## A Close Look at America In a Fast-Changing World

D. W. BROGAN

changing world, "the Ameri-

can people will need to show

flexibility of means if not of ends. readiness to look un-

pleasant realities in the face,

resignation to the fact that

their destiny is totally en-

meshed with that of the

whole human race as it

stands at the edge of space.

Many comfortable and, in

their day, rational and use-

ful beliefs and habits will

Americans are too apt to ex-

pect "democracies" in other

parts of the world to be fash-

ioned in the image of the

United States, when, as a

matter of cold logic, such a

form of government may not

be suited or practical for all

In the Arts

dox in this country. While we have a tradition of con-

formity in the arts, as our

mass mediums of entertain-

ment emphasize, yet-and

he considers this a desirable

form of tolerance-we are

not closed to any new form

of art or experimental phi-

Mr. Brogan thinks it likely

that the literary arts may be

giving way in prestige, per-

losophy or religion.

He finds a cultural para-

these countries.

Mr. Brogan points out that

have to be scrapped."

AMERICA IN THE MODERN WORLD. By D. W. Brogan (Rutgers University;

Despite its rather heavy title, this book is not in the least difficult to read. It is, on the contrary, penetrating without bombast, witty without straining to be amusing, always thoughtful and deftly

The work of an Englishman, it has none of that faint aloofness and touch of superiority which make some such books irritating. It is entirely friendly to America and yet critical enough to give any impartial reader pause.

#### Viewing Our Problem

The essay of a professor of political science at Cam-bridge, it could hardly be less pedantic or formal in its approach to our problems.

It displays, finally, such an intimate knowledge of the United States that you'd swear, if you did not know, that it was written by an American.

### Not to Be Laughed Off

Mr. Brogan warns us, in the epiloque, that it will not do to laugh off as a mere stunt, as a waste of resources, the great Soviet triumphs in space. He ex-

"Showing mankind, for the first time in its very long history, the other side of the moon is more than a dazzling feat of technical invention and execution. It is a demonstration of the power of the Soviet society to do things unprecedented in the history of human achieve-

"If," he adds, "the Russians keep the lead in this conquest of space, this transcendence of human limitations, can we wonder that all over the worlds tens, even hundreds of millions of men, aroused from their millennial resignation, will wonder whether it be not true that communism has the key to human progress, that the old 'free world' is stagnant and deposed from its fairly recent role of world leadership? Sputniks may not fill men's bellies, but they may well fill men's minds."

To deal with a rapidly

the refuge of the intelligent man and woman of today and that not because hi-fi has enabled him to gratify his tastes, but because those tastes have produced the market for hi-fi."

#### Talent Or Genius?

But "a lot of harm is done when a great popular success like 'South Pacific' or 'My Fair Lady' is puffed up until the distinction between talent and genius is lost sight of, between the work to which one may give the adjective 'immortal' with no pedantic scruple and commercial productions of high amusement value that are extremely unlikely to survive the generation that welcomes them . . . 'My Fair Lady' is not 'The Marriage of Figaro;' 'By Love Possessed' is not 'War and Peace' or 'The Ambas-

A PORTRAIT IN FULL LENGTH

ography of Paul Cezanne.

(Holt, Rinehart & Winston, \$4.50.)

Mr. Hanson is certainly our

most prolific and versatile

biographer. No fewer than

nine lives already bear his

name, .ranging from "Chi-

nese" Gordon to the four

Brontes. In most of these

his wife, Elisabeth Hanson, is

This book is about that un-

understandable, unlovable

artist, Paul Cezanne. Be-

cause Cezanne is hard to un-

derstand both as a man and

as an artist it should be said

at once that his newest bi-

ographer accepts much and

forgives more. He has been

able, thus, to achieve a bal-

anced position of tolerance

strange moody little man

who was the despair of his

friends and who has had the

good luck to make his de-

tractors look silly. Is for his

art, Mr. Hanson has, of

course, taken the position

that nothing can detract.

from his vigor and original-

ity, qualities which made him

one of the two or three most

influential painters of his

all his future biographers by

being born rich. No starving

Cezanne played a trick on

and even admiration for the

co-author.

