

FLIGHT

*A FLIGHT of sparrows, crowd-directed, drifts
Across the unrestricting sky, creating routes
Sharply defined as any in a maze.*

*Who falls is lost, but who is it dictates?
What impulse moves what gyroscopic core
To keep intact what seems so atomised?*

*One, flying blind or lame, falls out:
With heightened pulse, unable to keep up,
Deviant from type: then freer, or less free?*

*Hurt is the price, but hurt too is a prize:
Lost from the rest, discovering a self
Small as a bird, but in a bigger sky.*

—Anton Vogt

when, for example, Campbell of Argyll fails to fit in with her iniquitous portrayal of him, "His pretence to piety" leaves Miss Lane unmoved. She dismisses his brave bearing at his execution under Charles II as "surprising."

(2) Miss Lane is unable to see any good in Presbyterianism. She begins her story twenty years after the imposition of Episcopacy on Scotland, and fails to see the significance of the Kirk's earlier history. She is apparently unaware of the existence of such documents as Knox's liturgy or the Scots Confession. She is unwilling to see any value in a system of Church government which allows lay representation in Church courts.

(3) The Stuarts could do no wrong, in Miss Lane's view. They, and especially Charles I, were a persecuted and misunderstood dynasty, men of gentle manners, noble ideals and humble mien. She appears to have no conception of the struggle for constitutional government being played out in the years of the Stuarts. A unified government had already been established under the Tudors, and the Stuarts, with their conception of the Divine Right of Kings, were trying to turn the clock back, so that their eventual banishment was inevitable.

Miss Lane has unearthed much valuable material, though not all that is available. It will remain for a more impartial historian to give a more sober and realistic reading of these momentous events.

—G.D.

THE BIG HOSPITAL

THIS HOSPITAL IS MY HOME, by Dr S. R. Cutolo; Victor Gollancz, English price 18/-.

"THIS hospital" is Bellevue in New York, a huge 2700-bed establishment known as the cradle of American medicine; and Dr Cutolo is its Deputy Superintendent, so well qualified to speak of its traditions, functions and its famous personalities. This he does in the manner of a jigsaw, breaking up aspects of the great place into chapters, and within them digressing frequently into personal reminiscence, anecdote and "human interest" in a very American manner. The style is most readable, even if the train of thought becomes a trifle derailed at times. The stories are absorbing, and many separate people of special interest are described, mainly the patients, who, after all, are the important personnel of a hospital.

The book is dominated by statistics, since Dr Cutolo is still, after 25 years, obsessed and overawed by the sheer size and complexity of his charge; that, at least, is the impression he gives. He finds it rewarding, like most doctors, and tells us why in some detail. Naturally in a metropolis of the size of Bellevue, general outlines are almost too big to see; and even their short-term psychiatric beds outnumber those of any mental hospital we are acquainted with.

Famous events, major disasters like the Normandie burning, are covered faithfully from the receiving end; and the gamut below these is filled in as well as possible. Some research work, and some major operations, are fully described; a special section on the morgue facilities will appeal to detective story readers; while the ambulance and "catastrophe unit" might serve as models for some of our own emergency squads.

Overall, one gets the impression that for all its immensity, Bellevue is much the same in its administration, its troubles and foibles, incidents and accidents, its nursing shortages, its internes and physicians, as most other city hospitals. Since these are all fascinating, this shouldn't deter prospective readers one whit.

—N.O.E.

CRUSADER AGAINST CRIME

THE MAN WHO ROCKED THE BOAT, by William J. Keating; Victor Gollancz, English price 16/-.

IT was announced recently that the United States Senate had voted unanimously to investigate racketeering in the Labour-Management field and that the American A.F.L.-C.I.O. had decided to oust all union officials with racketeering or corruption records. The author of this book must have welcomed the news with a mixture of triumph and scepticism.

Ten years ago, as an Assistant-District Attorney in New York, Keating forced through the first murder prosecution ever brought against a leading waterfront racketeer, although waterfront murders had been commonplace for many years. The reactions of his colleagues and superiors varied from passive resistance to outright hostility; Keating himself was spied upon and his efforts to obtain evidence were hampered by officials in his own department.

In 1950, he resigned to become Counsel for the New York City Anti-Crime Committee, formed as a result of the Kefauver Senate Committee's sensational revelations of gangster penetration into the highest industrial and political circles. There, his exposure of a hushed-up wire-tapping scandal infuriated the District Attorney's Office and the police, who were deeply involved. He was forced to resign from the Anti-Crime Committee and was sent to jail when he refused to reveal the confidential sources of information he had sworn to protect.

These are two of the major incidents in an exciting, sincere and, above all, convincing book of the personal testimony type now so popular in the States. The title is appropriate: like other anti-crime crusaders before him, the author discovered that, although one determined man may "rock" the boat, only an informed and aroused public can upset it once and for all.

—Henry Walter

N.Z. LISTENER, MAY 31, 1957.

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