

THE TIMES BOOK PAGE

Social, Moral Problems Emphasized in Three Important New Novels

"DUKE." A novel. By Hal Ellison. New York, Scribner's, \$2.75.
"THE PRICE IS RIGHT." A novel. By Jerome Weidman. New York, Harcourt, Brace, \$3.
"TENDER MERCY." A novel. By Lenard Kaufman. New York, Creative Age, \$3.

By HENRY BUTLER
THREE important new novels deal with social and moral problems. The first, Hal Ellison's "Duke," is less a novel than a vivid document of Harlem juvenile delinquency.

The second, "The Price Is Right," a new novel by Jerome Weidman, is a study of the morality or immorality of success. And the third, "Tender Mercy," by Lenard Kaufman, who won acclaim with "The Lower Part of the Sky," poses a very special kind of moral problem: What are a devoted, responsible and kindly married couple to do with an idiot son—chronologically a man, but psychologically a human vegetable?

NONE OF THE three books can be recommended to readers who seek mere diversion, though Mr. Weidman's book probably is the most entertaining, despite its fundamental seriousness.

"Duke" is the chronicle of a 15-year-old Harlem gang-leader, as told by Duke himself, Mr. Ellison bases his story on notes taken in years of work as a recreational therapist helping delinquents.

So Duke is a composite character. He's real, he's an individual with his own tragic problems, but he's also representative of countless similar youngsters throughout the country who annually run up the bill we must pay for continuing to tolerate slums.

The fact that he is a Negro is only part of Duke's trouble. True, the Spanish girl he loved—the only girl he loved—moved out of the neighborhood when her parents saw the growing interest and feared it. "You can't change your skin," Duke tells himself miserably.

DUKE'S STEPFATHER and older brother work. So does his mother, who spends all day getting ready for white people and then comes home to the tenement to get supper for the family.

The only honest work Duke could get would be something like shining shoes. He wants no part of that. It's easier and more profitable to use his wit running dope-errands for marijuana peddlers. Besides pay, he collects a small supply of the weed for himself. It helps him forget sadness and boredom.

Duke is president of the Mighty Counts, a destructive and sometimes murderous adolescent gang. When temporarily they have made peace with the Kings, their chief rivals, the Counts start a lucrative prostitution business in an abandoned house, with their teenage "molls" as the girls. Money means flashy clothes, "reefers" and plenty of liquor.

AS MR. ELLISON lets Duke tell his story, the reader gets new insight into the essentially sick minds of young delinquents. Duke has sickening fears, even hallucinations associated with guilt and frustration. The drugs he uses to ease his mental pain eventually lead him to murder.

Reading Duke's own story—well documented, according to Mr. Ellison's preface—you can see more clearly the "why" of delinquency. It's a sickness of privation, like TB or rheumatic heart trouble.

Mr. Ellison's grim and powerful book will help you understand things you may find shocking in newspaper stories even here in Indianapolis.

"THE PRICE IS RIGHT," Mr. Weidman's study of a battle for prestige and profit between New York news syndicates, strikes me as better than some other recent novels in much the same field.

With admirable gifts for satirical writing, Mr. Weidman brings to life in his pages a

Rare Chinese Flower Print Shown Here



A rare Chinese print is this one of wind-blown flowers, one of 80 in the noted "Mustard Seed Garden" series, a complete set of which is in the Herron Art Museum's permanent collection. The print shown here currently is on display in the museum, together with other examples of Chinese and Japanese flower prints.

'Howlin' Mad' In New Book

"CORAL AND BRASS." By Gen. Holland M. Smith. New York, Scribner, \$3.

"Today I live in a little white house by the side of the road, strive to be a friend to my fellow man, and raise flowers, vegetables and grandchildren."

Well, maybe so. Maybe he's not 'howlin' mad any more, but I'm inclined to doubt it, judging from the preceding pages of vituperation heaped upon the almost every non-Marine he came in contact with.

