much for the empire as for the sake of upholding the reputations of their own regiments. When things got too bad, individual soldiers developed an understandable cynicism and were willing to cede the whole blankety-blank country (Malaya or Burma) to whosoever was such a blankety-blank fool as to want it.

Only the last third of "Retreat with Stilwell" deals with the march over the mountains from Burma to India by General Stilwell and his band of 115 assorted persons—British Quakers, Burmese nurses, a handful of Chinese, and a scattering of American and English soldiers. This saga deserves a fuller treatment. General Stilwell appears to have been a competent, courageous American military product who succeeded in getting over the mountains on foot. Thousands of other less distinguished persons accomplished the same feat, among them many of General Stilwell's Chinese troops, without the aid of their general. Jack Belden implies that General Stilwell was a hero, which he may have been, but we do not get enough details about his character to form a judgment.

Marcus Duffield

Miss Lucy Ludwell

JOHN PARADISE AND LUCY LUDWELL OF LONDON AND WILLIAMSBURG. By Archibald Bolling Shepperson. The Dietz Press. $4.

Though a graduate of Oxford and a member of both the Royal Society and Dr. Johnson's Essex Head Club, John Paradise never wrote a book, or held an office, or had a profession, or even kept a journal. He did nothing at all to make him the subject of a biography exactly two hundred years after his birth except to marry Miss Lucy Ludwell of Virginia. That young lady, besides being a beauty and an heiress, possessed many traits of character which, even in the eighteenth century, apparently marked the behavior of the Southern belle among strangers. She was vain, ignorant, arrogant, scatter-brained, and unshakably convinced that everyone she met should be as interested as herself in her own family. The persistence with which she bent the ears of Dr. Johnson, Sir Joshua Reynolds, and the other literary and artistic friends of her husband in London with tales about the Ludwells drove Paradise close to distraction. Her extravagances sank him deeper and deeper into debt.

A simple solution of the problem would have been for Mr. Paradise to take his wife back where she came from, declare himself an American citizen, and take title to her share of the vast Ludwell holdings. He would have done so in the first year of his marriage except that he was terrified of thunder, and from the papers that had been read before the Royal Society since Benjamin Franklin had become a member, got the impression that America was in the perpetual throes of cataclysmic electrical storms. For eighteen years, during which they frantically sought—but seldom followed—the advice of every prominent American they met or were related to, the Paradises prepared for and then postponed their voyage. And then when they actually made it, they were worse off than before. After a triumphal social tour of the great plantations, which ended at Mount Vernon, they quit Virginia abruptly without settling any of their problems. After this they flitted between Paris, where they now got money as well as advice from the hard-pressed Jefferson, and Italy and London. There Paradise died in 1795, sunk deep in alcoholism and melancholia. Ten years later his widow, on borrowed money but with all her airs and finery, returned to queen it over a Williamsburg that had already become the sleepy village it remained until the Rockefellers restored it. She died there in 1814, but not in the now familiar Paradise House; her last two years were spent in the public asylum for the insane.

Patient scholarly research has seldom brought to light a couple so aptly fitted for the leading figures in a costume farce. How two such zanies got themselves intimately entangled with the great literary figures of eighteenth-century London and the great political figures of America makes their story. One wonders how Jefferson, Franklin, Wythe, Jay, the Adamses, and the Lees could spare the time from trying to straighten out the Paradises to get on with the business of founding this nation.

Grace Adams

The Negro and "His Place"

PATTERNS OF NEGRO SEGREGATION. By Charles S. Johnson. Harper and Brothers. $3.50.

This book is the second volume in the study of the Negro in the United States which was carried on under the direction of a Swedish social economist and sponsored by the Carnegie Corporation. As stated in the foreword by the Editorial Committee, although the facts of Negro segregation are well known, the special contribution of this book is that it shows the great "variations in customary interracial practices" which are designed to keep the Negro in "his place."

In the ten chapters composing the first part of the book, the patterns of segregation are traced from the spatial and institutional segregation of the Negro in various parts of the country to the ideological justifications which are used to support certain beliefs and attitudes regarding the place of the Negro in our society. The areas covered by the survey include a county in each of three Southern states, a city in each of five Southern states, Baltimore and Indianapolis, which are classified as border cities, and two Northern cities—Chicago and New York. The author's analysis shows that in border states, where there are no laws concerning the segregation of the races, custom and tradition have been as effective as legal codes; whereas in the North laws against discrimination have not nullified customary practices. This section of the book contains a chapter on occupational discrimination against the Negro during the present national emergency. A chapter on the ideology of the color line based largely on evidence which field workers secured through interviewing persons in the areas mentioned above shows that Southerners still hold to their traditional ideas about the color line and that these ideas have been diffused to some extent among Northerners.

Although the facts of segregation are well known, Americans generally are not so well acquainted with the reactions of Negroes to discrimination. The second part of the book discusses the techniques which they use toward segregation
and its effects on their personalities. Many of the facts presented in this section were revealed in the studies of Negro youth sponsored by the American Youth Commission, though the author has included additional data on the reactions of adult Negroes. The three chief techniques of reaction, according to his analysis, are acceptance of the situation, avoidance, and hostility and aggression. Unfortunately, we are not informed concerning the prevalence of these techniques among Negroes or whether one is increasing or displacing the others.

Since the author undertook only to delineate the forms of Negro segregation, perhaps he should not be criticized for giving a static description of race relations. However, since his book is part of a study which aims to throw new light on the Negro problem, one might expect more than a descriptive—in some places it is scarcely more than reportorial—account of the present situation. Only in the first and last chapters does the author attempt, and then in a sketchy and generalized fashion, an analysis of the dynamic forces in American life which are constantly affecting the patterns of race relations. Political factors are almost entirely ignored, though at the present time the changing character of our political structure is having an important influence. Moreover, one would like to know how the growth of large impersonal corporations and technological changes are affecting the traditional relations of the two races. A thoroughgoing sociological analysis of the patterns of Negro segregation must take into account the influence of such factors.

E. FRANKLIN FRAZIER

Cross-Purposes

NEW DIRECTIONS, 1942. Number Seven. Edited by James Laughlin. New Directions. $3.50.

Despite their flaws and occasional absurdities of selection, Mr. Laughlin’s annuals have been invaluable as barometers of the advance guard in imaginative writing. The latest, as is to be expected, indicates deep depressions moving east and west from the war zones. Foreign sources yield far less than usual—a drop of Kafka, some of Jouve—and the excitement level of American writing is also down. Of this year’s four debuts, two are real: one from New York, the poet Marcia Nardi, and one from Boston, a poet-dramatist who calls himself Louis Second. The other two, from Illinois and Kansas, are duds. I hope this doesn’t indicate a culture shift. The most distinguished writing in the book is by relatively well-established names: William Carlos Williams, Alvin Levin, Paul Goodman, Richard Eberhart. The rest is largely without style, featureless from the will to shine. But one should be grateful for what does emerge. Collections like this are among the sparse evidence that literature is not being completely displaced by journalism.

Mr. Laughlin’s foreword betrays one of the reasons why so much tripe makes his grade: he lets it in as satire. Writers, he declares, have got to keep hammering at the falsities of the present order so as to increase the chances of a real people’s revolution against the “shiny and delusive world imperialism” he suspects is in the offing. But this commendable wish need not make one hear a hammer-blow in a pinprick. In his

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