# Reviewing The New Books

By Mary-Carter Roberts -

## 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. Taking those circumstances into account, it is easy to understand their violent chauvinistic seasoning. However, none of them is apt to be included in the great lasting body of Russian literature. The six which deal with the present are entirely concerned with extolling the present regime and they do it to the detriment of good drama. The other one, a blank verse play on the life of Field Marshal Kutuzov, is pretty much in the class of cabinet drama. It is one of

those things in which the people on the stage get reports of action which has taken place elsewhere. The best one of the group is Leo-

nid Leonov's "The Orchards of Polovchansk"-a play of the interwar years. It is larded with the usual exaltation of the government but its characters have depth and are not just stereotypes. The action concerns a reunion in a family the father of which is a government joyous lives or allow others to tell worked throughout it.

#### Four About the War.

bayonetted for upholding this reof a beleaguered town hold on in

HILDA LAWRENCE. Author of "The Pavilion."

In the Blazing Light

& Pearce; \$2.75.) There have been a number of novels on the life of Francisco Goya, home a thriller.

whose headlong career and char- I report that I had a good time acter are an open invitation to the with "The Pavilion." I don't know, romantic writer, but this is the most of course, how the habitual reader thoughtful one which I have yet of thrillers will respond to its creep- in Congress in the first administrate the grade in Beacon Hill society. established a year ago, through the society in a car with countrymen, believing that only in a car with countrymen, believing that only in read. I reach that opinion largely iness, but, a comparative novice at ignored the derring-do approach, crept at certain classics, at "The brought his family to Washington Boston, Mrs. Carmody insisted, for ler, president of the Whitney Muofficial. Seven sons, all beamingly working for the state, are due to come home. They either tell of the method with good consist-in mortal "The Red Room," which to the method with good consist- immortal "The Red Room," which ency. It is a sober book that he scared me to death, though I read their felicity for them. A counter has written, therefore—not in any it outdoors on a sunny summer theme comes up in the form of an sense a romance.

old lover of the mother who, in the past, was not a good patriot. He to Madrid after he had studied in But still I crept. Even so, I am turns up and serves for a while as a butt of jests, then is disposed of by the waiting police. To the non-Rus-sian reader it is pretty naive, and Leonov's gift of programming is hard-in spite of programming is hard-institute of at spite of programming is hard-institut sian reader it is pretty naive, and Leonov's gift of imparting character in spite of propagandizing is hard-

erful. His rise to success and fash- woman comes into a gloomy old ion, in Mr. White's view, however, house full of sinister characters and

Four of the other plays are so was less dependent on outer factors marked by a tendency toward violent much alike that, even immediately than on inner. He introduces the fatal accidents. In this case, the after reading them, I found myself young Goya as a complete human young woman has been summoned running them mentally together. phenomenon, containing his future by a strangely worded letter from They are all about the war and are within himself, and in recounting the master of the house, her elderly highly melodramatic. In one, the employes of a collective farm burn the precious wheat to keep it from the Germans, though the manager's wife is killed in carrying out the deed. In another, the peasants refuse terest him of themselves, but the with fat white faces fill up the place the German offer of security in return for submitting to the old land-lord, who appears as a German offi-trine the unchangingly objective realist. accounts of how two other young Holding this concept uppermost, he women came to sudden death from cer. The wife of the chairman of strips the picturesque patiently from living around there. But she is all the local Executive Committee is most of the celebrated episodes of full of zeal to solve the mystery and so she stays. And solves it, too.

bayonetted for upholding this re-sistance. In a third, the engineer of a great power dam blows up the dem to particle's career. One could wish, however, that his care for a consistent method of viewing his subject had here could of precisely on page 177, I knew which

a great power dam blows up the dam to save it from the Germans. He and his assistant are blown up with it. In a fourth, the defenders of a beleaguered town hold on in of a beleaguered town hold on in the face of overwhelming odds until, ful in his hero, Mr. White seems I didn't relax with her good book; I against hope, they are relieved. The to have imposed an unnecessarily sat on the edge of the chair. So, if against hope, they are reneved, and mother of the commander is hanged and his sweetheart is beaten by the Germans for refusing to give in-



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. The famous "relaxing with a good love story or whodunit" is simply not for you. There stands, on your table, the latest three-volume biography of a forgotten hero of the Mexican War, and it is the book of the day and you must do it. When you are through, you will not relax with anything printed. You will call your dog and go for a long tramp in the

thought illiteracy was such a hard-But, at this time of year, threevolume biographies are usually some-

what scarce on the market, as are also interpretations of the history By Max White. (Duell, Sloan of philosophy in the 17th century

and reports on the economics of the Irish famine. Making hay while the sun shone, I consequently took me Ingham, was elected by the Re-

next door to the British Embassy, went to the symphony to hear "those sume publication of the annual.

