

# BOOKS and REVIEWS

## Death of a Nation

By Clifford Dowdey. 351 pp. New York. Alfred A. Knopf. \$5.00.

Reviewed by **FREDERICK G. BAHR**

The subject of this book is Lee and his men at Gettysburg. Few events in history have attracted as much attention as this battle. It is studied in every military academy in the world as the basis for many of the modern concepts of tactical warfare, and, historically, most authorities regard the battle as the major turning point of the Civil War.

Without de-emphasizing either the military or the historical significance, Mr. Dowdey tells the story in a new way; he very successfully contracts the task of making an entire army come alive. Around the heroic figure of Gen. Robert E. Lee revolve his corps commanders: Jeb Stuart, Hill, Ewell, Longstreet and Pickett; then come the division, brigade and even some of the regimental officers. All are treated in detail as to personality, ability and, above all, as integral parts, weak or strong, in the army that was the South's last hope.

AGAINST THIS personal background of the Confederate leadership, the battle itself, dramatic in even the most uninspired account, becomes, in Dowdey's hands, the finest possible monument to the Army of Northern Virginia. From Lee to each regiment, it is the story of an army a bit past its prime, but an army which, by superb gallantry and unbelieved effort, achieved a series of "almosts" during those three days of battle that "almost" changed the country's history.

## The Enemy Camp

By Jerome Weidman. 561 pp. New York. Random House, Inc.

Reviewed by **MARY TURINO**

In his admirable novel, "The Enemy Camp," Jerome Weidman deals with the problem of prejudice in a unique fashion. George Hurst at the opening of this work, is on the brink of his fortieth birthday. He is happily married to Mary Sherrod, a lovely woman who grew up on Philadelphia's Main Line, and he is very much involved in the small details of living in a Connecticut commuter's town.

## The Pursuit of Excellence

Sponsored by Rockefeller Brothers Fund, New York. Doubleday, News Book, 75c.

Reviewed by **CHARLES W. RENFREW**

This is the fourth in a series of reports developed by the Special Studies Project sponsored by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Inc. The project is an attempt to assess the major problems confronting the United States over the next ten to 15 years, and this specific report deals with the problem of adapting our educational institutions to best develop the talents of our people without sacrificing the dignity of the individual.

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Mange  
Rabies

Q. Can a person get mange from a dog?  
A. Perhaps. Mange is caused by a mite that burrows into the skin. There are two general types, the itch mite and a follicular mite. The itch mite is the pest of man so it is possible that a mangy dog could pass it along to humans. Although pets can carry disease, with reasonable care they can still be enjoyed and should not be regarded as a dangerous source of infection to humans.

Q. Can rabies develop in a dog that has been given rabies shots to prevent the disease?  
A. Yes. Rabies shots are not 100% effective.

Material in **MEDICAL MIRROR** is based on various scientific publications and does not reflect the opinion of all doctors. The diagnosis and treatment of disease requires the skill and knowledge which only a physician can apply by personally attending the patient.

Letters will be answered in these columns anonymously.

Direct your inquiries to J. Downey Rankin, M.D., SCIENCE EDITORS, P.O. BOX 396, Madison Square Station, New York 10, N. Y.

**The Ginger Man**  
By J. P. Donleavy, New York. McDowell, Obolensky Inc. \$3.95.

Reviewed by **TOM PHILLIPS**

The picaresque novel seems to be making a comeback. Once a popular literary form, but forgotten as a model by contemporary writers. Although picaresque it appeared new and again, it made little impression on the current literary scene until 1955 when Saul Bellow's unapologetic tale of roguery, "The Adventures of Augie March," brought an exciting breath of fresh air into the literary world.

"The Enemy Camp" is Jerome Weidman's 11th novel, and his style reflects his talent and his experience. His prose flows freely. His deft use of descriptive phrases adds dimension to his characters. For example, in Weidman's previous novel, "The Gering Man," he presiding over the caviar tray, we read, "It was almost as though, in putting together the dexterously arranged mounds of black beads, chopped onion, grated egg yolk, and sour cream on tiny slivers of toast, she was able to demonstrate most satisfactorily the unique power that wealth had brought her."

Indeed, characterization is one of Weidman's strongest points. Personality and events are consistently organic. He has created people who control the events of their lives and are responsible for them. Each significant occurrence which arises, and the manner in which it is met, is directly related to the emotions and backgrounds of the characters.

This is a thoroughly enjoyable, frequently thought-provoking novel. The skill of the author and the depth of his understanding should place "The Enemy Camp" among the top books of 1958.

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