

SATURDAY NEWS OF NEW BOOKS

These 4 Books Vividly Picture Reality of War

BY FANNY BUTCHER.

THESE may be no relation between the present world unrest, threats of war, subconsciously echoing even in peaceful lands, and the sudden recrudescence of novels and factual books about war. It may be pure coincidence. But it also may not. And this week the whole world has been publicly discussing war.

What happened in the world war? "The First World War," as Laurence Stallings may have prophetically called it, is the subject of four books published within a few days of one another.

Two War Disasters Traced to Sabotage. "The Enemy Within," by Capt. Henry Landau. [Putnam, \$3.] Published last Monday.

A recognized part of the war against civilians that has so indignantly engaged the world recently is sabotage within the enemy's country or in neutral countries. Two of the most spectacular disasters which took place in the world war were the Black Tom Island explosion in 1916, when the countryside for scores of miles around New York was rocked by the explosion of hundreds of tons of munitions, and in 1917 the Kingsland, N. J., fire, which bombarded a wide area of northern New Jersey and New York.

It was suspected at the time that both explosions were the work of German agents. For fifteen years since then secret agents have worked day and night to solve the mysteries, which Capt. Landau seems to prove to have been sabotage. He worked on the case, and in this book he marshals the intricate and intricate or any detective mystery tale ever conceived by an inventive mind. Read merely as a record of skillful intelligence work [which really took brilliant intelligence], that part of the book is fascinating. It comprises about half of the book, and is a detailed record.

Intelligence Service Experiences Related. "Soldiers of Darkness," by Thomas E. Gowenlock, with Guy Murchie Jr. [Doubleday-Doran, \$2.75.]

Counterespionage and the work of the American intelligence service at the front is the subject of this volume of personal reminiscences by a well known G-2 major with the 1st division.

Maj. Gowenlock was one of the early members of the American Protective League, devoting itself to counterespionage. He suspected that the epidemics at Camp Funston "might in some way be the work of enemy agents," and he communicated his suspicions to his former chief in the American Protective League. As a result of his detective work he was offered the job of G-2 by the acting chief of staff at Camp Funston, and there solved practically single handed the mystery of a multiple murder at the camp.

In France he worked with Gen. Charles P. Summerall [who writes a highly laudatory introduction to the book], organized countless scouting parties, and coordinated the military intelligence they gathered.

The personal reminiscences are Maj. Gowenlock's. The less personal historical material was gathered by Guy Murchie Jr., and the book was written by him. It is practically the same story that ran in the Graphic section of THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE for nine Sundays last winter.

A Famed Squadron's Tragic Fate Relived. "The Great Adventure," by Edwin C. Parsons. [Doubleday-Doran, \$2.75.] Published yesterday.

Sir Walter Scott, something of a jingoist in literature, once said that "one crowded hour of glorious life is worth an age without a name." To a great many those words were the epitome of war to none more than to the members of the famed Lafayette escadrille.

Sigrid Undset's Latest Novel Is Simple Story of Marriage

"The Faithful Wife," by Sigrid Undset. [Knopf, \$2.50.] Published Monday.

SIGRID UNDESET, winner of the Nobel prize in literature for 1928, best known as author of that great medieval saga "Kristin Lavransdatter," here narrows her canvas from that vast panorama to the smallest area that a novel can compass—the relations of one man and one woman to each other. Those relations are complicated by other people, but the author concentrates all of her light upon her hero and her heroine. The others are quite outside, in the penumbra, and are treated, in the novel, as the shadows which they were to the main characters.

As the book opens Nathalie and Sigurd have been married, happily, for sixteen years. Nathalie is a successful business woman who has never had time or enough of economic security to give up her work. Sigurd is mildly successful after years of financial insecurity. They have never had any children, although both have wanted them.

Subconsciously and almost involuntarily, for he never ceases to love Nathalie, forces begin to work in Sigurd. He becomes the lover of a very young girl from his own countryside, unknown to his wife. When she is going to have a child, everything is revealed.

Nathalie is most shocked by the discovery that her husband has been apparently unchanged in his serene love for her. She insists on divorce and his marrying the mother of his child. The girl is an ardent Catholic and refuses to marry a divorced man. Nathalie tries to find happiness in another union. As the book closes Sigurd and Nathalie are about to face a new life. . . . with Sigurd's little girl and Nathalie's adopted boy.

This is not another Nobel prize

winning novel. There is nothing unusual in plot here, no intense profundity of psychology. But there is reality and gentle sureness.

Another Novel Based on Marital Troubles.

"Together and Apart," by Margaret Kennedy. [Random House, \$2.50.]

The author of "The Constant Nymph," like Sigrid Undset, has not duplicated the impressiveness of her best known book. There is nothing of the gay madness of the Sangers in this tale, although there is, until it is shattered, a family.

"Together and Apart" also is a novel of marriage and divorce, but a quite different one from "The Faithful Wife." Sixteen years or so of marriage also have passed as it opens, but they have not been blindly happy ones for any one.

The heroine of the story is uppish, the hero weakish, neither of them a person to whom any one would cling for more than the few hours that it takes to read about them. There is some smart talk and some smartish. There is good solid carpentering to the tale, but it does not, like the Ancient Mariner, hold the reader against his will until the tale is done.

