

## REVIEWS

French science and philosophy, and for French literature, in which fields he seems to be widely versed. But here again his passion for flippant iconoclasm at times overcomes him. ' . . . the Celts are always with us, even though they may never have existed. They were largely invented in the middle of the eighteenth century . . . ' (p. 150). A wit which depends for its effect on the exaggeration, distortion, or contradiction of fact has its place in literature, but not in a book intended to vitiate and destroy whole fields of learning.

Aware that prejudice, racial or otherwise, is an essential part of most social fabrics, the author traces the particular thread of what he calls ' racial ' theory which led to its historical culmination in the present-day absurdities of the Third Reich. Furthermore he shows reasons why such systems of discrimination have arisen in France, Germany, and elsewhere. ' Those human beings who have not lost their pigmentation are simply more clearly marked than others for discrimination ; they wear a uniform that they cannot take off, but they are not alone in their plight. Others have eyes, noses, or brogues to distinguish them in a rough and ready way and make them bear all the faults or all the virtues supposedly inherent in the group to which they are said to belong. Those faults and those virtues are themselves social in origin ' (p. 276). ' The truth of the matter is that in the modern world, real or supposed feuds apparently cannot be carried on in their own terms. Race happens to be the most popular form of gloss for simple hatred ' (p. 256). ' Race in Germany was a means to give back to the German people a feeling of self respect after the national humiliation of Versailles and since ' (pp. 250-251).

As the above quotations indicate, Mr Barzun has thought and written clearly and well on the subject of race prejudice, if not on race. He has competently exposed the logical fallacies of racial propagandists. This, and his historical survey of literate race prejudice in Europe and America, are the high points of his book, and as such it deserves unqualified praise. But he has not disproved, or even shown it unlikely, that races exist, as he attempts to do in his last chapter, while his flippancy and his counter-prejudices have left an otherwise excellent work marred.

CARLETON S. COON.

**LEYIT KIN** : a small House Ruin, Chaco Canyon, New Mexico. Excavation report by BERTHA P. DUTTON. *University of New Mexico Press, Santa Fe*, 1938. *pp.* 101 and 21 plates. 2 dollars.

The report is quite careful and clear, and the excavation work seems to have been carried out very carefully. Leyit Kin is a small ruin in the Chaco Canyon, in the northwestern part of the State of New Mexico. It was first excavated in 1934, and again in 1936 by the author with the help of W.P.A. workmen. Seventeen rooms and four *Kivas* or ceremonial-chambers have

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been found, and more are to be cleared. A great deal of pottery and other elements of material culture have been discovered.

In its present state of progress, the work of Leyit Kin affords an interesting contribution to the stratigraphy of cultures in the Pueblo area. It appears that the first culture-unit which underlies the others may be dated *c.* A.D. 800-950. The place was abandoned and new rooms and *Kivas* were built probably in the eleventh century. The last remains point to a 'Pueblo III' cultural type.

JACQUES SOUSTELLE.

**PICTURE-WRITING OF TEXAS INDIANS.** By A. T. JACKSON. *University of Texas Publication*, 3809, 1938. pp. xxvi, 490, with 49 maps, 324 plates. Distributed free by the Univ. of Texas, Austin, Texas, U.S.A.

This valuable study deals with the pictographs which are to be seen in many rock-shelters and other sites of Texas. The author has classified them most carefully and gives a detailed account of all the sites recorded, not without complaints about the vandalism of many tourists or idle travellers, who often seriously damage these important remains of primitive American art.

From the evidence so far gathered, it seems that the practice of making pictures on rocks originated about A.D. 400, and that it persisted well into historic times. The majority of the pictures do not seem to be older than 500 years. Many show an influence of the Spanish missions. Horses, cattle, and other imported elements are eventually met with.

As to the meaning of the pictures, there is so little to say that the very term 'picture-writing' may not be considered quite appropriate. The author states that 'all picture-writings were not idle scrawls, but there is no key by which all may be deciphered'. Some of them (sun-symbols, masked figures, etc.) probably had a religious significance, while others were meant to serve as charms, or represented clan or individual totems. Comparison with pottery designs and with pictographs on hides made during the historic period will possibly lead to a better understanding of the rock-drawings.

Mr Jackson's book is illustrated with many good plates and with distribution-maps which may prove very useful for further study.

JACQUES SOUSTELLE.