Lawrence Hanson.

Paul Cezanne Made His

in a Paris garret for him. His

father supported him during

all the years he was studying

and painting and not selling

in Paris. He made the Salon

only after 19 years of steady

rejection. But he kept on:

create . . . but he didn't know

what to create." Working be-tween the new impressionism

and his own brand of real-

ism, he finally hit upon one

of the magic formulas in all the history of art.

But what of him as a man?

He was difficult. He never got over childhood hurts and

imagined shortcomings. He

didn't like or trust people. He was at his best painting

things, not people. "When he

paints one of his friends it looks as if he were reveng-

ing himself for some secret

But he kept on fighting for

injury," said one of them.

expression-his own expres-

sion-on canvas. When he

got it, he worked harder than

ever and left one of the

greatest legacies of his time.

Mr. Hanson's book is work-manlike and professional in

every respect. It breathes

more, perhaps, of the fash-

ionable portrait painter than

of the shy, inscrutable little

bourgeois from Aix who

never really adjusted to the

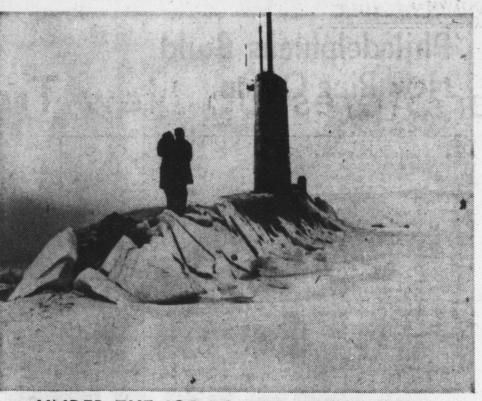
world, but time has made

-EDWIN TRIBBLE

him fashionable, too.

. . a man with a rage to

**Detractors Look Silly** 



## UNDER THE ICE TO THE NORTH POLE

Jacket art from "Surface at the Pole" by Comdr. James Calvert (McGraw-Hill) soon to be published. Here, told by the man who commanded her, is the eagerly awaited tale of the nuclear submarine USS Skate which surfaced nine times on its summer cruise and broke through the ice itself in the dead of winter—the first ship in history to reach open air in the eerie, silent fastness of the North Pole.

Washington, D. C. July 3, 1960

FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

THE SUNDAY STAR

## **Books and Vacations** Belong Together

If you want to know how children's books are doing these days, don't ask a librarian or a bookseller. Just read THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. About 10 days ago, this financial newspaper reported as front-age news that sales of children's books have increased 124 er cent in the last seven years. This is a greater increase than any other type of book, though textbooks, technical, scientific, and reference books are not far behind. All of these types are way ahead of adult fiction, both hardback and paperback. What's more. these figures are for juveniles costing at least \$1, not for the masses of less expensive books which also help to develop the reading habit.

These figures prove statistically that every child today has a better chance to read than his parents, or his

Grave, gentle grandfather,

is the colony's worst teveri-

ano. For his integrity and

other-worldliness he

is known as Don Quixote,

but as grandmother remarks

in her tart way, "there are

no windmills in Brooklyn.'

The king of the teverianos

is Agapito, who is as bold and

unscrupulous as a conquista-

dor. Agapito deals in whisky,

too, and once, inadvertently,

in dope. Agapito's first stroke

in America was to disguise

himself as a priest and sell

"Havanas" at wild prices to bishops. A firm anti-clerical,

like all the Spanish men in

Brooklyn, he felt no shame about these ill-gotten gains

until a priest in a shabby

cassock shamed him by being

"I couldn't get over the

shock of seeing this man so

poor in such a rich organiza-

tion as the Church," Agapito

said and swore off priest-

Fandango-Fiasco

The other best sketch re-

impersonating forever.

generous.



"Bright Lights at Night," an illustration by Winifred Lubell from "Crea-

tures of the Night." grandparents, and much better books, too. He will still read the old favorites, if they're not pushed down his throat, and if they are available in pleasant-looking, wellprinted editions. But his read-

ing appetite is most stimulated by a constant stream of new books, all year round. During vacation, a book in the hand is as important as his bathing suit.