It is based not on actual memory, for, as Mrs. Horan explains in a foreword, she was not born until on the map intellectually in Boston. It there were des, art schools and private art the schools and private art whisting a tune to himself, to make me a fresh pot in his little kitchen-be an odd sort of fellow serving total of 2,113 such entries in the on the map intellectually in Boston. United States and, in addition, lists as he talked.

a decade later, but is drawn from a book of "Impressions" which Mrs. Ingham kept to the end that she might report her Washington ex-parce in the tiny Vermont village of Archives of Hispanic Culture to the annual by staff members of the parce in the tiny Vermont village of Hispanic Culture to the annual by staff members of the vious books, who found them the place in the tiny Vermont village of Hispanic Culture to the annual by staff members of the vious books of Hispanic Culture to the annual by staff members of the vious books of Hispanic Culture to the annual by staff members of the vious books of Hispanic Culture to the the annual by staff members of the vious books of Hispanic Culture to the the tiny Vermont village of the annual by staff members of the vious hispanic Culture to the ting Vermont village of Hispanic Culture to the the ting Vermont village of the the ting Vermont village of Hispanic Culture to the the ting Vermont village of Hispanic Culture to the the ting Vermont village of Hispanic Culture to the ting Vermont village to the ting Vermont village of Hispanic Culture to the ting Vermont village to the ting Ve periences to the Ladies' Culture Roland Hill, where they surrounded Archives of Hispanic Culture, Li-Club when she went back home to themselves with cellists, violinists, brary of Congress, the Inter-Ameri-Michigan.

(Houghton, Mifflin; \$2.50.)

Reviewed by

MARTHA LEWIS.

As far as I am concerned the gees, including the beautiful but work is as flat a failure as the impossible Lady Finchfallow, and a Congressman's effort to get R. F. D. French cook, Therese. Congressman's effort to get R. F. D. French cook, Therese.

Congressman's effort to get R.F.D. French cook, Therese. It is obviously meant to be in the Clarence Day vein but it stops with an absorbing, light story. Others was obviously compiled with great Clarence Day vein but it stops with an absorbing, light story. Others was obviously compiled with great Clarence Day vein but it stops with an absorbing, light story. Others was obviously compiled with great Clarence Day vein but it stops with an absorbing light story. Others was obviously compiled with great Clarence Day vein but it stops with an absorbing light story. Others was obviously compiled with great Clarence Day vein but it stops with an absorbing light story. Others was obviously compiled with great Clarence Day vein but it stops with an absorbing light story. Others was obviously compiled with great Clarence Day vein but it stops with an absorbing light story. Others was obviously compiled with great Clarence Day vein but it stops with an absorbing light story. Others was obviously compiled with great there was soon to be a war. the intention. It is so effortfully will probably feel that Mrs. Kent care. A new method of tabulating quaint that it smothers itself. Local sometimes tries too hard to be courses offered makes it a simple readers whose memories run so far amusing and that many of her matter to ascertain where any speback may, however, be amused by characters are rather sketchily cific type of instruction is available, some of the references. in nearly 700 places where art may drawn. be studied.



THE SUNDAY STAR, Washington, D. C. SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 1946.

#### Among the Authors

.

### Providence Kept Watch Over Remarque And Brought Him Luck All During War

C-3

By Carolyn Coggins Usually Erich Maria Remarque rests a year or two between com-pleting one book and beginning the next. When his "Arch of Triumph," comes out next week it will be his first novel in five years, and this time he is already working on an other. other.

other. 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 weeks.

have registered pretty well in heaven as well, because its author was story. The first publisher in Ger-He did not think of it as a war 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. In the summer of that year he was one of several thousand people in France who thought it might be a good idea to be somewhere else. The logical place was the United States, especially since he had a little girl in his care whose parents were here. in his care whose parents were here. Phone connections on the Riviera

His Formula for Good Writing. Annual, Volume XXXVI were off so that friends could not "You either do that after a big Edited by Florence N. Levy. even call neighbors. Knowing this, "You either do that after a big but thinking he must make an effort, success or else your head is turned (The American Federation of he hopelessly put through a call to so that you are sloppy," he ex-Arts, Washington, D. C.; \$12.) the Paris steamship office. He was plained. connected in less than 10 minutes, "A bad book doesn't matter." he

Reviewed by FLORENCE S. BERRYMAN.

