

The TIMES Book Page

Two Explosive Books Deal With Atomic Bomb and Race-Relations in U. S.

"FEAR, WAR AND THE BOMB: MILITARY AND POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF ATOMIC ENERGY." By P. M. S. Blackett. New York, Whittlesey House, \$3.50.

"CASTE AND CLASS IN A SOUTHERN TOWN." By John Dollard. Second edition. New York, Harper, \$5.

By HENRY BUTLER

TWO BOOKS due next week deal with explosive possibilities outside and inside our nation.

The first (due Monday) is "Fear, War and the Bomb," by Prof. P. M. S. Blackett of England's Manchester University, distinguished physicist and 1948 Nobel Prize winner.

The second (due Wednesday) is a new edition of John Dollard's calm but penetrating study of race-relations in a small town of the Deep South, "Caste and Class in a Southern Town."

Both are important reading for citizens who wish to avoid the dangers of hysteria. Both books may help create a frame of mind in which sensible solutions for our greatest international and national problems may be reached.

PROF. BLACKETT'S book now may seem the more immediately important of the two. After all, Prof. Dollard, currently a research associate in Yale University's Institute of Human Relations, first published his admirable study in 1937.

It's a little more than three and a half years since Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In the meantime, we Americans have gone through the first dazed and somewhat alarmed satisfaction over our enormously destructive new weapon. We've been through the "gas" period, the rather disgusting "atomic sundae" and "atomic hamburger" kind of thing.

We've also survived a period of magniloquence in which we generously proposed a plan to outlaw the atomic bombs provided we kept control of it. Now we're bothered by doubts as to the effectiveness of any proposed control plan. And even a Briton like Prof. Blackett senses from a distance our "anxiety neurosis" occasioned by our thoughts of the 120,000 unarmed and defenseless Japanese civilians killed by the two bombs of August, 1945.

PROF. BLACKETT rightly, I think, includes our lingering guilt-feelings in his estimate of our current attitudes towards atomic-bomb possibilities. The widespread belief here that all our major cities could be wiped out in a matter of hours or days originates in our own curiously hasty use of the weapon against Japan.

The dropping of the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki has been justified as having saved countless thousands of American lives in an invasion might have cost. But Prof. Blackett's chapter on the decision to use the bomb—not even yet fully explained—points out that Hiroshima preceded by two days the Soviet declaration of war against Japan. The atom bombs completely eclipsed the whirlwind Russian campaign in Manchuria, which also had decisive results in ending the Pacific phase of the war.

AS A RESULT, the United States got enormous prestige and publicity. Prof. Blackett states his belief that the bombs thus became a weapon in power-politics, with exceedingly unfortunate consequences.

The complexities of those consequences are far too great for adequate discussion here. Many of Prof. Blackett's statements may be hotly debated. But no one can deny the clarity and intelligence of his book, which is an attempt to examine the practical aspects of atomic energy.

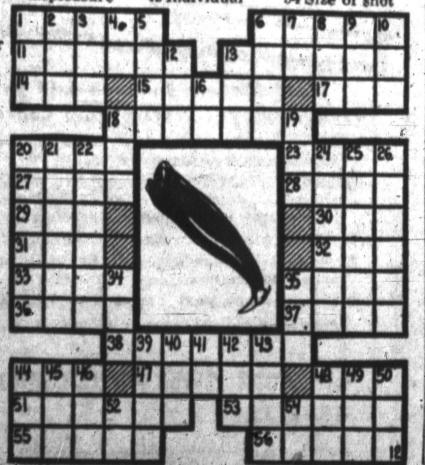
Since his title includes the word "fear," it's important to repeat some of his conclusions in that matter. He gives good reasons for stating that atomic bombs are by no means decisive, any more than 1.3 million tons of bombs dropped on Germany were decisive. German industrial production actually rose during some of the heaviest bombing, and declined such a word.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Denizen of the Deep