Happy Books

The gay, carefree feeling of vacation is captured by Aileen Fisher, the children's poet, in a happy picture book called GOING BAREFOOT (Crowell; \$3). The allustrations by Adrienne Adams are as spontaneous and imaginative as the rollicking, intui-

Other happy books about a child's joy, outdoors in summer, watching bugs and beetles and butterflies, can be shared by parent and child. I LIKE BUTTERFLIES by Gladys Conklin and Barbara Latham (Holiday House; \$2.95) is the perfect companion to I Like Caterpillars by the same author-artist team. In QUICK AS A WINK (Putnams; \$2.75) Dorothy Aldis alternates gay little poems about dragonflies, lady bugs, and other small creatures with short informational sections. Surprisingly this difficult combination of prose and poetry has artistic

## In the Woods

lates to grandfather's adventurous bid for the greatest Most children are naturally Spanish dancer of his day to curious about small insects dance for "La Espana." Manand animals. In summer olin has gone to flesh and especially, they are ready to a flasco seems in the making. explore in woods, field, or The suspense of the episode, stream, by day or night. The right books can answer quesold man in his moment of tions and suggest activities truth and the resolution are which will make outdoor exbrilliantly satisfying. plorations more satisfying. "Windmills in Brooklyn" is

a slow, quiet, wholly winning CREATURES OF THE book which deserves an "Ole!" NIGHT by Dorothy Sterling (Doubleday; \$2.95) is a more -MARY McGRORY. comprehensive treatment of the subject so well introduced by Glenn Blough in When the Sun Goes Down. Other valu-

> naturalist are: UNDER A GREEN ROOF by Anne Marie Jauss (Lippincott: \$2.95)

able books for the young

SMALL PETS FROM WOODS AND FIELDS by Margaret Waring Buck (Abingdon; \$3).

HERE COME THE BEES by Alice E. Goudey (Scribners; \$2.50).

SHELLS ARE WHERE YOU FIND THEM by Eliza-

beth Clemons (Knopf; \$2.75). SCIENCE ON THE SHORES AND BANKS by Elizabeth K. Cooper (Harcourt; \$3.25).

## Skunks and Mermaids

Sally Scott introduces a prowling skunk and a wasp's nest with amusing effect in a family story for 6-8 year olds, JUDY'S SUMMER AD-VENTURE (Harcourt; \$2.50). For mixed ages under 12, Margaret Baker's mystery of a Brighton mermaid. THE MAGIC SEA SHELL (Holt; \$3) will appeal strongly to those who favor English fantasies. Of its kind, it's excel-

In American junior fiction, runaway orphans are as out-moded as cruel stepmothers. In Sweden, it's different, at least in Astrid Lindgren's story of RASMUS AND THE VAGABOND (Viking; \$2.75), winner of the Hans Christian Andersen medal, an international

Rasmus is an orphan who decides to run away from the orphanage to find a home of his own. In a very short time, he is homesick and hungry, a situation delightfully remedied by Paradise Oscar, a tramp who calls himself "God's best friend." Rasmus and Oscar become good companions, singing for their supper and sleeping under the sky, until they cross the evil path of two black-hearted robbers. There's a nice blend of outward and inward adventure, a book to be remem-

bered by children and critics. ADVERTISEMENT

Looking for a

### haps in cultural utility, to other arts, to the plastic arts and, above all, to music. "Music, I think, has become A Scandinavian Tribute

To U. S. Friendship PRESENT: FIVE MOD-ERN DEMOCRACIES. Published by Edvard Henriksen. (Arnkrone, Copenhagen; for sale only by publisher, but available in all major libraries in the United States, public and

at universities) This work, in three volumes, describing the life and history of the five Scandinavian countries-Denmark Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland-was commissioned to be written in English es-

#### pecially for Americans. Work in 3-Volumes

The guiding idea behind this immense undertaking. the publisher, Edvard Henriksen, explains in a preface, "has partly been to create a tangible expression of the gratitude which the Scandinavian peoples feel toward the United States because of what that country has meant during and after the last war, partly to produce a work which tells the comprehensive story of Scandinavia-past and present."