**Best Sellers** -NATION-WIDE-

(According to Publishers' Weekly.) FICTION.

1st-The Black Rese, Thomas B

2d-The White Tower, James Ramsey Uliman. 3d—Cass Timberlane, Sinclair Lewis. 4th—Forever Amber, Kathleen Win-

5th—The Peacock Sheds His Tail, Alice Tisdale Hobart, NONFICTION.

1st-Up Front, Bill Mauldin. 2d-The Erg and I, Betty Mac-Bonald. 3d-Brave Men. Ernie Pyle. 4th-Fleasant Valley, Louis Brom-field. 5th-Gen. Marshall's Report.

-IN WASHINGTON-

-IN WASHINGTON-FICTION. 1st-The River Road, Frances Park-inson Keyes. 2d-The King's General, Daphne 3d-The Perilous Fight, Neil H. Swanson. 4th-Brideshead Revisited, Evelyn Waugh. 5th-The Gauntlet, James Street.

5th—The Gauntlet, James Street. NONFICTION.
1st—The Erg and I. Betty Mac-Donald.
2d—Lovely Is the Lee. Robert Gib-bings.
3d—Soldier of Democracy, Kenneth S. Davis.
4th—Gen. Marshall's Report, George C. Marshall.
5th—Saints and Stransers, George P. Willison.

The American Art

The American Art Annual has just walking away who had canceled on only wrote good books would be a been published in its 36th volume, its the Queen Mary, and that their two freak. The idea is to write better been published in its 36th volume, its the Queen Mary, and that their two books as often as possible and to to tickets would be held for Remarque edit one's writing with care, to not cause of war conditions. Such is the and his charge.

was told that two people were just continued, "because an author who Mrs. Carmody and Mrs. Hunter value of this unique reference book, The Queen Mary's Last Trip.

be a sloppy writer.' tion of President Cleveland. He They were as literary as any one in interest of Mrs. Flora Whitney Mil- some 700 miles away, in a car with that were no believing that only in

and there stopped dead. He rushed know what they are writing about. Representative Ingham was con- awful things that make your ears The American Art Annual was by other means to get those tickets, In Europe too many begin to write cerned with getting rural free de-livery for the farmers. Mrs. Ingham was con-the minute they are through study-editor of the present volume. (The the mand boarded the ship.) the minute they are through study-ing or else write in an atmosphere livery for the farmers. Mrs. Ingham minton. They played a good game annual had other editors between Mary made to the United States of cafe thinking, in either case little book is the daughter's attempt to bring to life the quaint doings triotic because they'd grow food; it art is indicated by the fact that where in the country? It was pa-to bring to life the quaint doings triotic because they'd grow food; it art is indicated by the fact that ning. When offered a drink, I he he was a cold, showy eve-mind the reader of some bankers of the Washington of the period, was philanthropic because they'd Volume I listed 450 museums, socie- asked for coffee and he went off, he knows. Not so in Europe. There both on the Hill and in the salons. entertain refugees. If there were ties, art schools and private art whistling a tune to himself, to make the banker may turn out to just

painters, writers, teachers and refu- can Office, National Gallery of Art, been sitting in his Switzerland home little paper in her hand, one of that there was soon to be a war. bonored him with their celebrations What was to be done with his pic-tures? Although he assured her that there was to be no war and ex-all the years since. How was gone on for plained why, he agreed that she all the years since. He is now in his could ship the pictures to his dealer 80s.

essary to condense every report, to print entries in double columns and to employ many abbreviations. Nevertheless althouse between the double control of the war who had omitted, information is increased. An eight-page review of "Four There were stacks of records in

Speaking of German writers, Re-"He has been celebrating his birthday for 40 years, you know," he

told me. Birthdays to Order.

