

give full and just due to the author's courage in expressing experienced, hazardous, and honest criticism.

"God give us candor to see our faults and faith to build our strength."

STEWART F. BRYANT

Palo Alto, California

BIRDSALL, PAUL. *Versailles Twenty Years After*. Pp. xiv, 350. New York: Reynal & Hitchcock, 1941. \$3.00.

This excellent book, written by Professor Birdsall of Williams College, is particularly valuable at this time. In analyzing with great care and discrimination the bases of the Versailles peace, he has also managed to place the whole postwar settlement in a proper historical setting, and to point out "the present relevance of its lessons."

The author disclaims any intention of making his study "a formal history of all the negotiations at the Paris Peace Conference, or even of all the negotiations which resulted in the Versailles Treaty"; but the result of his thorough research into the period is to give the reader a most satisfactory and balanced over-all picture of the forces which determined the terms of the treaty. President Wilson's part in the negotiations at Paris is presented sympathetically but with great fairness and objectivity. "A careful study of the record," Professor Birdsall writes, "reveals an extraordinary consistency in Wilson's fight for his program under overwhelming difficulties, as well as a high degree of political intelligence in translating the abstract principle of his program into concrete details of application." And again, "the record shows that on every major question but that of Reparation, the Treaty of Versailles would have been a worse treaty had Wilson remained in Washington. With all his mistakes, he emerges as the only man of real stature at Paris."

With a keen appreciation of the dramatic, and with great skill in avoiding undue detail, the author has succeeded in emphasizing the basic problems at Versailles. His treatment of French diplomacy at the conference is particularly revealing, reminding one that at the next conference—if the Germans are beaten—the French will not be in a position to interfere so

much with the plans of farseeing statesmen in rebuilding the world.

The reviewer has nothing but praise for any literary effort of the value of this one. In limiting his study to the peace conference, the author has been able to illuminate the basic factors of peacemaking and avoid all the blind alleys of prognostication and conjecture. The book is penetrating, stimulating, and sound; and it meets an urgent and present need.

JAMES K. POLLOCK

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NEHRU, JAWAHARLAL. *Toward Freedom*. Pp. xviii, 445. New York: The John Day Co., 1941. \$4.00.

Jawaharlal Nehru wrote his autobiography not to exhibit himself, nor to propagandize. He wrote it to maintain his equilibrium in jail and to review and clarify for himself the events and the issues of recent nationalist activity. His desire to paint the picture straight and fair produced a work whose sanity and intelligence cannot be questioned or easily duplicated.

India's first enemy, he says, is British imperialism. Until Britain ceases to exploit and police India, her problems cannot be solved. But how to win free? Added to Britain's tenacity and force of arms there is the influence of reactionary Indian elements who, for their own security and preservation, would maintain the status quo. There is the bogus of communalism, fanned by bourgeois Hindus and Moslems alike, who, in the name of religion, obtain mass support for programs which have nothing to do with the masses and all to do with jobs for the upper middle class. British diplomacy makes of the communal discord, as of all discords, another triumph for empire.

A greater victory, in some ways the hardest to upset, is psychological. India has swallowed the myth of English superiority and "developed the mentality of a good country-house servant," admiring the masters and the administration, taking pride in membership in the servants' hall. Many people are still so impressed and so satisfied. Others would retain the house as it is, but gradually themselves replace the British masters.