

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, Whittlessey 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 that time, we Americans have gone through the first dazed and somewhat alarmed satisfaction over our enormously destructive new weapon. We've been through the "gag" period, the rather disgusting "atomic sundae" and "atomic hamburger" kind of thing.

We've also survived a period of magnificence in which we generously proposed a plan to outlaw the atomic bomb, 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 unwarmed 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 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 whirling 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 why atomic bombs are not, by any 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

1.6 Depicted (ab.)	7. High school
2.11 Expunged	8. Goddess of Infatuation
3.13 Hurler	9. Permit
4.14 Heart	10. Age
5.15 Giver	11. Diamond-cutter's cup
6.16 Regrets	12. Peruse
7.17 Hedgepodge	13. Symbol for neon
8.22 Ripped	14. Fish eggs
9.27 Surrender (comb. form)	15. Station (ab.)
10.28 Martian	16. 20 It likes
11.29 Compass point	17. Of Lent
12.30 Doctrine	18. Form a notion
13.31 Indonesian	19. Prayer
14.32 It lives in the	20. Peel
	21. Displeasure
	22. Individual
	23. Size of shot
	24. Wanderer
	25. Weight of India
	26. 34 Dance step
	27. 35 Military assistant
	28. 40 Attempt
	29. 41 Type of butterfly
	30. 50 Viper
	31. 52 Near
	32. 54 Size of shot

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. MICHENER, 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 limelight. It's an "education" novel—in this instance, the education of David Harper, Mr. Michener's hero. David, an orphan, grows 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 pasta factory owned 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 Haverford. 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, mooching type of careerwoman 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 in 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-gory 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 callisthenics seem to me unnecessary. David throughout the book has the attitudes you'd expect him to have, with the result that he seems often grudging and wooden.

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

Jap Tycoons Found Danger

"PROSPECTS FOR DEMOCRACY IN JAPAN." By T. A. Bisson. New York, Macmillan, \$2.75.

A PROMINENT writer about Asian affairs finds that the "old guard" is almost as strong as ever in Japan and may make trouble when the Allied occupation ends.

The warning is given by T. A. Bisson in "Prospects for Democracy in Japan." The book is number of a recently growing number of observers claiming that Japanese officialdom has sabotaged Gen. Douglas MacArthur's reforms.

Mr. Bisson traces the American occupation up to and including the "new trend" outlined in the April, 1948, report by Undersecretary of Army William H. Draper and others. The "Draper report" called for an economic pump-priming program aimed to restore Japanese industry and ease the occupation burden by U. S. taxpayers.

"APPLICATION of the Draper program," Mr. Bisson concludes, "... appeared destined to strengthen the old business group and restore it to good standing. In view of this group's record in relation to Japan's post-war economy, there was good reason to question whether it would utilize forthcoming American aid to the best advantage. Other Far Eastern nations were also concerned and were asking whether the old Japanese leaders could safely be entrusted with the handling of an intensive drive designed to restore Japan to the position of the 'workshop of the Far East.'"

Mr. Bisson contends that in the political field, too, the occupation has made considerable, but not enough, progress toward uprooting the feudal system that led to Japanese aggression.

"The closer down to the grass roots of Japan one gets," he said, "the more absolute becomes the old guard's control. Under the present conditions, even the present degree of liberal influence which exists in the diet and the cabinet, may prove unable to maintain itself against the intensified pressure it will face when the occupation leaves Japan."

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 fellow who turned every opportunity to his own advantage—wangled supplies and juggled 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 perjuring and blackmailing his way back to the safety of the rear areas. There he "sold" 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.

Hilda Holland Book Due in March

"Why Are You Single?" Hilda Holland's symposium on bachelorhood 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: Marynna Farnham, Arthur Garfield Hays, Louis I. Dublin, Clifford Adams, Theodor 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."

Dean Is Co-Author Of Religious Book

EVANSVILLE, Feb. 12.—Publication of "Understanding Christianity," a book by Dr. Edgar M. McKown, dean of Evansville College, and the Rev. Carl J. Scherzer, chaplain of the Protestant Deaconess Hospital, was announced today by the Ronald Press of New York.

The book is described as a guide to group study of religion. Dr. McKown is head of the department of philosophy and religion at Evansville College, besides being dean.