It seems that many champagne parties were given for Hauptmann

to employ many abbreviations. Nevertheless, although details are omitted, information is increased stood. He agreed that the circum-

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. Here she receives the check

woods, wondering why your parents

from Ted Robinson, Cleveland Plain Dealer literary critic, as Romana Herdman of Harper (left) looks on. Her book, to be released for publication on February 13, relates the problems, adjustments and maladjustments of an immigrant family in the United States. —Wide World Photo. the United States.

#### Papa Went to Congress Country Mouse By Louise Andrews Kent.

By Kenneth Horan. (Doubleday, Doran; \$2.) Kenneth Horan's father, James

formation. In all the plays the lively painstaking but artlessly made. By Noel F. Busch. (Harper; melodramatic action is halted fre-

quently to allow the characters to Ward 20 make orations. We have had the same kind of drama in war times ourselves, but we also have a word that we apply to it. We call it ham, As a note by the editor of the volume says that these works have been en-

#### Marshal Kutuzov.

The play on the life of Marshal ward in a military general hospital. magazine, writes in a breezy, often Kutuzov, by Vladimir Solovyov, was It gives us eleven patients, all of flippant, self-confident manner. He written in 1939. It puts into the whom have suffered major amputa- definitely has the Reader's Digest marshal's mouth an approbation of tions, some of whom are blind. Pre- approach, as outlined recently by the the attitude toward fascism which sumably it also gives us eleven indi- New Yorker magazine. He has then prevailed in the Soviet Union. vidualities. It falls down, however, lively descriptive powers when he Having beaten Napoleon, the old on the latter point. The majority sticks to the straight and factual; soldier warns the Czar against of the men are so alike in their rather than spoil a good story, howfurther embroilment in Europe's war speech and attitudes that, even in ever, if he doesn't have the facts, against the tyrant. It is not for the last pages of the story, I was he traffics in half truths or par-Russians, he says, to spill their blood still checking back to the introduc- tially qualified statements prefaced defending Britain. In other words. Mr. Solovyov tells us that the mar-

shal was an isolationist. The other war play, "The Front,"

by Alexander Korneichuk, is aimed purely at the point that the recent war could not be officered by the former heroes of the party--the old "civil war" generals. It gives us such a general and shows him making a sorry mess of things because he does not understand mechanized fighting. He is presently replaced by a younger man who comes in with the customary oration. Of interest to American readers may be the reference to our own country which occurs in this play. One character says that he has been in America. 'Was it lousy?" asks the other. The first responds that he was sent to work in the Ford plant and goes on for several lines about the slave conditions obtaining there. This bears no relation to the story and is presumably the author's free contribution to the "better understanding" which is so strongly urged between the nations.

As I said, it is easy to underdrama in time of war. It would be a characters. as serious literature.

#### Parachute to Berlin

guard Press; \$2.50.) Reviewed by ROBERT BRUSKIN.

style James Warner Bellah, veteran rapid survey of Yugoslavia, Italy, thusiastically received, it is improb- of two wars himself, attempts here Germany, Austria, Luxembourg, able that the Russian critics use a to get right down to earth on the Belgium, the Netherlands, France

out to cover a day in a surgical Mr. Busch, an editor on Life

by: "According to the rumor mentioned above, what truly occurred \* \* \*," "it is said," "\* \* \* on purpose or otherwise," and so on. Unfortunately, he has a predilection for gossiping about personalities, and slips easily into a digres-sive, rambling technique. Of course, bringing tulips from Holland, roses of the rise of nationalism and a Stories, novelettes and poems writfrom France and fish eggs statement of the requisites for inter- ten by American authors this year. 

JAMES WARNER BELLAH, Author of "Ward 20."

mistake, however, to rate these plays They are all drawn from the ranks gladly tell him."

of the manual workers and most of Finally, Mr. Busch defines civili-

correspondent, parachuted from a there is an episode in which one wrecked bomber over Germany early legless man exerts himself to secure Mr. Bellah has chosen to follow in the war. He was captured, tried the Purple Heart for a comrade who make plans for future jobs or eduto escape three times, was sentenced has been hurt in noncombat duty cation-two under the influence of to death as a spy, but wound up in and is depressed by his inglorious their families, one from native ama prisoner-of-war camp after an status. But except for these casual bition. One dies and one goes mad. unparalleled opportunity to witness spontaneous expressions of fellow- The others, one feels, will be pen-

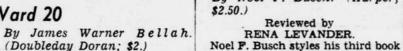
the effects of area bombing on civil-ians. Excellently written, it is one of the few books affording a view of wartime Germany and its citizens before the Allies landed on the con-tinent. Mr. Bennett element that the the solution of the solution of the rest of the res

tinent. Mr. Bennett claims that the area, bombing of German cities hardened morale of civilians and was a needless waste.