HE'S MAD at Gen. Douglas MacArthur for not giving the Marines any publicity; Admiral Kelly Turner for not giving the Marines a prize; Admiral Chester Nimitz for riding to fame on Marine victories; Lieut. Gen. Robert Richardson Jr. for opposing his removal of Gen. Ralph Smith from command of the 27th Division at Saipan.

When he isn't being mad at someone Gen. Smith is being right about something. He knew in advance that Tarawa was a mistake; Tinian would be easy; the Japs had left Iwo; Iwo Jima would be hell; Japan would never be invaded.

Occasionally Gen. Smith tires of praising himself and inserts some kind words about him by his side, who no doubt is just as objective on the subject of Gen. Smith as the general is himself.

IF YOU can put up with some of the most annoying conceit that has come out of this war you may enjoy Gen. Smith's account of his fight to build up an amphibious Marine force and the success it achieved in island warfare. Like Gen. Patton his brilliance as a soldier outweighed his incredible arrogance and made him one of our most valuable assets in the Pacific.

Just how valuable this diatribe remains for military analysts to judge. "Coral and Brass" is a good title for it—bitter and nervy.—R.W.M.

War of 1812 History Told

"THE WAR OF 1812." By Francis Beine. New York, Dutton, \$5.

Many a bright page of history has been made in the war of 1812. The United States has fought but few of them occurred in the War of 1812.

It was a war that need not have happened if communications had been faster. The battle of New Orleans never would have been fought.

The two chief reasons for the war were the Orders in Council of Great Britain and impressment of American sailors. The first was rescinded two days before war was declared by the United States. Impressment wasn't mentioned in Madison's message to Congress.

THE DETAILS of this amazing war are set out in "The War of 1812," by Francis Beine. He is associate editor of the Baltimore Sun.

This two-and-a-half-year war saw the Americans making nearly every possible mistake on land and winning some brilliant victories on the sea—a reversal of what had been expected.

This war also saw militiamen stand on the south bank of a river dividing the U. S. from Canada and permit regulars on the other side to be cut to pieces by the British. The militia was not required to leave the country.

It also saw New England merchants and traders sell supplies to the British—throughout the war, even when their coats were being raided.

Evelyn Waugh's Newest Satire Seems to Lack Usual Bite

"SCOTT-KING'S MODERN EUROPE." A novel. By Evelyn Waugh. Boston, Little, Brown, \$2.

"Scott-King's Modern Europe" is not one of Evelyn Waugh's major works. He himself calls it a "light tale." It first appeared in Cosmopolitan as a novelette under the title of "A Sojourn in Neutralia."

The latter is a Balkan totalitarian state to which Scott-King, an English public school Latin teacher, is invited to honor an obscure poet, Bellorus.

Here is the usual Waugh situation, a man utterly out of place, the dupe of numerous treacheries, aimlessly buffeted about by people with no feeling whatsoever.

Scott-King himself is something of a departure. Like most Waugh heroes he is passive, but he is also good. He stands for something which Mr. Waugh loves and therefore has none of the absurdity of William Boot in "Scorpio" or Basil Seal in "Black Mischief."

Lacking an extremely absurd personality Scott-King cannot be the comic figure he should be.

I THINK another reason Mr. Waugh's sword edge is blunted lies in the positive approach to life he has adopted since joining the Catholic Church. In his early novels he was utterly destructive of all middle-class values and offered nothing in their stead.

Now there are and although "Scott-King's Modern Europe" is pleasant reading, it is disappointing.—R. W. M.

'Gay... Free' Wish Called Key to Mind

"BASIC PRINCIPLES OF PSYCHOANALYSIS." By Dr. A. A. Brill. New edition. New York, Doubleday, \$3.45.

"Basic Principles of Psychoanalysis," by Dr. A. A. Brill is essentially a primer on the functions of the unconscious. Dr. Brill states his thesis in a postscript: "All unconscious mentation is motivated fundamentally by the wish."