RADIO PROGRAMS

THIS EVENING

WFBM 1260	WIBC 1070	WIRE 1430	WISH 1310	WMLW 1590	WMLW 700
4:15 Make Mine Music	Easy Digs II	Ladle	Metropolitan Opera	Fun With Music	Tropical Echoes
4:30 " "	"	DePaul University	Tea and Compacts	Guest Star	Musicians
4:45 " "	"	Dr. L. O. J.	"	Lean Back and Listen	Dr. L. O. J.
5:00 Teen Canteen	Carver Girl	History Week	Displaced Persons	Edith Lauder	Sports Review
5:15 Teen Canteen	Wells Fargo	Sat. Lodge	Law Agency	Dance Parade	Midwestern Hayride
5:30 Teen Canteen	True or False	Ray Scott Week	Harris Bros.	"	"
5:45 " "	"	Allen Jeffries	"	"	"
6:00 Gilbert Forbes	Howell Calls	Gale & Harriet	Lake Walton	Music for Dining	Saturday Jamboree
6:15 Music for Mothers	Gene Kelly—News	Music Box	Frank Edwards	News	Vic Damone
6:30 Vaughn Monroe	Straight Arrow	Music Box	Rep. Jacobs Speaks	News	"
6:45 " "	"	Allen Jeffries	Dick Jorgens	Pell Clayton	"
7:00 Gene Kelly Show	Twenty Questions	Woodward Theater	Shirley Kay Star	Music from Wood	Woodward Theater
7:15 Philo Marlow	Take a Number	Truth or Consequences	Dick Todd	Music for Saturday	Truth or Consequences
7:30 " "	"	"	"	"	"
8:00 Gene Kelly Show	Country Carnival	Big Parade	Little Herman	Attacks of Tech	Big Parade
8:15 Frankie Carlo Ork.	Lombardo Land, U.S.A.	Judy Canova	Amazing Mr. Malone	"	Judy Canova
8:30 " "	"	"	"	"	"
9:00 Sing It Again	Country Hill Parade	Bonny Day	Soc. Millikin	"	Bonny Day
9:15 " "	"	"	"	"	"
9:30 Hugh Scott Jr.	Rep. Joe Martin	Grand Ole Opry	Harrell Headman	News	Grand Ole Opry
9:45 " "	Country Hill Parade	"	"	Good Music Hour	"
10:00 Gilbert Forbes	Gene Kelly	Allen Jeffries	News—Music	"	News—Peter Grant
10:15 National Guard Ball	Easy on Record	Mayton Downey	Dance Band	"	Mayton Downey
10:30 " "	"	Dancing Party	"	Lauby by Rhythm	Dance Orchestra
10:45 " "	"	"	"	"	"
11:00 Million \$ Party	Easy on Record	News—Sportsman	Variety Hour	Sign Off	News—Moon River
11:15 " "	"	NBC Orchestra	"	"	Moon River
11:30 " "	"	Lennie Herman Quartet	"	"	Puffer Time
11:45 " "	"	"	"	"	"
12:00 " "	"	"	"	"	"

Book Presents Brain Theory

"CYBERNETICS." By Dr. Norbert Wiener. New York, Wiley, \$3.

IN all probability future historians will regard the publication of Dr. Norbert Wiener's "Cybernetics" as the most important scientific event of 1948.

Dr. Wiener has done for the human brain what Einstein did for the universe. Dr. Wiener's work is about as complicated as relativity and it promises to become as famous.

Dr. Wiener has long been known to the world of science as a mathematical genius. His theory grew out of studies which he has carried on over several decades in collaboration with physiologists, psychologists, mathematicians and electrical engineers, and out of top-secret work which he did for the Army and Navy during World War II. He coined the name "cybernetics" from a Greek word meaning "the steersman of a ship."

THE SUB-TITLE of his book, "Control and Communication in the Animal and the Machine," is a clue to Dr. Wiener's theory.

For he believes that the human brain functions like the newer, complex electronic calculating machines. He points out that these electronic calculating machines exhibit many characteristics which formerly were thought to be properties only of the animal brain, for example, memory, association and choice.

These characteristics are achieved in the machines by the choice of certain kinds of electric circuits and Dr. Wiener believes that the same kind of electric circuit exists in human brains.

The serious reader, even though he skips the mathematical equations, will find that he can read the book with profit. R. W. M.

Book Tells About Black

"MR. JUSTICE BLACK: THE MAN AND HIS OPINIONS." By John P. Frank. New York, Knopf, \$4.

