a drug, a harmful drug, a habit-forming drug. No amount of advertising can talk that fact out of existence.

That it is a fact, can be witnessed to by anybody—he does not have to be a preacher!—who has had to deal with the wretched people at the bottom of the slide that was lubricated with liquor. Alcoholics are sick people; that is a recognized fact; but alcoholism differs from all the other diseases in the book in this one vital thing: No one can say to himself, I refuse to have tuberculosis, I will never have cancer. He may come down with those diseases in spite of his best intentions. But any one may say to himself: I will never be an alcoholic. And he can make that resolution stick, simply by staying away from alcohol. On the other hand, no man or woman who mixes alcohol in his system can ever be quite sure he will not be an alcoholic. No alcoholic ever meant to be one.

Drugs Have No Brakes

Now the trade in alcoholic liquor is legal; trade in other drugs such as heroin, cocaine and similar drugs, is strictly illegal except for medicinal purposes through regular pharmacists, and on doctors' prescriptions. Still there are a great many people who in spite of the difficulties do manage to buy and use these forbidden drugs, and of course there are always the conscienceless people who sell the stuff to the addicts.

But let us suppose we listened to the defenses of ordinary liquor, if applied to other drug habits. How ridiculous they would sound! We are told that the habit of drinking liquor is a long-established American way of life. Well, the taking of cocaine is long-established too. People will buy liquor—legally or illegally; they will buy heroin too in spite of all the laws. People will steal cars, and forge checks—it's been done a long time. But that doesn't make it right.

Or again, consider the pleasure people get out of liquor. Why, of course. They get an even keener pleasure out of shots of other drugs than alcohol. Every time you put a drug addict into a sanitarium you deprive him of his greatest pleasure in life. But that does not make his habit any better. But, it will be said, self-control is the answer; a drug used in moderation is not so harmful as when used to excess. True; but the trouble is, no drug has brakes, and drugs of the kind that alcohol and heroin are, actually weaken self-control instead of making it stronger.

Stuff And Nonsense

The reader can amuse (or horrify) himself by thinking of other antique arguments used to bolster the cause of those who use, or who profit by other men's use of, alcoholic liquors. How do they sound when used in defense of other drug habits? "The illegal drug business gives employment to thousands." "To interfere with this traffic is to interfere with free enterprise, the right of every man to make his living as he sees fit." "To interfere with this traffic is to interfere with men's personal liberty. Even if a man ruins himself with cocaine, it's his own business."

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Released by Community Press Service.)

Bookmobile Schedule

Schedule of the Moore County bookmobile for the week October 26-30 has been announced as follows:

Monday — Through Niagara with stops at Martin, Kelly, Darnell and Briggs homes, 2 to 2:45; Union church to Vass, 2:45 to 4; Vass, 4 to 4:30; W. F. Smith home, 4:40.

Tuesday — Mt. Carmel church route including Harris crossroads community.

Wednesday — Eagle Springs, 1:45 to 2; Jackson Springs: W. E. Graham home, 2:15; Postoffice, 2:30 to 3; West End, 3:30 to 4:30.

Thursday — Carthage Library, 11:30 to 5.

Friday—Robbins Library, 11:30 to 4.

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Nothing in all the world could cause that reflection of happiness and contentment but a well-behaved child. Perhaps she has just spoken a piece. Perhaps she was singing a song. Perhaps she is playing with her small brother and sister.

But whatever she is doing, you will agree it is the result of wise and loving guidance. And you can be certain there is another member of the family not shown in the picture—God, the guide and Father of all of them.

Where parents and the Church work together for God, you will find true happiness.

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 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.

Book	Chapter	Verses
Sunday	I Kings	3 1-15
Monday	Psalms	116 1-9
Tuesday	Psalms	119 9-16
Wednesday	Matthew	19 13-22
Thursday	Luke	17 1-10
Friday	Philippians	4 8-13
Saturday	Hebrews	13 1-8

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., So. Pines
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 & New Hampshire.
Sunday School, 9:30 a. m. in Educational building. Sunday morning service, 11 a. m. in sanctuary. Twilight Hour, 5 p. m., each Sun. Pilgrim Fellowship, 6:30 p. m. each

Sunday, The Forum, 8 p. m. each Sunday. All in new Educational building.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
New York avenue at South Ashe
David Hoke Coon, Minister
Bible school, 9:45 a. m. Worship 11 a. m. Training Union 7:00 p. m. Evening worship, 8:00 p. m. Scout Troop 224, Monday, 7:30 p. m.; midweek 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.

EMMANUEL CHURCH
(Episcopal)

Holy Communion, 8 a. m. (except first Sunday). Church School and Family Service, 9:45 a. m., with Adult Class at 10 a. m. Morning Prayer, 11 a. m. (Holy Communion, first Sunday).

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.

OUR LADY OF VICTORY
West Pennsylvania at Hardin
Fr. Donald Fearon, C. S. S. R.

Sunday Mass, 10 a. m.; Holy Day Mass, 9 a. m. Confessions are heard before Mass.

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