



Some Looks At Books

By LOCKIE PARKER

THE WONDERFUL O by James Thurber. Illustrated by Marc Simon. (Simon & Schuster \$3.50. No one could have written this surrealist fable except Thurber, nor probably could anyone else have gotten it published by a major publisher. Here is magic play with words, sounds, ideas, images that reminds one of the more daring painters and modern musicians. Take a figure of speech such as "unexpectedly as the blare of a bugle in a lullaby," or read aloud the grim threat Black makes to his parrot, "I'll squawk his thrug till all he can whipple is jeep." Could even Lewis Carroll do better?

For full appreciation the book must be read aloud, for the text is rhythmical and often rhymes. Then, too, part of the humor derives from the absurd sounds resulting from omitting the letter "o" from words. Black, you see, hated this letter and being a peevish dictator type, he made up his mind to see that it was never spoken or written on the island of Ooroo. Of course, his aversion to "o" was quite understandable because of a childhood experience—how familiar it sounds—one night his mother became wedged in a porthole and since they could not pull her in, they pushed her out.

The fable as a fable is concerned with more than stimulating combinations of words and sounds. The islanders, a docile people, submit for the most part to the decrees of Black and his crew, but in secret meetings they listen to the words of a poet and to the seeress, Andrea, who tells them that there are four words with "o" that must be kept in spite of tyrants. They know that three of these are hope, love and valor. The discovery of the fourth makes the climax of the tale.

VASTNESS OF THE SEA. Adventure in the Mysterious Depths by Bernard Gorsky (Little Brown \$5.00). Unexplored regions on the surface of the globe have almost vanished; but, even as this happens, man, the amazing creature, is devising ways of reaching new areas in the skies above or the depths of the ocean

where life is probably as strange as on any planet and the forms of creatures as fantastic as anything ever dreamed up by the practitioners of science fiction or movies of the future.

Bernard Gorsky had a good record of underwater hunting in the Mediterranean but had dreamed for years of exploring really tropical waters. At 37 he decided it was now or never, so he collected three companions of like mind and they bought a sailboat.

This is the tale of explorations that took them halfway round the world.

It is told almost in diary form, so that we live with these adventurers through the excitement of preparation, storms at sea and amusing port incidents. The heart of the book, however, is the underwater exploration, stirring accounts of duels with giant fish and narrow escapes from other characteristic perils.

Then there are the descriptions, the incredible descriptions of underwater scenery, "Obscurity lifted . . . to reveal a strange luminosity. . . other-worldly corals and madrepores in shapes drawn by an opium smoker of genius at a peak of ecstasy and harmony—a calcareous fairyland. . . Then, from what might have been a giant ear carved in pomegranate-red jelly spangled with lapis lazuli, there emerged a parrot fish, a phosphorescent Matisse creation, draped in the freshest of almond greens, barred with bottle green, pond green, blue green. . . violet, vivid orange, chrome-yellow."

THE HOUSE OF THE ANGEL by Beatrice Guido (McGraw-Hill \$3.00). Here is a book of literary quality from Argentina. In delicacy of perception, in richness of sense images, color, sounds, fragrances, one is reminded of Eudora Welty and Virginia Woolf. We get this work in translation but it is a smooth translation that convinces one of words carefully chosen to keep the flavor of the original.

Little Ana, who is just on the verge of leaving childhood with some reluctance, tells of her life as a child, her joys, her fears,

her dreams, her family. There is Father who "always appeared in my memory riding in an open automobile waving his hand, or presiding over the dining-room table surrounded by party members." Her mother was austere and intensely religious.

Then there was the nurse, Nana, with her terrific tales of the Apocalypse but also a flare for gayety.

Ana is a child of imagination and, as she approaches adolescence, takes to romantic poetry and equally romantic day dreams. With a convent education and shielded as far as possible from any contact with members of the other sex, she feels keenly the lack of a face to which she can attach her dreams. Then at a critical moment in her development there is the announcement of a duel in which a younger member of her father's party will be a principal. The duel will be held on her family's grounds, the young man will dine with them the night before. It is enough. Ana centers all her vague dreams on this figure.

So far I found the book psychologically and artistically convincing. The last few pages with a hasty view of the young man himself, their meeting, the duel and its aftermath seemed brittle and artificial. It had a certain logic but one not fully realized in the author's imagination.

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MOORE COUNTY

The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Charles W. Picquet, 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 17th day of May, 1958, 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.