IN Mr. Justice Black: The Man and His Opinions, John P. Frank of Indiana University's law faculty presents the first full-length portrait of the court's senior justice.

Half of the book is given over to Mr. Black's personal history, half to his major opinions during the first 10 years on the court. In this way, Mr. Frank develops his theory that to fully understand the jurist you must first look at the man.

Hitherto little-known details of Mr. Black's early days in Alabama, as country youth, prosecutor, attorney and police judge in Birmingham, and ambitious young politician are related. His days in the Senate, as zealous investigator and ardent New Dealer, are recalled.

A CHAPTER each is given to Mr. Black's association with the Klan in the 1920s, and to the background of Justice Robert H. Jackson's sensational attack on his colleague from Nuernberg, Germany, in 1946.

Mr. Frank emphasizes Justice Black's personal drive and strong persuasive qualities. But he denies that Mr. Black is the leader of any "bloc" of justices.

The book is entertaining reading. As a former law clerk to the Justice, the author had opportunity for close-range observation which adds authority to the book. As the late Charles A. Beard says in an introduction, the book is worthy of thoughtful examination.

Writes Biography



John Dickson Carr, author of many mysteries, has written a new biography, "The Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle," which Harper's will publish Feb. 7.

Short Stories Refute Excuse

"19 STORIES." By Graham Greene. New York, Viking, \$2.75.

IT IS difficult to believe that Graham Greene did not have his tongue in his cheek when, in an author's note, he wrote an apology for his "19 Stories."

"I am only too conscious of the defects of these stories," he writes. "The short story is an exacting form which I have never properly practiced. I present these tales merely as the by-products of a novelist's career."

But the 18 short stories and one outline for a novel which never was written are all authentic Greene, who from "Brighton Rock" to "The Heart of the Matter" has been able to write a tight, hard story which builds up atmosphere and suspense from the first page.

"THE Basement Room" with which the book opens is perhaps the best, the story of the terror and resentment of a 7-year-old boy when he is involved as an involuntary witness in a homicide committed by his best friend, the family butler.

This one alone refutes the necessity for any apology. But every story in the book could be a model for most professional short story writers.

"The Other Side of the Border" is the outline for the novel. It is a story of life on the West African coast, and from its outline it is a pity that it never had been completed.

Book on Nazi Crimes

Henry Schuman, Inc., has postponed to Feb. 21 the publication date of "Doctors of Infamy: The Story of the Nazi Medical Crimes." The book is described as a shocking record of Nazi medical sadism as revealed in the Nuernberg trials.

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5:15 P. M.

WIBC

On The Air Today

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

W. L. Y. W. O. D. S. T. A. R. THEATRE—Charles Laughton introduces former Hoosier Bill Phipps as a candidate for stardom... WIRE-WLW 7 p. m.

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

BASKETBALL GAME—Crispus Attucks plays at Tech... WLW (FM) 8 p. m.

LOMBARDO LAND, U. S. A.—Musical variety program featuring Guy Lombardo and his orchestra... WIBC 8:30 p. m.

Wild Adventure Highlights Novel

"THE KILLER MINE." A novel. By Hammond Innes. New York, Harper, \$2.50.

A smuggling gang's attempt to blow a hole in the bottom of the sea off the Cornwell coast, thus opening up a passage into an underwater shaft of an abandoned tin mine, provides the background of "The Killer Mine," by Hammond Innes.

The smuggling plan was hatched by Captain Manack, a devil-may-care adventurer who preferred the excitement of smuggling to the legal fortune that a rich new lode in the tin mine would bring him.

The efforts of Manack's mad father to thwart the smuggling plan and reclaim the mine reach a climax of terror and suspense deep underground.

\$1 Dictionary

Random House has just announced that the next project of its dictionary department will be a small, concise Dollar Dictionary. The text will be based on "The American Dictionary," which has sold over 200,000 copies to date.

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THE ALLIED FLORISTS ASSN. of Indianapolis

Dean Is Co-Author Of Religious Book

Time State Service

EVANSVILLE, Feb. 12.—Publication of "Understanding Christianity," a book by Dr. Edgar M. McKown, dean of Evansville College, and the Rev. Carl J. Scherzer, chaplain of the Protestant Deaconess Hospital, was announced today by the Ronald Press of New York.

The book is described as a guide to group study of religion. Dr. McKown is head of the department of philosophy and religion at Evansville College, besides being dean.

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Lady Borden CHERRY VANILLA is delicious!

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