HORIZONTAL

- 1,6 Depicted cetacean (ab.)
- 11 Expended
- 12 Hurter
- 14 Heart
- 15 Giver
- 17 Greek letter
- 18 Regrets
- 20 Hedgepodge
- 23 Ripped
- 27 Surrender
- 28 Martian (comb. form)
- 29 Compass point
- 30 Doctrine
- 31 Indonesian of 24 Prayer
- 32 Mindanao
- 33 Seines
- 35 Body of water
- 36 To cut
- 37 Social insects
- 38 Allotted portions
- 44 Dine
- 47 Oily ketone
- 48 Genus of grasses
- 51 Constant
- 53 Compound ethers
- 55 Oregon
- 56 Leather thong
- 1,2 Dry, as wine
- 2 Golf teacher
- 3 Organ of hearing
- 4 Rupees (ab.)
- 5 Native of Media
- 6 Small, hard skin tumor



Answer to Previous Puzzles

BERLIN BOAST
BERTIE LUDWIG
ALICE CHASE
STEIN BIRKETTE
SEAT
NID
OWES
HILP
DRAPE
ETTA
MINIUS
PAT
NEREIL
SARONS
PARTS
SERIN

Herron Art Student Displays London Scene



"Eros Over Piccadilly" is the title of this wash-and-charcoal drawing by Richard Genders, senior student in Herron Art School and a native of London. The bronze figure is one of the best known statues in the British metropolis.

1947 Pulitzer Prize Winner Writes 500-Page Novel About the 'Education' of an Orphan

"THE FIRES OF SPRING." A novel. By James A. Michener. New York, Random House, \$3.50.

JAMES A. MICHENNER, winner of a 1947 Pulitzer Prize with his "Tales of the South Pacific," now produces a 500-page novel, "The Fires of Spring," which certainly will attract readers.

It's the kind of novel, no doubt partly autobiographical, nearly all novelists write, though not all such manuscripts reach the line-

typer. It's an "education" novel—in this instance, the education of David Harper, Mr. Michener's hero, an orphan, grown up in a poorhouse near Doylestown, Pa. His closest relative is Aunt Reba, a Pennsylvania Dutch character who is miserly and cruel and gets some obscure delight out of whipping David.

From the old inmates of the men's wing, where David lives, the boy begins to gather opinions about life and people. When he's old enough to work, he rebels against Aunt Reba's suggestion that he go to the pants factory "over" by Sellersville, and instead gets a job in Paradise Amusement Park, which sounds like a thin fictional disguise of Willow Grove, outside Philadelphia.

AT PARADISE, David learns how to chisel and short-change customers. He gets acquainted with prostitutes and one future big-time racketeer. But, luckily for his own future, he becomes good enough in high school



Writes "education" novel . . . James A. Michener.

basketball to get status and prestige by honest means.

After high school, he is given an anonymously donated scholarship to Dedham College, which sounds a bit like Harvard. There he learns still more things about literature, philosophy and, from a Philadelphia orchestra musician he had met out at the park, music.

He learns about the unsuccessful, moolching type of career-woman from Mona Meigs, whom he had met out at the park when she sang with Sousa's band. Mona becomes David's mistress for a brief time, readily discarding him for a beat-up old actor who stars

in a touring Chautauqua show. David works for a summer vacation.

All this experience, heightened here and there by some melodramatic events (suicide of the Philadelphia musician when he finds out Mona has jilted him for David — disastrous fiery blow-down of a Chautauqua tent in a tornado) is admirably reported. Mr. Michener has the great gift of writing as clearly as he sees.

BUT THE "education" novel necessarily suffers from a certain banality. It's been done too often. David Harper's Greenwich Village interlude during the depression when he's trying to establish himself as a writer in New York strikes me as the weakest part of the book.

The struggling-writer theme, like the uncertain-lover theme, needs editorial pruning in this instance.

David finally marries Marcia Paxson, the Quaker girl he had especially liked when he was a boy. But it takes 495 pages to reach that conclusion of the novel, and meanwhile Mr. Michener has given his readers another strenuous work-out in the gymnasium of fictional experience.

Some of the calisthenics seem to be unnecessary. David throughout the book has the attitudes you'd expect him to have, with the result that he seems often priggish and wooden.

"The Fires of Spring" is excellently vivid reporting. It needs trimming and compression to make it first-rate fiction.—H. B.

Inspect Jaguar Husband Shot



Edith Siemel, left, with her husband and three children in the interior of Paraguay, inspects a handsome jaguar. Mr. Siemel has just shot. Mrs. Siemel falls in "Jungle Wife" the story of her marriage to a professional tiger hunter and of how she reared three children in the heart of the Mato Grosso while her husband, Sasha, hunted the big cats. (Doubleday, \$3.50.)

