

## The Reader's Corner

By ADDIE MAY NIXON  
City Librarian

**Silhouette in Diamonds** by Isabel Ross.

Within the last few years Isabel Ross has written three very interesting historical books, "First Lady of the South," "Rebel Rose" and "Proud Kate." This fourth biography is the life of Mrs. Potter Palmer of Chicago. It is not a history of Mrs. Palmer's life, but a history of Chicago. As all visitors to Chicago know, everywhere one looks there is a mention of Mrs. Potter Palmer. Potter Palmer made his start with his fine department store.

Before he was 40 he had made seven million dollars. He sold his department store to Marshall Fields. Potter Palmer's wife was a good deal younger than he and was known as the most elegant lady in Chicago. She was famous for her jewel collection, and her vibrant personality. Everything she did was perfection, and she did many things.

This very well written, and sympathetic study of Mrs. Palmer describes her many activities, and tells of the rise of Chicago after the fire, and the rebuilding of the Famous Palmer House. "Silhouette in Diamonds" presents a fascinating portrait of an era of explosive energy and a woman whose vitality matched the times. Those who read and enjoyed "Silver Platter" by Ellen Berlin will enjoy this book very much.

**Born Free, a Lioness of two worlds** by Joy Adamson.

Joy Adamson is the wife of a game warden in Kenya, Africa. Four years ago her husband had to shoot a lioness. In the crevice of some nearby rocks he found three cubs. This is the story of one of the cubs, Elsa, which they raised as a pet. This is a fascinating book, and filled with wonderful photographs of Elsa.

**Seed Time on the Cumberland** by Harriette Simpson Arnow.

This new book by Harriette Simpson Arnow is chiefly the story of the first white settlers who came to southern Kentucky, and most of the middle of Tennessee. The life in the old southwest has never been drawn in such detail. Mrs. Arnow is the author of "Doll Maker," which was so popular.

**Dempsey** by the man himself by Bob Considine.

To millions there has never been a fighter like Jack Dempsey and there never will be again. This is the story of his life as he told it to Bob Considine and Bill Slocum.

**Roads to Discovery** by Ralph E. Lapp.

A famous physicist illuminates the bewildering but fascinating world of the atom, describing the series of discoveries that have led scientists to the heart of the mystery.

**Retarded Children: God's Children** by Sigurd Petersen.

Mr. Petersen has written this book about his work at Parsons State Hospital and Training Center, Parsons, Kansas, where he is psychiatric chaplain.

**How to Have Model Beauty, Poise and Personality** by John Robert Powers.

Another book for the teenage girl or young woman anxious to improve her appearance.

**Colette** by Elaine Marks.

This is a discussion about the famous author and will bring both pleasure and illumination to anyone who has ever read "Colette."

**The Sound of Music** by Richard Rodgers.

A new musical play suggested by the Trapp Family Singers. Mary Martin stars in this fascinating Broadway play.

**The Future as History** by Robert L. Heilbroner.

The author shows us what the combined effects of technology, military stalemate, revolutionary political aspirations, nationalism and collectivism means to the heirs of Western tradition. The sub-title is "The historic currents of our time and the direction they are taking America." The

author is very able to discuss his subject.

**The Survival of the Fittest** by Edna Sherry.

A Red Badge Mystery Novel. Lina Inners was one of the richest women in America, the last person to be the victim of a brutal, premeditated murder. The solving of this murder holds the reader's attention.

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich: A History of Nazi Germany.** By William L. Shirer. Simon & Schuster. \$10.

The Nazi party proper was formed in 1920; the Beer Hall Putsch came three years later, and then Hitler went to jail and wrote "Mein Kampf." On Jan. 30, 1933, he became chancellor, and dictator less than two months later. With the Axis pact signed, he prophesied with dreadful accuracy in October, 1936, that Germany would be ready for war in three years; he decided on war November 5, 1937, and committed his staff to it May 23, 1939. On August 31, 1939, he ordered the advance into Poland. He swept in all directions until, on the Moscow front, December 6, 1941, he suffered his first setback. Stalingrad and Alamein came in 1942. Hitler died April 30, 1945, and in a week Germany surrendered.