The three volumes contain about 2,150 pages. The historical and cultural development of the Scandinavian countries, with special emphasis on the artistic life of the old Scandinavians, is described in Volumes I and II. Volume III tells of what these countries are like todaytheir culture, systems of government, laws and defense, their social conditions, educational achievements, libraries, science, press, theater, films, radio and other communications.

#### **Books Are Handsome** The volumes are beautifully

printed and profusely illus-While the books at present

The Sunday Star

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"The Affair." Snow

NONFICTION

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2. "Mr. Citizen," Truman

5. "Hawaii," Michener

of each book among best sellers at

For Week Ending July 1, 1960

6. "View From the Fortieth Floor," White

"Stages of Economic Growth," Rostow

5. "Felix Frankfurter Reminisces," Phillips

"Carp's Washington," Carpenter

"The Leopard," Lampadusa

2. "Advise and Consent," Drury

publishers-the price is approximately \$100 and bookstores may order themsome 2,700 copies of the work were sent to public and college libraries for the use of students and others inter-

The work should be invaluable to anyone whose interest in Scandinavia is deeper than tourist guides or more superficial books would satisfy. -C. B. J.

## In Coney Island

THE BREAKWATER. By George Mandel. (Holt, Rinehart & Winston; \$4.95.)

The setting of this novel of youth is Coney Island during the depression years. The chief figure is Zale Rakusin, whom we meet in 1933 at the age of 14 and last see six years later, when he has grown into a troubled, ill-adjusted manhood. There is his friend, Fishie, a year younger, who kills himself at the beginning of the long story. There are other tragedies, all concerned with the confused life of several Jewish families torn between orthodoxy and modern dilem-Zale's kid brother, Doodie, and others are important in the story. Mr. Mandel, author of "Flee the Angry Strangers," is a sensitive, often poetic writer. But "The Breakwater" is so determinedly literary that the earthy problems of the characters often are smothered in gaudy images. Apparently the author has tried to get away from the naturalistic approach. Perhaps he has tried too hard.

SON SON CO.

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## Journal of a Romantic Migration Undersail

MERCER'S BELLES. By Roger Conant. Edited by Lenna A. Deutsch. (Uni-

versity of Washington Press. \$4.75.) A year after the Civil War no one had heard of a popu-

lation explosion, and in the Pacific Northwest there was an acute need for more settlers-female types preferred. An enterprising entrepreneur named Asa Mercer tried to remedy this deficit by

sailing some 50 women and girls from New York to Seattle where they were to marry bachelor woodsmen and thus assure the growth of Washington Territory. Like many other imagina-

tive leaders, Mercer disdained mundane matters, and was constantly in financial distress. Creditors harried him, and the cash he had collected from husbands and wives-to-be trickled away. While the S. S. Continental cleared Manhattan. the promotor hid himself in the coalhole. The subsequent adventures

and misadventures of "Mer-

Roger Conant, a 31-year-old bachelor reporter for the New York Times who went

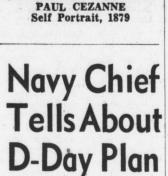
along in line of duty. Once at Sea. Mercer tried to regain his lost prestige. He preached a Sunday sermon, barred card playing, forbade his girls from flirting with the ship's officers and ordered all abed by 10 o'clock.

Such male fatuity was roundly rebuffed. His girls, when they weren't seasick. blithely ignored him. They giggled at his preaching, stayed up late, strolled the decks with the officers and went on excursions ashore

with them. Finally, catching the spirit of his own venture, Mercer selected an amiable widow. wooed and married her when the ship reached Seattle after a 3-months cruise.

Laura A. Deutsch, who edited the Conant journal, lists the weddings of many other Mercer Belles in an appendix, by way of affirming the success of the romantic migration.

-JOSEPH O'KEEFE



THE FAR SHORE. By Edward Ellsberg. (Dodd, Mead & Co.; \$4.95.)

Anyone who has read "The Longest Day" or "The Sixth of June" or who happened to be in Normandy in 1944, knows the tragic mistakes that nearly turned the victory at Omaha Beach into an American debacle.