New Novel Blasts Black Marketeering

"THEY NEVER HAD IT SO GOOD." A novel. By Joseph Gies. New York, Harper, \$2.75.

AN UNHEROIC GI comes in for treatment by Joseph Gies in "They Never Had It So Good." This was the selling point turned

every opportunity to his own advantage — wangled supplies and jugged currency on the black market.

Shielded by his equally avaricious officers, who used him too, Pvt. Harvey Bull managed to have the best in food, drink and living quarters.

OCCASIONALLY his plans were upset and Pvt. Bull found himself in the front lines, but he lost no time purloining and black-mailing his way back to the safety of the rear areas. There he "soldiered" with the ease of a pickpocket and the conscience of a Barbary pirate.

He's a pretty repulsive character and Mr. Gies has done him up brown.

Dean Is Co-Author Of Religious Book

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"Why Are You Single?", Hilda Holland's symposium on bachelorthood and spinsterhood, will be

published Mar. 16 by Farrar, Straus.

The symposium contains opinions by medical and lay authorities on reasons that keep men and women from marrying. Contributors include: Marilyn Farmham, Arthur Garfield Hays, Louis I. Dublin, Clifford Adams, Theodore Reik and Abraham Stone.

According to the publisher, the idea for the book came out of the tremendous response to Editor Hilda Holland's preliminary discussions of the subject on the air and in magazines.

Writes on Decadence
The eminent British philosopher C. E. M. Joad has written a new book entitled "Decadence," to be published by the Philosophical Library Feb. 25. It is described as "a provocative discussion of 'weak-spined' society."

MINUTE MOOS by Elsie the Borden Cow

Lady Borden.

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RADIO PROGRAMS THIS EVENING

WFMB 1260 CMB	WIBC 1070 Mutual	WIRE 1420 NBO	WISH 1310 ABO	WLW 1590 NBO	WLW 700 NBO
:00 Make Mine Music	Easy Dogs II	Lewis	Metropolis Opera	Fox With Dogs	Tropical Echoes
4:15 -	-	Bartons University Dr. L. B. Jr.	Tea and Comports	Guest Star	Musician Dr. L. G. Jr.
4:30 -	-	Carey Girl	Displaced Persons	Loose Rock and Listen	Sports Review
4:45 -	-	Teen Carnival	Law Ayres	Dance Parade	News Midwestern Hayride
5:00 -	-	Indian Roof	Marlin Briscoe	Music for Dining	Saturday Jamboree
5:15 -	-	Sportscast	Orrie & Harold Lake	News Patti Clayton	Vic Damone
5:30 -	-	Teen Carnival	Gene Kelly—News	Music From W'wood	W'wood Star Theater
5:45 -	-	Country	Music Box	Music for Saturday	Truth or Consequences
6:00 -	-	Franklin Carle Orch.	Allen Jeffries	Attack of Tech	Hill Parade
6:15 -	-	Lamberto Land, U.S.A.	Dick Todd	Judy Canova	Judy Canova
6:30 -	-	Rep. Joe Martin	Sen. Millikin	—	—
6:45 -	-	Country Hill Parade	Haylift Hoodoo	—	—
7:00 -	-	Rep. Hugh Scott Jr.	Gene Kelly	Good Music Hour	News—Peter Grant
7:15 -	-	Holiday Guard Ball	Music Band	Lullaby in Rhythm	Music—Moor Downey
7:30 -	-	Dell Irie	—	Sign Off	News—Moose River
7:45 -	-	William S. Party	Easy on Record	-	Player Time
8:00 -	-	—	-	-	-
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8:45 -	-	-	-	-	-
9:00 -	-	-	-	-	-
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On The Air Today

TWENTY QUESTIONS — Guy Lombardo joins the panel of regulars for the third anniversary of the program. . . . WIBC 7 p. m.

HOLLYWOOD STAR THEATER — Charles Laughton introduces former Hoosier Bill Phipps as a candidate for star-dom. . . . WIRE-WLW 7 p. m.

LITTLE HERMAN — Comedy mystery starring Bill Quinn. . . . WISH 8 p. m.