#### Merchant Ships, 1944

Eompiled, drawn and edited by E. Talbot-Booth, R. D., R. N. V. R. (Macmillan; \$19.)

This new edition of the standard reference work on the world's merchant fleets carries its usual mine of information. It offers all available details on boats recently built and sunk, surveys the merchant fleets of all countries and gives 1,520 line drawings of funnels for recognition. In addition there are 900 photographs and 2,400 line drawings of ships and 840 drawings of house flags. The work is, in short, an encyclopedia on its subject. Its pr



(Doubleday Doran; \$2.) In a rather splashily sensational "an informal Baedeker to the modcomparable term in describing them. World War II. His novelette is laid summer of 1945.

vorite color is gray, but on the other The Senate and the Versailles hand, he once sneaked away from Mandate System, by Rayford W. a party by ducking gradually under Logan. (Minorities Publishers.) A a grand piano near the door---study of the conduct of the Senate Mr. Busch suffers from acute toward the Versailles mandate sysoversimplification and is given to tem, suggesting that unwillingness

making rather glaring generaliza-tions: "Under normal conditions, or skinned people was the basis of senin a well-organized country, a for-eign correspondent who wants to find out what makes the wheels go A. L. Rowse. (Oxford University around can do so in a perfectly con- Press.) An examination of English stand the production of chauvinistic tory part to identify the various ventional manner. He merely asks history in terms of the forces which the people who know and they have shaped it-climate, geograph-

ical position, character of people. SPANISH. One Thousand Words and Phrases,

QUAINTERIE.

by Robert B. Thomas. (Yankee, book of short sketches on the vari-Inc.; 15c.) A well-liked pamphlet, ous pleasures of country life, charmnow in its 154th year of publication.) ingly illustrated by photographs.

KENNETH HORAN,

Author of "Papa Went to Congress."

nine stories allegedly having special interest for men

Evening in Spring, by August

NOVELS

Derleth. (Stanton and Lee; \$1.49.)

Love story about high school boy

Tomorrow's Another Day, by W.

R. Burnett. (Knopf.) Story of

gamblers and characters of the half

world of an American city. My Felicia, by Paul Driscoll.

(Macmillan.) Story of New- Eng-

land industrial city and immigrant

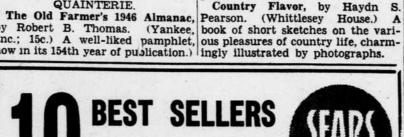
girl being loved by rich man's son.

COUNTRY LIFE.

Pay Dirt, by J. I. Rodale. (Devin-

ROEBUCK AND CO.

and girl. Sweetish.



posts.

Always on Sears

**Bookshelves!** 

Cass Timberlane, by Lewis\_\_\_\_\_2.75 The White Tower, by Ullman \_\_\_\_\_ 3.00 The Peacock Sheds His Tail, by Hobart\_\_\_\_\_2.75 Three O'Clock Dinner, by Pinckney\_\_\_\_\_2.50 A Lion Is in the Streets, by Langley\_\_\_\_\_\_3.00 Pleasant Valley, by Bromfield\_\_\_\_\_\_3.00 Brave Men, by Pyle\_\_\_\_\_\_3.00 The Wayfarers, by Dan Wickenden\_\_\_\_\_2.75 The Wide House, by Taylor Caldwell\_\_\_\_\_\_3.00 Innocent Merriment, by F. P. Adams\_\_\_\_\_1.49

> Wisconsin Ave. at Albemarle (16) ORdway 1122 911 Bladensburg Road N.E. (2) FRanklin 7500

An eight-page review of "Four Years of Art," covering the period from July, 1941, to June, 1945, may seem a triffe strange. But the edi-tor's objective has always been to keep the annual complete in its doc-umentary role. Any one wanting a succinct picture of the progress of art in the United States for nearly

Prices of paintings sold at auction spent in Germany. during four seasons in three New Shortly after his first book came York auction houses occupy 70 pages out he went to Switzerland to live a relaxed and knowing conversaand several extensive indexes in- and stayed there 10 years. A pic- tionalist. I also think he makes

chairman of the Advisory Committee he will be an American citizen. He Teilhet. (Appleton Century, \$2.75.) on that country, says: "\* \* \* This will return to Switzerland to sell or A veteran comes home to find book, with its collection of informa- rent his place, or somehow restore changes. He has a time. tion covering an entire hemisphere, it, and the maid who still presides will add immeasurably to the over it, to more active usefulness.

