

A STUDY IN TYRANNY

HITLER, by Alan Bullock; Odhams Press, through Whitcombe and Tombs; 31 s.

(Reviewed by W.B.S.)

SIXTEEN or seventeen years ago most students of affairs were reading about Hitler and his Nazis—work by such writers as R. A. Brady, S. H. Roberts, Konrad Heiden. Each, on re-reading, seems remarkable as contemporary history, for Bullock's study, despite its greater bibliographical resources, adds no more to the picture of Hitler and his time. Perhaps this is because the author is the kind of historian who prefers to write a study in tyranny rather than to explain the success of Hitler in terms of the forces which supported him.

Nevertheless, there are some clues. For instance, to obtain some working class following, Hitler in 1932 supported strikers at the same time as he received funds from the industrialists. A few months after this episode he and the conservative Papen met secretly at the house of the banker Schroeder, to discuss tactics. There is the account of the meeting with Krupp von Bohlen, Schacht, the I. G. Farben group and

others which agreed to an election fund of 3,000,000 Reichmarks to help Hitler: after a promise that the elections would be the last for a few years "probably even for the next hundred years." When Hitler took power, virtually his first act was to destroy the trade unions; then came the appointment of the head of the largest insurance firm in Germany as Hitler's Minister of Economy and Trade. Another not irrelevant fact was the 5000 tax-free acres that Hitler added to the Hindenburg estate after he was in control of Germany.

Of course, it is difficult to draw all the possible conclusions when the story is about a thug rather than about those who hire thugs. But, judged in its own terms—"the first complete life of Hitler . . . to be published in any language"—the book is successful, and is likely to be the standard work in English until social philosophy again becomes a popular study in the English-speaking world.

TRUE CONFESSION

MY LIFE IN CRIME, the Autobiography of a Professional Criminal, reported by John Barlow Martin; Victor Gollancz, English price, 12 s.

IT is easy to believe that the publisher is justified in saying of this very strange book that "it may well be the



HITLER AND VON HINDENBURG

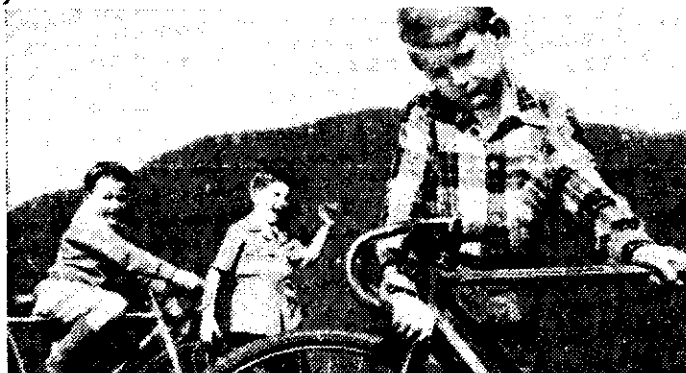
"The story is about a thug rather than about those who hire thugs"

frankest autobiography of a criminal ever published." It is the story of an American who embarked on a varied life of crime when young, and recounted his doings to a writer of established reputation as a crime reporter. The record has exceptional interest for the student of crime and crime psy-

chology, and of the special conditions which nourish them in the United States. Why this man Eugene became and remained a criminal cannot be fully explained. He came of a perfectly respectable and happy family, none of whose other members went wrong. Yet he confessed to more than

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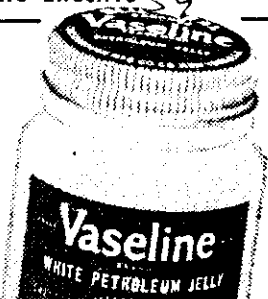
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