

Oklahoma Books

From East to West. A Traveller's Reflections on Politics and Peoples. By Fritz Ermarth. Privately Printed. Norman, Oklahoma. 1939.

LAST year Dr. Fritz Ermarth of the Department of Government of the University of Oklahoma spent several months in Asia and Europe, studying intensively the political problems of the Extreme Orient, India, the Near East, and Central Europe. He has set down his conclusions in this well-written book.

These conclusions are not of a sort to elicit wild hurrahs of enthusiasm from extremists in any camp, fascist or socialist, super-patriotic or internationalist. Dr. Ermarth occupies a position which he qualifies as "political realism." His objectivity is proof against every temptation to retouch the photograph, and against all dangerous emotion, even of a sort which many readers would condone as righteous indignation. He is no censor, no advocate, no excited prophet.

Since the League of Nations is moribund and all the ultra-nationalist states are rather clearly headed for the rocks, he finds the world's only salvation—a relative and provisional salvation, it is true—in the development of certain regional "blocs"; namely in a cautious balance-of-power régime in which the chief units are: Eastern Asia, freed from occidental meddling; Pan America; a West European Four-Power compact (Chamberlain and Munich continued); and apparently a somewhat abbreviated and chastened Russia.

A "make the best of things" philosophy has never been popular with either the Hitlers or the Mike Golds. The "political realist," it is true, in his care to keep out of the way of the bad man on a rampage, may sometimes run the risk of stepping on a few innocent bystanders. But attempts to discipline bad nations, at least bad big nations, have never been conspicuously successful; and the world seems not yet to have outlived a ragged Age of Compromise. This is a thoughtful book, and it took as much courage as talent to write it.—H.

Handbook by Tibbitts

Guidance in Study Activities is the title of a new handbook by F. Lyman Tibbitts, '16, '19ma, special instructor in the Extension Division of the University of Oklahoma. It is published by the Co-Operative Publishing Company, Guthrie.

The handbook contains an Inventory of Study Habits and Attitudes by which a student may score himself to discover

his strong points and his weaknesses in study habits.

After presenting this means for determining weak points, the handbook gives constructive suggestions for improving study habits.

Fifty-nine specific suggestions are presented, such as: have a definite place for study, have a definite time for study of each subject, review the previous lesson before beginning the new, study with an intent to remember things that are studied, study with the intention of using what is learned, and so on.

The handbook is brightened greatly by pen and ink sketches by Don Moon, of Guthrie. These sketches illustrate the text admirably and contribute much to the effectiveness of the material.

The writing of the handbook and the construction of the Inventory of Study Habits and Attitudes are largely co-operative enterprises, Mr. Tibbitts explains. Eleven Oklahoma school systems participated in the study in some concrete manner.

A bibliography of helpful books on study is given in the back of the handbook.

General use of a handbook such as this among high school students in Oklahoma should result in a vast improvement in the work done by freshmen students in the University. Recent surveys at O. U. have shown that a surprisingly large number of high school graduates enter the University without adequate knowledge of how to study effectively.—R. C.

Sooner authors

The Old Santa Fe Trail, by "Stanley Vestal" (W. S. Campbell of the University English faculty), is scheduled for publication this summer by the Macmillan Company.... *Southern Plainsmen*, a University Press book by Carl Coke Rister of the O. U. faculty, has been recommended by the Book-of-the-Month Club.

Articles by Dr. Milton Hopkins, assistant professor of botany, appeared in recent issues of *The Oklahoma Teacher*, and *Oklahoma Gardener*.... Richard M. Caldwell, '26, managing editor of the *Sapulpa Herald*, is author of a 30-minute radio play broadcast recently over station KTUL, Tulsa. Caldwell's play was the second in a series of dramatizations called "Famous Women of the American Revolution. Mrs. Charles M. Perry (Winifred Johnston, '24), has started plans to publish a series of pamphlets under the title of "Co-Operative Books." National distribution is expected for some of the issues, and the material will include literary criticisms and discussions of public affairs from a variety of points of view.

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