Treasure Hunter, Lt. Harry E. Reisen- he came to New York. He intends Guide to Model Aircraft, David C. Cooke, to make it his home.

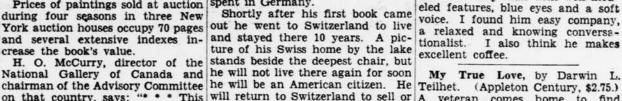
sive, rambling technique. Of course, if it tickles you to know that Ambassador Francis Biddle gave a party in prewar Warsaw which required "flights of cargo planes bringing tulips from Holland, roses of the rise of nationalism and a

THE PRESS JUST OFF The Most Realistic and Thought Provoking Book of Our Time

An outline for an intelligent approach to an understanding of the problem of "Race," as it relates to World Peace.

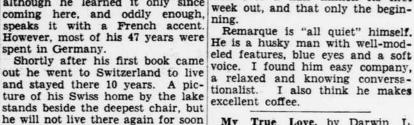
Pertinent chapters cover the Negro in the West Indies, the Pacific, Latin America, Africa, as well as the United States and Canada.

Post-War World-A Primer



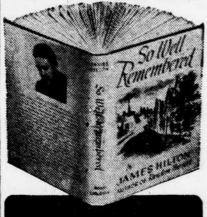
Will Make New York His Home. In Hollywood, where he was during his first three years in this

country, he was charmed by having a little house with a swimming pool. When he realized he was becoming Hollywood-minded



High Bonnet, by Idwal Jones. (Prentice Hall, \$2.50.) Hilarious adventures of a famous French chef.

**BOOKMAN'S** Dixie Book Shop 1746 Columbia Road N.W. Tel. ADams 0031 Books of all Publishers Gift Books - Art Books Juveniles-First Editions Greeting Cards—Records

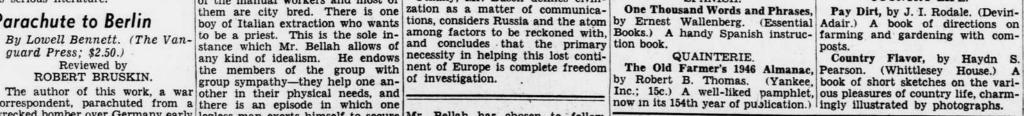


# JAMES HILTON'S WELL REMEMBERED

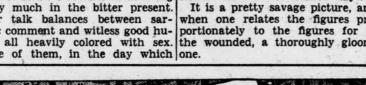
has made George Boswell, whose story it is, a personal friend of more than 800.000 readers. And George Boswell, in turn, has made SO WELL **REMEMBERED** one of America's best-loved novels - perhaps "the most hauntingly beautiful novel" yet written by a "storyteller unequaled in this generation."

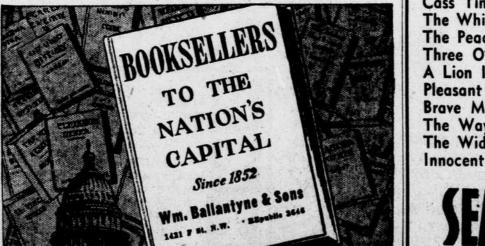
An Atlantic Novel

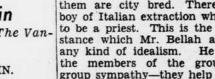




The author of this work, a war other in their physical needs, and









ORDER YOURS

TODAY

\$1.60

Postpaid

No. 1

national

**Best Seller** 

in non-fiction

as reported in

the N. Y. Times, Jan. 6

"A RIOT

**OF LAUGHS."** 

-Washington Star

**B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY** 

Philadelphia • New York

3

The Negro and the

art in the United States for nearly although he learned it only since week out, and that only the beginhalf a century, could get it by read- coming here, and oddly enough, ing the introductory reviews in all speaks it with a French accent.

crease the book's value.

understanding and co-operation between the various countries of the

Americas."

the volumes.

