NEW BOOKS

Historian August Meier notes:

Civil Rights "Revolution" Spurs Scholarly Interest in Race Relations

THE NEGRO'S CIVIL WAR by James M. McPherson. (Pantheon Books. $6.95.)
THE NEGRO IN THE SOUTH SINCE 1865 edited by Charles E. Wynes. (University of Alabama Press. $5.95.)

The momentous events of recent years associated with the "civil rights revolution" have been accompanied by something of a "revolution" in scholarly interest in the history of American race relations and of American Negroes. The two books under consideration here are each, in its own way, representative of the new scholarship in the field. McPherson's *The Negro's Civil War* is the product of intensive research in the activities of Negroes and of white abolitionists during the War; Wynes' *The Negro in the South Since 1865* is a compilation of important scholarly articles about southern Negroes since the War, selected and edited by a man who has made a significant contribution in his study of late nineteenth century race relations in Virginia.

McPherson's volume is an unusual kind of book. It consists of excerpts from contemporary documents, skillfully woven together with connecting and explanatory passages by McPherson himself, to make a well-rounded account of Negro activities during the Civil War period. Included are not only the better-known materials on Negro participation in the War, but also seldom-cited selections dealing with the Negroes' struggle for economic opportunity and citizenship rights. Thus McPherson deals with such topics as Negro opposition to Abraham Lincoln in 1860 because of his moderate stand on the slave questions, the efforts of the freedmen to obtain land for themselves, and Negro protests against Jim Crow school and street cars in the North.

Wynes' volume is more traditional in that it focuses less on what Negroes themselves were doing than on the equally important topic of what whites were doing to and about Negroes. He includes articles written by both white and Negro scholars, on a wide vareity of aspects of the development of southern racism, especially in the period between the end of Reconstruction and the First World War. A smaller group of articles, dealing with Negro thought and Negro cowboys, attests, as does McPherson's volume, to the richness and variety of Negro life despite the prejudice and proscription under which black men in the South have lived.

—August Meier

Another Negro Family Report

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY AMONG NEGROES by Jessie Bernard (Prentice Hall. $4.95; paper $1.95.)

The contribution to sociology made by Dr. Bernard's latest book begins in its preface, with its emphasis on the need to fill the gaps in the knowledge about marriage and the family among Negroes, and to adopt a new approach in order to give "meaning to the current scene" in race relations. In spite of the statement that this is not a book on race relations, the very frame of reference — institutionalization of the norms of monogamic marriage among Negroes in the United States through a two-way process of acculturation—is all but an analysis of the Negro family structure as a function of race relations in the American society.

The author herself points out the thinness of recent data; research studies on the Negro family, or rather, on the family at large, are fragmentary and discrete. They are a thin basis for the detection of two cultures among Negroes: one that is internally acculturated, i.e., has internalized the moral norms of the Western society, and a second that is only externally acculturated and differs from the first especially in relation to sex and work mores.

These two strands of acculturation cut across income-class lines, leading to a variety of family types. This frame of reference is partly contradicted by the statement on page 127, "that a pattern of serial polygamy has evolved among *lower-class* externally adapted Negroes."

Perhaps the best analysis in the book is presented in chapter 4. The socialization of Negro children into the role of Negroes has thwarted personalities, determined different types of family structure and parental roles, producing the denigrated father held in low esteem by the outside world and by his children.

In spite of the paucity of data and some contradiction, this book represents the voice which sociology had to raise in the present conjuncture of American society, to encourage the kind of research which will envisage marriage and family without any need for differentiation between data concerning white and non-white father, mothers, and children.

—Lavinia Raymond

OUR REVIEWERS

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MRS. TAPPEINER, now a housewife and mother in Brazil, worked for a year for the freedom movement in Holly Springs, Mississippi.

Civil Rights Lawyer-on-the-Spot

Reviewer Kathy Tappeiner (r.) conducting a home nursing class in Holly Springs, Mississippi, Freedom Center.

DEEP IN MY HEART by William M. Kunstler. (William Morrow & Co., Inc. $4.95.)

Twelve years ago, the Supreme Court's decision on school desegregation overturned a rotten log of discriminatory legislation and practice in the South, thereby exposing a lot of ugly little bugs to the light of day. The job of stamping out these bugs has not been taken up by the legal arm of the federal government, the Justice department. Instead, a small band of volunteer lawyers has begun the work of rooting out discriminatory statues and of challenging the decisions of prejudiced judges. Foremost among these volunteer lawyers is William Kunstler.

Mr. Kunstler has written about his civil rights experiences during the years 1961 to 1965 in a fast-moving book, *Deep in My Heart*. The table of contents reads like a list of the major battle fields of the current civil rights struggle: Jackson, Monroe, Birmingham, Albany, Danville, St. Augustine, Atlantic City, Selma. Mr. Kunstler has taken an active part in these battles as a lawyer defending people who were arrested while trying to exercise their civil rights. He shows that the legal establishment in the South has not just offered passive resistance but has launched attack after attack on those who threatened the old ways.

Although Mr. Kunstler's style shows a tendency to become formal, almost stuffy at times, his book is of special value because its author sees the movement both as a lawyer and as a civil rights worker. And Bill Kunstler tells the whole story, because he was always there, every time it counted.

—Kathy Tappeiner

Readings 'Round the Year

DAYS OF THE LORD, Vol. I, Winter, edited by William G. Storey. (Herder & Herder. $3.95.)

This volume of *Days of the Lord* consists of reprint selections from various sources to help with meditations for the temporal cycle of the Liturgical Year from Advent to Lent, and in the sanctoral cycle, from December 1, Blessed Edmund Campion, through March 7, St. Thomas Aquinas. Two more volumes will cover the rest of the year.

A short foreword by Bishop John J. Wright of Pittsburgh calls the collection "a kind of *Totum* bringing together good things, true and beautiful, from everywhere within Christendom's space-time dimension, from the catacombs to today's Concentration camps, from the cloister to the hearth, from the Greek and Latin Fathers to the verse of Emily Dickinson, from the sacred Scripture to the Second Vatican Council."

The preface of the volume reminds us that only the Holy Spirit can teach us to pray as we ought and that the compiler is cooperating "humbly with this activity" by offering this selection. The selection is good, but not unusual. There is a very worthwhile reference table at the end of the book which lists over 150 sources for further reading.

Page 14 gives an interesting relationship of man and time: "The daily cycle is one of immediate demands . . . of the terrible duties of everyday . . . the cycle of daily work . . . While the annual cycle with its 4 seasons situates us in a framework given us by nature."

—Ann H. Grill

BOOKS RECEIVED FOR REVIEW

BEYOND CIVIL RIGHTS by John Selby. (World Publishing Company, $6.95.)

ENGLISH AND SOCIAL STUDIES by D. Thomas. (Pergamon Press, $2.95.)

NARCOTICS—AN AMERICAN PLAN by Saul Jeffee. (Paul E. Eriksson, Inc., $5.00.)

THE TROUBLED ENVIRONMENT, a symposium. (Urbana America, Inc., $2.50 paperbound.)

A WILDERNESS OF VINES by Hal Bennett. (Doubleday & Co., Inc., $4.95.)

Listing here does not preclude review in a later issue.