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BOOKS and REVIEWS

War and Peace in the Space Age

By James M. Gavin. 304 pp.
New York: Harper & Bros. \$5

Reviewed by
ARTHUR HINKLEY

James M. Gavin is a smart
tough soldier who started learn-
ing his business at 17 as a private
and climbed to the lofty eminence
of three-star general.

He quit abruptly last spring
after 34 years in the army be-
cause of his disgust with the cur-
rent defense policy and threw him-
self into writing "War and Peace
in the Space Age," a chart of
defense procedure in the day of
the ICBM, satellites and nuclear
weapons. It is an important book
to read, but few of Gavin's
readers have the background and
training to evaluate it.

Gavin takes in a lot of territory
in his delineation of the problems
facing the United States, and his
infective sallies reach to the inner-
most regions of the White House
and Pentagon. He doesn't flail
wildly, but punches directly at
vital targets with the technique
of a trained fighter.

THOSE who come under Gavin's
powerful blows have tried to dis-
count him as a professional soldier
never out of uniform in his adult
life and victim of army "tunnel
vision." They declare that Gavin
never rose high enough in the de-
fense hierarchy to see the complete
picture.

But when trouble comes, it is
to the Gavins that the country
looks for leadership. If the gen-
eral has done nothing else in his
book, he has set forth clearly the
difficulties under which his coun-
try works to keep sharp the county's
defenses.

While supporting the American
principle of civilian control of de-
fense, Gavin is more than rough
with the Department of Defense
as now constituted. He is brutal
in his handling of Charles E.
Wilson as secretary and some of
the lesser officials. He particu-
larly singles out for attack the ca-
reer civil service personnel which
has been interposed as an insulat-
ing layer between the secretary of
defense and the service sec-
retaries.

THE GENERAL sees no danger

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In inter-service rivalry and de-
clares this change has been used
to hide defense department foul-
ups. He has a plan for reorganiza-
tion of defense, incorporating his
concept of the type of organization
needed for an emergency state of
war, the tactical field and space
strategic area.

But Gavin speaks clearly even
to those who may not understand
space-age strategy, when he says:
"We must be aggressive advocates
of what we are for. It is not
enough merely to be against an
enemy, specifically Communism. It
is a delusive belief that the world
crisis that lies ahead can be re-
solved merely by resisting Com-
munism. The only acceptable al-
ternative to Communism is dy-
namic and articulate democracy."

STIMMING UP, General Gavin
writes:

"It is past time that we re-
wrote our strategy, from a strategy
to avoid war to a strategy
to win. Since the object of
strategy is to make physical com-
bat unnecessary, we as a free
people should be able to develop
such a strategy. Our democracy
has been for peace and for freedom
since the Republic was founded and
we should be assertively for them
now."

A trained, expert, successfully
fighting soldier who thinks like
that can't be too far off target
in his supporting ideas.

After Long Silence

By Robert Gutwille. 350 pp.
Boston: Little Brown & Co. \$4

Entry E

By Richard Frede. 247 pp.
New York: Random House.
\$3.50.

Reviewed by
DON YATES

"Entry E" and "After Long
Silence" are the first novels with
college backgrounds—Yale and
Cornell, respectively. Richard Fre-
de and Robert Gutwille attend
the schools which appear as
backgrounds for their stories, so
we may assume that on the count
of authentic college experience,
these two young men know where-
of they write.

The novels are similar in little
more than what we have already
mentioned: they are widely dis-
similar in the most significant re-
spects. As works of fiction, their
values are strikingly different.
"After Long Silence" is by far the
better job. "Entry E" with little
but good intentions to recom-
mend it, suffers by the comparison.

THE TITLE "Entry E" refers
to a section of the male student
living quarters at the Eastern
school Frede chooses to call
Hayden) in which the dramatic
event of the novel is hatched by a
group of students and is suc-
cessfully carried out. The story's
protagonist, a painfully self-con-
scious fellow in matters of moral
decision and a paralytic in terms
of action, is Ed Bogard. He is an
unmythical chap. Fully one hundred
pages are dedicated to his sopho-
moric wanderings before anything
of note occurs in the movement
of the plot. Bogard is given to
lengthy chats with a fellow he calls
the Third Person, another name
for his CONSCIENCE. Bogard

just doesn't know what to do with
himself; and his personal problems,
I felt, were not particularly in-
teresting. In short, when he
hears that some of his Entry mates
are planning a mass sexual at-
tack on an unsuspecting date of
one of the gang, Bogard feels that
morally he's on the spot. The
book is about his struggle to do
the right thing.

The novel comes to its climax
with an incredible conversation be-
tween Bogard and his dead—not
about cases in particular (the at-
tack plan was carried out) but
rather about the philosophy of
"renewal." It all sounds flatly
phony and fixed.

"After Long Silence" bites off
much more of the meat of under-
graduate experience. Author Gut-
wille takes his protagonist, Tom
Freeman, through the latter's col-
lege years, and then away from
school to New York and the cru-
cial problems of finding a way of
life outside the ivied walls of
college.

The story is told by Tom, and
is largely about an older student,
veteran, Chris Hunt, and his
influence on young Tom's thinking
and preparation for life. This is
a difficult story to write, espe-
cially since author Gutwille him-
self is not far removed from his
own undergraduate days, but the
material is handled well.

Tom understands early what
Chris represents to him: "What I
wanted Chris to be, what I made
him in my own mind was a sort
of re-creation of the nineteenth-
century American literary hero
—the masculine, handsome figure
who, cut off from the rest of his
inheritance, wanders the world in
the exile of his own sensibility,
mournful and emotionally deracinated."

Tom understands that there are
some flaws in Chris' make-up, but
it is his early choice not to reject
them. Tom drinks a lot, ignores his
responsibilities as a student, and
lives on and off with a girl. This
evidence is carefully observed and
interpreted in the narrative, and
his tangles with the outside world fail
to carry the same impact of truth.
But the novel, as a whole, is suc-
cessful.

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WHAT DOCTORS SAY ABOUT

• Chills
• Jaw Clicks
• Hormone Creams

Q. Is the temperature going up
or down when a person has a
chill?

A. It is usually on the way up.
During a chill the skin blood
vessels contract and skin tem-
perature falls. The person wants
more cover because his sensa-
tions of temperature depend
mostly on skin temperature.
When the chill is over the skin
vessels dilate. The person's skin
becomes warmer and he wants
less cover. Body temperature,
in the meantime, stays up.

Q. "My jaw clicks when I chew.
What should I do?"—C. W.

A. Go right on chewing. The
clicks will probably disappear
in time.

Q. "I am past 39 and a few
telatate wrinkles are beginning
to appear. Will hormone face
cream help?"—No name.

A. The value of hormone (estro-
gen) face cream in improving

aging skin has not been medi-
cally proved or disproved. In
certainty, in a medical test, 27
women applied estrogen cream
to one side of the face and plain
cream to the other side. There
was no difference in the two
sides of the face after daily use
of the cream for three months.

Material in MEDICAL MIRROR
is based on various scientific
publications and does not neces-
sarily 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 pa-
tient.

Letters will be answered in these columns anonymously.
Direct your inquiries to J. Downey Ralston, M.D.
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