These 15 to 20 years were the crucial years in the lives of millions of people, the last years in the lives of millions more. For his report, Shirer relies on his long experience as a correspondent in Germany, and on tons of German government files seized by the United States — which seems not to have been overly cooperative with historians examining them. The result is 1,200 pages crammed with details, vividly and feelingly written, covering half a world in turmoil and constituting the most complete single study of it yet made.

Even while Hitler was a bum in Vienna, where he failed to become a painter, he was, says Shirer, a Jew hater; a believer in aggressive German nationalism; and an advocate of outright terrorism to break individuals and masses to his fierce and evil will. Shirer traces his philosophy to the worst pages of Fichte, Hegel, Treitschke, Nietzsche and Wagner, his countrymen, and the Englishman Houston Stewart Chamberlain.

Hitler was personally brave, but could behave shabbily as at the Beer Hall Putsch. He could act like a maniac, as he did to Britain's Prime Minister Chamberlain—and he got the whispered nickname "Carpet eater" for doing just that when he threw himself on the floor in a rage. His love affair with Eva Braun was not his first; he had been in love also with the daughter of his half-sister. He was completely unscrupulous about the morals of the men who wore the Nazi armband as long as they remained his devoted and obedient followers.

Hitler stomped onto the German and the world stage thanks to a combination of circumstances—the refusal of Germany to admit it had been defeated in 1918, the vacillation of German authorities and their dislike of democracy, and his own genius and rampaging ambition.

Shirer is convinced he could have been stopped on several occasions before the attack on Poland. He regrets England's handling of Hitler's plans to rebuild his fleet, French and English hesitation at the move into the Rhineland, the two Allies' somewhat supercilious attitude toward Stalin, and Munich when Hitler could not possibly have stood up against military action by France, England, Czechoslovakia, Russia.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of Shirer's book is the narrowing of the line between Nazis and Germans. There were more Germans in the Hitler build-up, he claims, than we had supposed. He cites numerous instances: The

aid given demagogue Hitler by the Bechstein piano and Bruckman publishing fortunes; the failure of the Germans to unite against Nazism; the entire officer corps' acquiescence in the purge of Roehm and others, including two generals; the complicity of some businesses, like Krupp and Farben, in the mechanics of the appalling extermination camps; the failure of doctors to protest barbarous medical experiments. Shirer says, "The Germans imposed the Nazi tyranny on themselves" and thinks they "have a weakness for blaming foreigners for their failures."

This leads us to another book, postwar Germany and surviving traces of Nazism, according to a second author, also a correspondent intimate with the German scene:

**Germany Divided: The Legacy of the Nazi Era.** By Terence Prittie. Atlantic - Little, Brown. \$6.

This book says in effect that today there are more Nazis than we had supposed.

Prittie could use for his title a Shirer sub-head: "House Divided." He writes about a Germany split two ways, east and west, and ideologically. The geographical division, which the Soviets favor, may persist—and, as Prittie notes, less than a century ago Germans were divided not into two states but into 30 or 40. The return of fugitive East Germans to West Germany in the last decade has formed in West Germany an invincible core of foes of the present division.

Prittie grants the Germans the qualities and capabilities needed to form a healthy state. But he says their trouble is opportunism. He wishes they had more deep-seated ideals. In a book full of pointed and often shocking incidents, he gives many examples of contemporary Germans who have not learned the lesson of 1945, any more than their parents learned the lesson of 1918. They claim they did not know about extermination camps — he contradicts them; they remember Hitler built them good roads; they say they would have over-

thrown Hitler if only the British had been more severe with him—even Adenauer says that: they pay bigger indemnities to ex-Nazis than to the Nazis' victims.

Prittie writes out of a passion to get the Germans and their post-war problems straightened out—but you have the suspicion he would be surprised if they managed it.

W. G. Rogers

During the 19th century, all the principal nations of the world were on a single gold standard.

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