

EVEN in wartime life pursues some normal channels and the result is books by and about people which might have been written had no war been in progress.

You will be surprised occasionally and agreeably—with what you find. Of course, there always have been interesting people who were not warriors. And where there are interesting people there are interesting books.

Without overlooking the books by contemporaries about themselves, I would pick first from what might be called the civilian biographies of the past year the volume by Hilton Brown on Rudyard Kipling. And that choice means no particular preoccupation with the past.

It is necessary to know Kipling to know modern Britain. When you know Kipling you understand Winston Churchill better, and Mr. Churchill's critics as well. It is insufficient to dismiss them both as British imperialists, overlooking the awareness of both to British responsibilities.

Of Kipling and Churchill And Christopher Marlowe

The two men have another important thing in common: Their ability to array the English language and march it through your heart and up and down your tingling spine.

There is another who made the most of his heritage of the English tongue in this crop of biographies, an Elizabethan, Christopher Marlowe. And it is not any unnatural kinship when he is bracketed with Kipling and Churchill—or they with him. "The Muse's Darling" is the title of a readable life of Marlowe by Charles Norman, one time Associated Press man.

And while we are on the Elizabethans, don't overlook "Fanfare for Elizabeth," which is Edith Sitwell's book about Elizabeth's youth and the court of Henry III.

Coming back to the present there are books from the not unrelated fields of the church and journalism. One is "River of Years," the autobiography of James Fort Newton, an interesting, anecdotal book by a clergyman now of Philadelphia and, furthermore, an interesting man. The other is "Detroit Is My

In the Realm of Biography

By Francis P. Douglas



RUDYARD KIPLING.

—Sketch by Sudduth.

Home," by Malcolm Bingay of the Detroit Free Press. I read enough of it to want to read more, particularly to find out if he gives the answers needed to some of the questions about the capital of the automobile empire.

Out Where the West Begins

The rediscovery of the West continues. This time Gen. George Crook tells his own story in an autobiography found among his papers in the War College. The editor is Martin F. Schmitt.

Zachary Taylor, of course, had his big moments in the Mexican War, but that was an integral part of Western expansion. The biography of him is called "Old Rough and Ready," and is by Silas Bent McKinley and Silas Bent, names which bring to mind immediately Bent's Fort in the Western country.

Also of this period, but in the South, is "Alexander H. Stephens," a biography of the Vice President of the Confederacy, by Rudolph von Abele. In his preface the author wrote the book might have been twice as long "but the importance of the subject would not have stood the strain." This reader appreciated his thoughtfulness and found interesting what he did put in it.

Scientists And Doctors

Despite this age of science, there are few scientists represented in these biographies.

Dr. Allen W. Freeman in "Five Million Patients," tells of his 40 years of public health work. Those years were spent in Virginia, in the United States Public Health Service, in the Army and in Ohio and them at Johns Hopkins, where he had been a student and returned as a faculty member. Douglas S. Freeman, the biographer of Lee, is his brother.

Also in the field of science is "Prodigal Genius," the life of that extraordinary Yugoslav-American, Nicola Tesla. The ungentle art of dictator-

ship as practised by Rafael Trujillo in Santo Domingo is described by Albert C. Hicks. The title, "Blood in the Streets," is a proper label for what's inside the package. Trujillo would be worth a biography for no more than his extraordinary effort in renaming after himself the city started by Bartholomew Columbus in 1496. And there is more—a lot more. "The Road to Wimbledon" may

be for you a nostalgic road back to the days those caravans of graceful young tennis players moved from tournament to tournament. This book in which Alice Marble describes the path to her tennis victory in the singles on the center court at Wimbledon in 1939 is pleasantly written.

Other Names That Made Books

Another young woman, Louise Baker, had a far different road. She lost a leg in a bicycle accident in childhood. Some veterans of the war may find useful her information in "Out on a Limb" on how a person with one leg can get along with the two-legged animal and how to become an expert with crutches.

I read in many books, but did not read them through. There may be enough in the following comments for you to judge whether you are interested: "Duke Ellington," by Barry Ulanos, is about our fellow Washingtonian who started from the Poodle Dog Cafe up near Griffith Stadium on the road to fame in jazz.

It is well for Frank Lloyd Wright that his fame as an architect depends on his buildings rather than on the book by his son, John Lloyd Wright. But if you are interested in architecture and in Frank Lloyd Wright you should look into it despite the bad taste of the title, "My Father Who is on Earth."

Artist James Montgomery Flagg wrote "Roses and Buckshot," in review, with the women in the piece the show girls.

Destiny is rarely close at hand for widely traveled Rosuta Forbes, but is sought in far places. The title is "Appointment With Destiny."

Eddie Rickenbacker, already given the immortalization works by the films, gets it biographically this time from Hans Christian Adamson.

"Out of This Century" is by Peggy Guggenheim. For some reason which I did not find she

believes the world is interested every time she goes to bed.

An Eskimo from Alaska who played the piano at radio stations here in the United States and then went back to Alaska to serve in the Army is Nutchuk. He (and Alden Hatch) tell about it in "Back to the Smoky Sea."

Lilly Dasche wrote "Talking Through My Hat." I wasn't interested but I understand the ladies are.

War and Peace

(Continued From Page 4.)

Kerillis and Anna Louise Strong—deal with Germany's neighbors. Mr. Kerillis, in "I Accuse De Gaulle," charges that Gen. Charles de Gaulle substituted a personal political program for a patriotic military program. Miss Strong writes the story of the Polish regime which grew out of the Soviet reconquest.

Distinctly controversial are recent books on Palestine. Frank Gervasi supports the Zionist demand for a national home for the Jews in "To Whom Palestine," drawing his conclusions from his experience in the Middle East as a correspondent. In "Palestine: Problem and Promise," Robert R. Nathan, Oscar Gass and Daniel Creamer make a statistical study of Palestine to show that it can absorb much Jewish immigration in the next 10 years. William B. Ziff, author of another book mentioned in this review, also published "The Rape of Palestine," a burning indictment of accusation of Britain in well-documented form.

Two unusually high-caliber books on the Philippines were Manuel Quezon's "The Good Fight," in which the late President of the commonwealth relates his struggle for Philippine independence, and Carlos P. Romulo's "I See the Philippines Rise," the story of MacArthur's return to the Philippines.

A warning that the Germans are using Spain as a base for a third attempt to conquer the world is contained in Abel Plenn's "Wind in the Olive Trees," which condemns American policy as conducted in Spain by Ambassador Hayes.

Recommended

- RUDYARD KIPLING, by Hilton Brown. (Harper; \$3.)
- THE MUSE'S DARLING, by Charles Norman. (Rinehart; \$4.)
- FANFARE FOR ELIZABETH, by Edith Sitwell. (Macmillan; \$2.50.)
- OLD ROUGH AND READY, by Silas Bent McKinley and Silas Bent. (Vanguard; \$3.)
- FIVE MILLION PATIENTS, by Dr. Allen W. Freeman. (Scribners; \$3.)

Children's Bookshop

Our new fairy tale corner on the sixth floor is a happy Christmas hunting ground. The shelves of this friendly children's shop are bright with gaily illustrated story books carefully selected and graded to delight children 1 to 9.

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