Kathleen Norris' Tale Is Gracefully Written.

"You Can't Have Everything," by Kathleen Norris. [Doubleday-Doran, \$2.]

Here is another tale of divorce and remarriage, in Kathleen Norris' always popular pattern. Kathleen Norris is one of the top-ranking serial writers of America. Her public is vast and adoring, and she seldom lets them down. She never really gives them what they want and generously. Once or twice she hasn't—that time she wrote "Certain People of Importance" which came very near to being a great American novel, and almost lost her her public, though it gained her critical admiration.

"You Can't Have Everything" is about a wife who didn't like being taken for granted, as few beautiful women of 27 do, even though they have two delightful children. How that wife cured the neglect by a second marriage to a man who wouldn't let her out of his sight is the not onerous burden of this tale, told lightly, gracefully, and with skill. F. B.

Abbe Children Write Another Delightful Book

"Of All Places," by Patience, Richard, and Johnny Abbe. [Stokes, \$2.] Published Thursday.

AROUND the World in Eleven Years was one of the most delightful books of any year. "I, Patience," then 11 years old, was its chief author, but her younger brothers also contributed their sage comments on life in France, Russia, Colorado, and points between.

The Abbe children soon became one of the sights of the day in a country in which, Gertrude Stein says [in an amusing current magazine article, "Your United States"], everybody "is a real lion, a real celebrity. . . . but some are more than others." With much more reason than in most cases, these three deliciously individualistic children became national news.

"Of All Places!" tells of the winter they spent in Connecticut, their barnstorming trip around the country, autographing copies of "Around the World in Eleven Years" and talking over the radio, and their life in Hollywood.

If a child has a sharp eye and an articulate tongue and is not censored by grownups, he is bound to speak fresh wisdom. "Out of the mouth of babes. . ." is as true as it was in the days of David the Psalmist.

Hollywood was fun to the Abbe children. Although they were not taken in at all, and their comments are delicious. . . . and disillusioned.

Richard and Johnny have written more of this than they did of the previous book, one whole chapter by themselves. But it is still "I, Patience," who speaks out. F. B.

Book Views in Brief

Researchers Write of Remote Regions.

"Savage Civilization," by Tom Harrison. [Knopf, \$4.] "Life in a Haitian Valley," by Melville J. Herskovits. [Knopf, \$4.]

These volumes are products of learned researchers, Tom Harrison having been the biologist with the Oxford university expedition to the New Hebrides archipelago in 1933, while Melville Herskovits, who is professor of anthropology at Northwestern university, headed the Columbia-Northwestern universities' expedition to Haiti in 1934.

Each of these studies has a common locale—remote regions of those parts of the world they reveal. Young Harrison, who is only 25, remained after his party had returned to England and spent another year with the primitive natives of inland Malekula as one of them, and his adaptation to their savage civilization was so thorough that he was accorded primary initiation into chieftainship. He relates his adventures minutely but not dully, and possesses the same charming sense of humor that was displayed by his fellow Briton, Peter Fleming, in "Brazilian Adventure."

The most interesting parts of Prof. Herskovits' scholarly work debunk the popular theory of "voodoo." In the remote valley of Mirebalais—where the study was made—"voodoo" is an integral part of the native life, but it is not the mad, blood-sucking ceremony that has been described by other writers. It is a religious rite, marked by the sacrifice of animals and birds, but not in Mirebalais, at least, are humans put to the knife. F. W.

Stories of Adventures in Arctic and Tropics.

"North to the Ringed Sun, an Alaskan Journey," by Isobel W. Hutchison. [Hillman-Curt, \$2.50.] August selection of the Scientific Book Club.

"Great Mother Forest," by Commander Attilio Gatti. [Scribner, \$3.75.] Isobel Hutchison, a Scottish biologist commissioned to obtain specimens for the Kew gardens of London, won the Mungo Park medal of the Royal Scottish Geographical society for her daring drive by boat, dog sled, and plane up over the top of Alaska and back along the Mackenzie river valley. Her account of this unusual journey is jolly, informative, and interesting. The book has a good map and is illustrated.

On the other side of the earth, where furs were worn only by animals and it was just as hard to keep cool as it was for Miss Hutchison to keep warm, Attilio Gatti, an Italian, searched through "Great Mother For-

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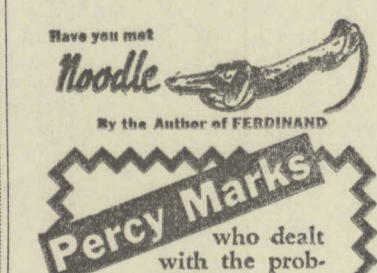
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James Norman Hall, author of "The Mutiny on the Bounty," is another. Clyde Baisley is a third. Mr. Parsons names no others. But he does tell of the deaths of more than half of them, all gloriously alive one day, all "gloriously" dead the next.

"The Great Adventure" is as vivid a record as any one has written. It also is, in spots, very amusing; but amusing, always with death being the one that guffaws. It relives some of the most exciting hours in modern history, and tells of almost unbelievable nerve, and in many cases utterly foolhardy but thrilling courage.

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