Salvage Expert

This book, by celebrated naval salvage expert Ellsberg, is sort of an engineering study of events leading up to D-Day. It freshens in the mind events that no American should ever forget.

Admiral Ellsberg's primary concern was with the Mulberries, the Phoenix's and the Whales - the devices conjured up by allied engineers to make usable harbor on a shore when none ex-

isted. But his skill as a writer and, perhaps a certain sense of detachment because he wasn't there on D-Day, have permitted him to pen a remarkably clear account of just what happened.

## Turned Into Victory

The story isn't new but it is skillfully told in "The Far Shore" and well worth reading in relation to the other accounts of the invasion. Despite the most careful planning, the bombs didn't fall where they were aimed: the rockets missed the beaches; the troops were landed mostly in the wrong places.

Yet, the Americans did win at Omaha when it seemed that all was lost. The keynote of the whole story is this: Almost certain defeat was turned into victory, and it was done by men, not ma-

-JERRY O'LEARY, JR.

SPAIN IN AMERICA, 'OLE!'

### Into the Happy Heart Of a Migrant Land For an unpretentious and mislabeled, at exorbitant

prices.

wholly engaging book which will take you into the heart of another world, you will find none better than Prudencio Pereda's WINDMILLS IN BROOKLYN (Atheneum; Mr. De Pereda grew up in the Spanish colony of Brook-

lyn. He is the first chronicler of Spanish immigrants we can remember, and he's awfully good. Unlike others who try to bring home the unspeakable picturesqueness of life in a foreign land—the enclaves of transplanted Europeans-he does not belabor the local color. There are minimal details about food, drink and customs in his fictionized account. His book, in the best Spanish manner, is uncluttered. It is heavy in character.

Mr. De Pereda concentrates on a handful of powerful personalities: The boy - narrator's grandfather, a noble old gentleman, mild and sad; his imperious, beautiful grandmother; his unsuitable friend, Agapito, and finally, a generous Spanish widow who looked like "one of those La Chaise statues."

### Cigar Smoke

The existence of these peoliterally blue with smoke. All first-generation Spaniards were in the cigar business. It has its own hierachy. At the bottom were the "teverianos"—the junk dealers, who sold the vile sweepings, fantastically

Other Books in Brief

THE MAGICIAN OF LUB-LIN. By Isaac Bashevis Singer. (Noonday, \$3.50.) The story of an exceptional individual's struggle with

## GENERAL

YOU CAN TALK WELL. By Richard Reager. (Rutgers. \$3.95.) A Guide to Good Speaking (revised). VATICANISM. By Albert

Levitt. (Vantage, \$3.) Political principles of the Roman Catholic Church. FLORAL DECORATIONS FOR YOUR CHURCH. By

Fern Bowers Hunt. (Chilton, \$6.95.) Flower Designs for all occassions. FENCING. By C-L de Beaumont. (Barnes, \$6.50.) An-

cient art and modern sport. THE LIGHTED HEART. By Elizabeth Yates. (Dutton, \$4.50.) The true story of a husband and wife, of the crisis they faced and of the rich new life they

built together. HISTORY & BIOGRAPHY

FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE: FIGHTER FOR FREE DOM. By Rudolph Steiner. (Rudolph Steiner, \$4.75). THE NEGRO IN AMERI-

CAN CIVILIZATION. By Nathaniel Weyl. (Public Affairs Press, \$6.) The author, a Washington resident and former Government employe, discusses the

racial issue. EARLY MODERN EUROPE FROM ABOUT 1450 TO ABOUT 1720. By Sir George Clark. (Oxford, \$1.50.) The story of European civilization, Western and Eastern, in the period

Ages. (Reprint.) NINETEENTH - CENTURY EUROPEAN CIVILIZA-TION: 1815-1914. By Geoffrey Brunn. (Oxford, \$1.50.) (Reprint.)

which followed the Middle

# American Slang: As a Lexicographer Tries to Define It

CAN SLANG. Compiled and Edited by Harold Wentworth and Stuart Berg Flexner. (Thomas Y. Crowell Company. \$7.50)