Psychoanalysis, as Dr. Brill explains it, consists of finding out what is bothering the patient and causing the neurotic or psychotic symptoms that need treatment.

Once the fundamental wish is laid bare, so to speak, the patient understands the relationship between the wish and the symptoms and theoretically is able to make an adjustment.

THE WISH, Dr. Brill avers, is buried deep in the "unconscious" and must be tracked down by means of clues offered through free association, or uninhibited discussion of unconscious thoughts. The dream is the most important type of unconscious mentation and its interpretation therefore furnishes the majority of clues.

The book, Dr. Brill admits freely, leans heavily on the theories of Sigmund Freud. It might be called an American adaptation of Freud's theories, which were propounded and tested in a European setting. Dr. Brill uses American case histories to illustrate his points.

"Basic Principles of Psychoanalysis" was first published in 1921 and revised by Dr. Brill for this edition. Dr. Brill died in 1948 and some few minor revisions of the manuscript were made by Dr. Philip R. Lehrman.

THE WRITER noted that the Japanese are noticeably trying to help themselves—more than most other Asiatic countries and even some European nations.

RADIO PROGRAMS

THIS EVENING		WFBM 1240	WIBC 1070	WIRE 1430	WISH 1310	WLW 1590	WLW-700
4:00	4:15	4:30	4:45	4:00	4:15	4:30	4:45
5:00	5:15	5:30	5:45	5:00	5:15	5:30	5:45
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10:00	10:15	10:30	10:45	10:00	10:15	10:30	10:45
11:00	11:15	11:30	11:45	11:00	11:15	11:30	11:45

Train Man For One World

"MOST OF THE WORLD." A symposium. Edited by Ralph W. Linton. New York, Columbia University Press, \$5.50.

Man's physical world, suddenly linked by radio, airplane, atomic formulae and countless other new tools—and weapons—has been welded into "one world."

In bewildering contrast is man's world of human relations. Fierce competitions rage, changes are slow, races struggle, ancient prejudices move powerfully, and the world of political action presents what social scientists often regard as a humiliating picture.

Fourteen such scientists have joined in a symposium titled "Most of the World," which points up the immense problems facing men.

THEIR WORK is a 917-page study of Africa, Asia, India, Mexico and Indonesia, the Near East and all of mainland Latin America, except three countries usually considered as 100 per cent white in racial type—Argentina, Uruguay and Costa Rica.

The populations of these countries are non-European for the most part. They are the nations "now winning their freedom from political or economic domination," editor Ralph W. Linton, Yale University anthropologist, explains.

Furthermore, they do not belong on "either side of the iron curtain." Capitalism and communism, democracy and totalitarianism are equally foreign to these nations, and any apparent conversion to any of them will be only a transitory episode in the slow unfolding of their own deeply rooted civilizations," Mr. Linton comments.

IT IS difficult to accept this verdict, or to link Chile and China, for instance, in a world perspective. "Most of the World" sets out to do just this, however, by a series of detailed analyses of racial, cultural, historical, educational, political, religious, geographical, climatic and physical studies of each of the 10 major areas involved and their component peoples and nations.

Opinions are expressed freely by the various authors, whose scholarly thoroughness at times tends to enumerate more difficulties than solutions. Most are unanimous in emphasizing that it is man, not nature, who must be conquered, guided and developed.

Macmillan Editor To Read Manuscripts

Cecil Scott, an editor of the Macmillan Co., will be in Indianapolis Mar. 1 to Mar. 4 to confer with Indiana authors who have full-length manuscripts ready for examination.

Mr. Scott, who will stay at the Lincoln Hotel, will look at manuscripts in all fields, fiction and nonfiction, except textbooks, juveniles and poetry, according to the publishing firm.

No Place To Hide

Bantam Books next Wednesday will publish a half million reprint copies of Dr. David Bradley's "No Place to Hide," his widely read report on the dangers of atomic radiation based on Bikini findings.

