

Life in the Soviets Is Presented in Group of Plays

SEVEN SOVIET PLAYS With introductions by H. W. L. Dana. (Macmillan; \$4.)

It seems appropriate that this collection of plays was called "Seven Soviet Plays" and not "Seven Russian Plays." They are all of recent composition and all except two are about the recent war.

The best one of the group is Leonid Leonov's "The Orchards of Polovchansk"—a play of the inter-war years. It is larded with the usual exaltation of the government but its characters have depth and are not just stereotypes.

Four about the war and are highly melodramatic. In one, the employees of a collective farm burn the precious wheat to keep it from the Germans.

As a note by the editor of the volume says, these works have been enthusiastically received. It is improbable that the Russian critics use a comparable term in describing them.

The play on the life of Marshal Kutuzov, by Vladimir Solovoy, was written in 1939. It puts into the marshal's mouth an approbation of the attitude toward fascism which then prevailed in the Soviet Union.

They are all drawn from the ranks of the manual workers and most of them are city bred. There is one boy of Italian extraction who wants to be a priest.

Excellent writing. It is one of the few books affirming the view of wartime Germany and its citizens before the Allies landed on the continent.



HILDA LAWRENCE, Author of "The Pavilion."

This One Will Keep You On the Edge Of Your Chair

THE PAVILION By Hilda Lawrence. (Simon & Schuster; \$2.)

One of the penalties of being a professional reviewer is that you seldom get to read anything for fun.

But, at this time of year, three-volume biographies are usually somewhat scarce on the market, as are also interpretations of the history of philosophy in the 17th century and reports on the economics of the Irish famine.

"The Pavilion" is one of those things where an innocent young woman comes into a gloomy old house full of sinister characters and marked by a tendency toward violent fatal accidents.

My tribute to Hilda Lawrence lies entirely in the circumstance that, in spite of this, I still read on. I wanted to know. In short, I was interested. I didn't relax with her good book; I took it on the edge of my chair. So, if that be praise, I praise it.

Reviewed by RENA LEVANDER. Noel F. Busch styles his third book "an informal Baedeker to the modern banded." It is based on a rapid survey of Yugoslavia, Italy, Germany, Austria, Luxembourg, Belgium, the Netherlands, France and the United Kingdom in the summer of 1945.

Mr. Busch, an editor on Life magazine, writes in a breezy, often flippant self-confident manner. He definitely has the Reader's Digest approach, as outlined recently by the New Yorker magazine.

Mr. Bellah has chosen to follow the Purple Heart for a comrade who has been hurt in noncombat duty and is depressed by his inglorious status.



Ruth Seid, a Red Cross public relations worker in Cleveland, was awarded the first prize of \$10,000 in the Harper Prize Novel Contest for her first novel "Wasteland," which was written under the pen name, Jo Sinclair.

Papa Went to Congress By Kenneth Horan. (Doubleday, Doran; \$2.) Kenneth Horan's father, James Ingham, was elected by the Republican party in Michigan to serve in Congress in the first administration of President Cleveland.

Then Mrs. Hunter got an idea in the bathtub. Why not establish an institute of arts and letters somewhere in the country? It was patriotic because they'd grow food; it was philanthropic because they'd entertain refugees.



KENNETH HORAN, Author of "Papa Went to Congress."

Book Reviews in Brief

HISTORY. Nationalism and After, by Edward Hallett Carr (Macmillan). A survey of the rise of nationalism and a statement of the requisites for internationalism.

SPANISH. One Thousand Words and Phrases, by Ernest Wandenberg. (Essential Books.) A handy Spanish instruction book.

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The American Art Annual, Volume XXXVI

Reviewed by FLORENCE S. BERRYMAN. The American Art Annual has just been published in its 36th volume, its first appearance in four years because of war conditions.

More Good Luck. The paintings on his walls—a Cezanne was nearest me—were obviously his own, and I wondered how he happened to have them here.

New Books

Treasure Hunter, Lt. Harry E. Reiser. Guide to Model Aircraft, David C. Cooke. The Shapes, Mark Van Doren, January 14.

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Among the Authors Providence Kept Watch Over Remarque And Brought Him Luck All During War

By Carolyn Coggins. Usually Erich Remarque rests a head or two between completing one book and beginning the next.

All over the world, of course, he is known for his "All Quiet on the Western Front," and that book must have registered pretty well in heaven as well, because its author was watched over by fate in such a way back in 1939 as to suggest God had His eye on the gentleman.

He could hardly believe such luck. Now the problem was to reach Paris, some 700 miles away, in a car with a missing part which definitely operated on only two cylinders.

More Good Luck. The paintings on his walls—a Cezanne was nearest me—were obviously his own, and I wondered how he happened to have them here.

There were stacks of records in one corner of the enormous room where we sat talking and the tables were piled high with papers and books. I mentioned envying him his talent with languages, for some of the time there was to be no war in Germany.

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JAMES WARNER BELLAH, Author of "Ward 20."

Ward 20 By James Warner Bellah. (Doubleday Doran; \$2.) In a rather splashily sensational style James Warner Bellah, veteran of two wars himself, attempts here to get right down to earth on the matter of the hopelessly wounded of World War II.

Parachute to Berlin By Lowell Bennett. (The Vanguard Press; \$2.50.) Reviewed by ROBERT BRUSKIN. The author of this work, a war correspondent, parachuted from a wrecked bomber over Germany early in the war.

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national Best Seller The Egg and I As reported in the N. Y. Times, Jan. 6 "A RIOT OF LAUGHS" —Washington Star