The universal fascination of slang, its color, its accuracy, its vitality, does much to make the "Dictionary of American Slang" a very good book: the volume's compilers, by what appears to be hasty and slipshod work and by a dull and cloudy view of their job, have done much to make it a very bad one. Eight thousand slang words and expressions, alphabetically ranged, are well worth the price of the book, but the reader will have to find a more painstaking and perceptive lexicographer to learn what Stuart Flexner vainly promises to tell - what American slang is, and how and why slang is created and

"American slang," according to Mr. Flexner, "is the body of words and expressions frequently used by or intelligible to a rather large portion of the general American public, but not accepted as good, formal usage by the

Very well; but thereupon Mr. Flexner tries to differentiate slang, colloquialisms. cant, jargon, dialect and argot. In standard English one might say "Sir, you speak English well." Colloquially, according to Mr. Flexner, but not slangily, this comes out "Friend, you talk plain and hit the nail right on the head." Where would you actually hear that stilted sentence? In slang, says Mr. Flexner, the original English becomes "Buster, your line is the cat's pajamas" or "Doll, you come on with the straight jazz, real cool like." Either of these two prime examples of Mr. Flexner, in addition to not conveying the original meaning, is an insult to the vividness and point of genuine slang.

Slang as a whole is more common in speech than in writing, says Mr. Flexner, thus, very few slang words (hence very few of the entries in this dictionary) appear in standard dictionaries." It is hard to understand what he is talking about when we find that almost all the entries in "American Slang" have citations from written sources.

that the dictionary is based on "the classical principle of historical sequence - wherever possible three dates are given: when the slang word was first used, when its meaning changed substantially, and when it went out of fashion" is simply a joke. The value of the book is greatly damaged by this slovenly research. Opening at random, one finds these first citations-"nix, 1942," "nodice, 1952," "noggin, 1943," "no-good, noun, 1951, adj., 1946," "no-hitter, 1952," and so on, page after page. The definitions are often vague or not quite exact, as "no kidding-A somewhat doubting response to a statement that seems not entirely credible.' There is no mention that it is also frequently an exclamation of pleasure. A Nip is a Japanese, but there is no reference to the swallow one takes from a flask. Every dictionary has faults, but this one has more than absolutely

necessary. Its great value and interest lie in its extensive collection and explanation of the dirty word. Ubiquitous as people, useful as pockets, the dirty

word is usually denied the printed page even in dictionaries, where prudery should be only an entry with a long and shameful history. Perhaps the dirty word should stay as it is and never be cleaned up. Psychiatry may know that the words of pornography and scatology and race-hatred and the others of four letters, however long, should be kept taboo to act as necessary safety-valves. But it should ever be decided that these words be made inocuous, that it is puerile to not admit what everybody knows, the job can be done by dictionaries such as this. Scholarship takes the curse off indecency. You don't blush at any word in a dictionary. The spicy and otherwise naughty words are the most engaging, I suppose, and the

great number of opprobrious and derogatory racial epithets is perhaps the greatest surprise, in regard both to quantity and venom. But the most bewildering reflection on slang is to consider how amorphous, how unclassifiable it is, and yet how unquestionably strong and

generalities about slang. Sometimes it dies overnight, sometimes it lasts a century. Sometimes it is embarrassingly vulgar and revolting (e.g. "intestinal fortitude"), sometimes it it true literature (e.g. "boob" and "gobbledegook"). Sometimes, it may be, it springs from the soil, but sometimes it has illustrious authors, like W. C. Fields or Maury Maverick. Finally, we never can be sure what it is, for, unlike the French language, English has no governmental arbiter of good and bad usage.

There may be things that cannot be learned from a large dictionary, of King's English or of slang, but the books are good things for every household to have -DAY THORPE.

GENERALS IN GRAY, by Ezra J. Warner. (Louisiana State University: Biographical sketches of all the general officers of the Confederate armies-425 of them-with likenesses of 424. An unusually valuable contribution to the literature of

6. "Perle," Mesta (-) | | | | | | | | | | | \*Standing Week Ending June 24, 1960.

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