LISTEN TO MUSICAL MANHUNT WIBC

Every Sunday 1:30 to 2:00 P. M. The Biggest Local Prize Show in Indiana. Sponsored by HOME APPLIANCE CO. 3360 N. Illinois. SIMMONS. Furniture & Appliance Co. 53-55 W. 34th.

Japs Overwork Their Culture

"POPCORN ON THE GINZA." By Lucy Herndon Crockett. New York, Sloane, \$3.50.

The Japanese people deserve and are getting the friendship and co-operation of U. S. occupying forces, a woman observer reports, but progress would be faster if the Japanese would put less faith in their culture.

Lucy Herndon Crockett makes this observation in "Popcorn on the Ginza," a book based on her experiences with the American Red Cross in post-war Japan.

Award Winner



Bucklin Moon, author of the 1943 novel "The Darker Brother," has won the George Washington Carver Award for his new novel, "Without Magnolia," to be published by Doubleday Apr. 7. Set in a small Florida town, the forthcoming novel presents a panorama of the Negro world, according to the publisher.

Van Paassen Tells Story of Jesus

"Why Jesus Died," a new nonfiction work by Pierre van Paassen, author of "Days of Our Years," will be published May 9 by the Dial Press.

According to the publisher, Mr. van Paassen attempts to tell the Jesus story as it actually happened.

Shaw Autobiography

Bernard Shaw's long-awaited unconventional autobiography now is definitely scheduled for publication Mar. 28 by Dodd, Mead under the title "Sixteen Self Sketches." The book will contain 24 pages of photographs.

Morgan Book Due

"The Great Pierpont Morgan," a new estimate of the legendary financier by Frederick Lewis Allen, author of "Only Yesterday," and other best-sellers, will be published in March by Harper's.



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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Striped Animal
HORIZONTAL
1 Depicted animal
6 Sticking substance
11 Lingo
13 Click beetle
14 Altitude (ab.)
15 Indigent
17 Scottish animal
18 Sheepfold
20 Pedal digit
21 Edge
22 Sun god
23 Opera (ab.)
24 Misplaced
26 Nuisance
29 Paid notice
30 Girl's name
31 Ripped
34 Indian mulberry
35 Love god
36 Sleeveless garment
38 Symbol for manganese
39 Correlative of either
40 New Guinea port
41 Extinct bird
44 Pitch
46 Metal fastener
47 Pope's triple crown
49 Fish eggs
51 Dedicated
53 Fleet
55 Goddess of peace
56 Provide with food
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6 Inclination
7 Rough lava
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9 Abound
10 Before
12 Snake flax
13 Dutch city
16 Daybreak
17 Biblical (comb. form)
19 Column
21 Stout cord
24 Tardy
25 It can eject an offensive (ab.)
27 Philip
28 Story
32 Fantasy
33 Domestic slave
36 Camper's folding bed
37 Biblical mountain
40 Precipitator
41 Middle
42 On account
43 Brazilian macaw
45 Was borne
46 Greek letter
47 Device used in golf
48 Part of a circle
50 Auricle
52 Registered nurse (ab.)
54 Mother

On the Air Today

TWENTY QUESTIONS—Radio version of popular parlor game with Peggy Wood as guest panelist. WIBC 7 p. m.

HOLLYWOOD STAR THEATER—Vivica Lindfors, cover girl the current issue of "Life" magazine, introduces Mercedes McCambridge. WIRE-WLW 7 p. m.

BASKETBALL GAME—Indiana plays at Purdue. WIBC 7:30 p. m.

LITIE HERMAN—Comedy-mystery starring Bill Quinn titled "Blood of India." WISH 8 p. m.

BASKETBALL GAME—Western Reserve plays at Butler. WLW (FM) 8 p. m.

Guide Book Announced

The first authorized translation of Andre Gide's personal memories concerning Oscar Wilde will be published Mar. 15 by the Philosophical Library. Written at the turn of the century, Gide's sympathetic sketches will be presented under the title "Oscar Wilde."

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