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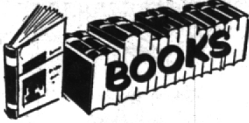
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## BOOKS and REVIEWS

### Christianity Among the Religions of the World

"Only humility can save mankind from destroying itself," states Dr. Toynebe in the preface of his latest book, "Christianity Among the Religions of the World."  
This attitude of humility, Dr. Toynebe concludes, is the basic concept of the world's higher religions—Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Hinduism and Buddhism.  
All hold to the belief in a higher being, an ultimate good, whether it be the Christian doctrine of salvation through suffering, or the Buddhist concept of lack of desire and non-suffering.  
Dr. Toynebe compares this principle of man's humility, or the Buddhist concept of lack of desire and non-suffering, as evidenced in the communist and nationalistic states.

**SELF WORSHIP**, according to Dr. Toynebe, has been with us since the beginning of recorded history, but today this "evil" is more powerful than ever with the aid of modern technical achievement.  
We are living in a world that is already post-Christian, Dr. Toynebe writes. The emphasis in the twentieth century is not on spiritual or philosophical development, but on technical and scientific discovery which it intended to make man more comfortable, more powerful, perhaps more happy.

**CHRISTIANITY**, Dr. Toynebe feels, because of its fanaticism and insistence on dogma, did not spread to the East. Now, he is of the opinion that Christianity as a potent force in the world is on the decline.  
The emphasis today is on the differences of the world's higher religions rather than the similarities. Dr. Toynebe concludes, for example, both Christianity and Islam are offshoots of Judaism, originating in Palestine, the Ganges valley in India is the seat of

**Bettina**  
By Arthur Helps and Elizabeth Jane Howard. 214 pp. New York, Reynal & Company. \$4.00.  
Reviewed by **FRED MALLENDER**  
Biography as a form of literature makes certain stringent demands of the would-be biographer. Primary among these is exhaustive knowledge of the chosen subject and the period in which he or she lived. The authors of "Bettina" give the impressions of having such knowledge but of not knowing how to use it.  
Caterina Elizabeth Ludovica Magdon von Arnim, known to the world as Bettina, must have been one of the most fascinating women of the nineteenth century.  
Certainly any person capable of attracting the friendship or enmity of Goethe, the Gunderode, Madame de Staël, Crabb Robinson, Beethoven and assorted emperors, kings, politicians and generals was worthy of biographical treatment.

**BETTINA WAS ESSEN-**

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### The Winter House

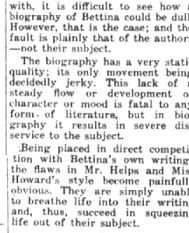
By George Abbe. 235 pp. New York, Doubleday & Company. \$3.75.  
Reviewed by **JEAN LENEES**  
It would seem that George Abbe is first of all a poet, for his new novel is a simple and rather unsophisticated story that is made interesting only by its intensity and imagery.  
"The Winter House" is the story of Mark Latham, who growing up as a New England minister's son in an atmosphere of piety and hardship, watches the bitter and resentful neighbors humiliate his family.  
Rebelling against these frozen people, Mark rejects the example of his father who continues to battle the coldness of men with love, and thinking him a failure hardens his heart against everyone but his family. In his drive for revenge Mark soon becomes ruthless toward the world as he imagines his father's parishioners to be.

**Middle of the Night**  
By Paddy Chayefsky. 146 pp. New York, Random House. \$2.95.  
Reviewed by **DONALD A. YATES**  
Paddy Chayefsky, who began dramatic writing in the TV medium, switched to movie writing with remarkable success. His own adaptation of his TV drama "Marty" won about every movie award in sight, and will be talked about by movie historians for a long time to come.  
Chayefsky has also turned to writing for Broadway without diminishing in the least the glow of his success.  
"Middle of the Night," currently still playing in New York with Edward G. Robinson in the lead, is a brilliant showcase for the talents of the Brooklyn writer who has proven himself so able to uncover, examine, and finally dignify the small struggles and everyday con-

ditions of the "plain" people who inhabit the nondescript apartments and flats along the streets of a great city like New York.  
THE CAREFULLY DEVELOPED story of the book is not presently available to any but those who can attend the show in the theatre off Broadway. However, in written form it is available in the Random House edition. It reads like a good play.  
Chayefsky has chosen here to examine the beauty and the frustrations that arise out of a romance between a commonplace small-time manufacturer in his early fifties and a sensitive young girl in her twenties. The man has never considered marriage until he finds,

Arctic plants remain small because of the lack of soil and water and the intensity of the northern summer sun.  
With all of this material to work with, it is difficult to see how a biography of Bettina could be dull. However, that is the case, and the fault is plainly that of the authors—not their subject.  
The biography has a very static quality; its only movement being decidedly jerky. This lack of a steady flow or development of character or mood is fatal to any form of literature, but in biography it results in severe disservice to the subject.  
Being placed in direct competition with Bettina's own writings, the flaws of Mr. Helps and Miss Howard's style become painfully obvious. They are simply unable to breathe life into their writing and, thus, succeed in squeezing life out of their subject.

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### Reviewed by JEAN LENEES

perishes and is replaced by the summer house.  
The merit of "The Winter House" lies in the beauty of poetic imagery with which the story is told. The author's skill is demonstrated in the description of setting the mingling of the harsh New England scene and the cold, suspicious townpeople.  
But, perhaps just because this is not poetry, the novel has flaws. The author places such emphasis on the novel's spiritual meaning that the characters and story lack adequate development—their reactions are exaggerated, the situations are unreal, and the story as a whole is too simplified.  
Then, too, "The Winter House" is limited by the fact that in a novel, as opposed to poetry, great intensity of emotion cannot be sustained. Repeatedly in this novel, an event of great power dies with a meaningless, common remark, and the emotional build up seems out of proportion.  
In spite of these weaknesses, the novel's message, beautiful imagery, and descriptive setting make it worthwhile, and at times, moving reading.

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**Elected to Board**  
Two area men, Leslie W. Fleming, 1007 Mohegan, Birmingham, and Edmund W. Kleinschmit, 6100 W. Surry, Bloomfield township, have been elected to the executive board of the Detroit metropolitan Albion alumni association.  
The PROBLEMS they encounter—with the girl's family, with the man's sister—are knowingly handled. And the climax of the story produces a sense of humble dignity that, even through the written word, reveals the art of a playwright who understands the simple heart.

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