MAXWELL G. RUSH,
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Devotional Reading: Psalm 68:1-6

Family Tensions

Lesson for June 16, 1957

"THE family is a divine institution. That is to say, God invented it. He thought of it before men did. He intended it. So, it should be a success. Yet the family is also a human institution—that is to say, all homes are made up of human beings. Every home therefore suffers from the ailments that nag at all things human. A successful home succeeds in spite of all the human handicaps. A home that does not succeed, fails because these handicaps strain it too much.

Tensions
A favorite modern word for these stresses and strains within a home is "tensions." The word is new but the thing is old. Tension is what makes the teen-ager scream, and her mother feels like screaming. "I can't stand this another minute!" Tensions are what make meal-times regular battle-grounds, what give mothers nervous prostration and fathers peptic ulcers before their time; what may make children remember their childhood with a kind of shudder. Tensions are what keep juvenile delinquents from going home, tensions may even be the beginning of lost minds. Now the thing is old, as was just said. In the home of Jacob, who was a God-fearing man, there was plenty of it. There was tension between him and his wives, between the wives themselves, between some wives and some sons, between the sons, between him and his sons. The family, so to speak, was pulled every which way, and actually at last broke up.

What Can't Be Helped
Some tensions cannot be helped. They are in the nature of things. In a home there are persons of different ages, sexes and temperaments. This cannot be avoided. Yet the "battle of the sexes" rages from generation to generation; younger people find older people sometimes very hard to get along with, and vice versa. In Jacob's home he was much older than his wives, very much older than his sons. Men and women in those days and times probably differed even more sharply than now, kept separate as they were for much of the lives. And in Jacob's home temperamental differences surely could hardly have been more striking. The thing to remember is that since these strains cannot be helped, something good can be made of them. The man's point of view is different from the woman's, of course; but it takes both of them to make a healthy human point of view. Youth needs the caution and the wisdom of older people; older people need the optimism and enthusiasm of younger people to keep them from withering on the vine. Different temperaments can balance one another. A home can capitalize on its very handicaps.

What Can Be Helped
Nevertheless, some strains and stresses are just the result of human meanness, human sin. They can be helped, they call for repentance and change. Consider the home of Jacob. His wives did not get along together; but while it was in those times legal enough, it was foolish for a man of his temperament to have married all those four women, especially as he loved only one of them. Some of the trouble arose from young Joseph's 17-year-old conceit. Perhaps he couldn't help his dreams of grandeur; but he did not need to tell those dreams at the breakfast table. And some of the trouble lay in Jacob's playing up his son Joseph.

How to Help It
A foundation-stone for harmony in the home or anywhere else, is harmony with God. One who lives close to God will remember that God's will is always for peace, never for strife. The soul conscious of being forgiven by God will be more ready to forgive others. The spirit blessed by the grace of God—and God's grace comes only to the humble—will not be forever standing on its rights and complaining about its wrongs. It would be a good thing for many a family all nervous with many tensions, to read together the thirteenth chapter of I Corinthians, the great chapter on love-in practice, and then spend a while in silence, each one thinking: Does this describe me? And if not, do I not need God's forgiveness, and a fresh start?

(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.)

WITH THE Armed Forces

John W. Dunlap, son of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Dunlap, Star Route, Carthage, recently was promoted to sergeant at Fort Riley, Kan., where he is a member of the 1st Division's 2nd Infantry.

Sergeant Dunlap, an operations sergeant in the Second's Headquarters Company, is a veteran of 14 years of Army service. He has served in the European theatre.

The sergeant holds the Purple Heart and the Combat Infantryman Badge. His wife, Ruth, lives in Junction City, Kan.

Sgt. Paul H. Warren, son of Mrs. Emma Warren, 255 Morgan-ton Rd., Southern Pines, recently participated in a nine-day field training exercise with the 11th Airborne Division's 187th Infantry in Germany.

Sergeant Warren, a squad leader in the 187th's Headquarters and Service Company, en-

tered the Army in 1954 and received basic training at Fort Jackson, S. C. He arrived in Europe in March, 1956.

He was graduated from Southern Pines High School in 1954.

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WHAT RELIGION DID FOR BASEBALL!

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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, 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 community and nation. (3) 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.

Sunday	Book	Chapter	Verses
Monday	Psalms	122	1-9
Tuesday	Ecclesiastes	12	1-14
Wednesday	Proverbs	15	1-14
Thursday	Yoshua	12	1-14
Friday	John	23	6-11
Saturday	John	15	1-17
Sunday	Ephesians	2	13-22

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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, 6:30 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 Aake
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 Aaha
Father Peter M. Dances
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. Bame, 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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