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Crowder GIs Can Keep Posted On Allies Through Many New Books.

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By T/S KLAUS MANN.

The more thoroughly you are informed about other countries the more effectively will you be able to serve your own nation. Go to one of our Service Club Libraries and increase your knowledge by reading books on foreign lands and individuals! Their worries and hopes are, or might become, also ours. It's One World, brother!

RUSSIA: "Maxim Litvinoff," by Arthur Upham Pope. The first full-length biography of the great Russian statesman—former Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union and ambassador to Washington. Unusually instructive and significant, richly documented with many facts and quotations hitherto unknown to the public. Particularly topical in the light of the recent Moscow conference, which, in a sense, means the triumph and fulfillment of Litvinoff's policy.

This is not only the personal history of a man whose remarkable intelligence has to be recognized even by his most implacable antagonists; it is also a comprehensive and dramatic chronicle of Russian politics, from the time of the frustrated revolution in 1905 (following the Japanese victory over the Czarist armies) to the establishment of the Soviet regime in 1917, and through the years of reconstruction and experiment to the present crucial struggle. Moreover, the career of Moscow's outstanding diplomat is intimately, vitally connected with the ever-changing, ever-critical European and world situation. Litvinoff's great speeches—many of them quoted here in their entirety—are the most incisive, most revealing comments on the international problems and developments of the past 25 years. His judgments and predictions proved always correct. He was right when he warned the democracies against Nazism and Fascism. His concept of Collective Security is at once inspiring and realistic. While most of the democratic politicians indulged in the pernicious illusions of Isolationism, Maxim Litvinoff grasped and advocated the fundamental truth that peace is indivisible and that international solidarity against any aggressor is not only a moral ideal but also, or above all, an actual necessity.

POLAND: "One Fair Daughter," by Bruno Frank. A new novel by one of the most distinguished German refugee writers—best known in this country for his fine "Cervantes" and a cycle of short stories around Frederick of Prussia. This time, however, he ventures on a contemporary subject—the tragedy of Poland and, more especially, of the Polish Jews. The heroine is a remarkably bright and attractive girl, Elizabeth, of half-Jewish, half-Austrian-aristocratic stock. The romance between her mother—Recha Doctor, a famous music hall singer—and Count Patty, an Austrian officer, forms the nostalgic prelude to Elizabeth's drama. The fair daughter of two ancient races was born at the historic moment of the Hapsburg empire's collapse and disintegration. She lives to witness first, the national rebirth, then the cruel tribulation, of the Polish people and the martyrdom of the Jews. The Nazi Hunns invade her country, ransack and almost destroy her home town. Those whom she loves are doomed. Elizabeth survives. There is a man who could not bear to lose her—John Herkimer, an American correspondent, robust and reliable, upright, taciturn. He rescues her from the inferno.

But she survives also, thanks to certain energies inherent in her

complex and delicate being. She survives because she wants to live; because she has faith in life and in human nature—despite and beyond all tragic insights and experiences. For the author, in his generous tenderness, has endowed his fair child with the very forces and impulses that enabled him to write this beautiful, noble book.

AFRICA: "Here Is Our War," by Ernie Pyle. The author—"roving correspondent" of the Scripps-Howard press—is a favorite with the American newspaper-reading public. The columns he sent back from the Tunisian battlefield enjoyed enormous popularity. Here they are—compiled to a stately volume—all those unassuming, frank reports of daily life "over there" where the boys are in for "the real thing." Pyle is not a political analyst like Dorothy Thompson or Walter Lippmann. He is not a strategist or a philosopher or a crusader. But he is a keen observer and competent journalist—specializing in what is known as "human interest stories." He knows the fellows about whom he writes—the tough, good-natured lads from the American main streets whom he met in North Africa as doughboys, airmen, medics, army photographers. To him they are not just soldiers, and not always heroes; he sees and describes them as human beings, with their individual characters, habits and prejudices. The "roving reporter" not only "covers" the North African campaign, from the first landing in Morocco to the triumph in Tunis; he presents the historic event as it was in reality, or as it seemed to those actually and actively involved. He gives the humorous and sentimental aspects of the gigantic drama; the minor incidents and characteristic sidelights—comic or exciting. His book, for all its obvious and admitted limitations, is an original and likeable contribution to the great chronicle of current history.

CHINA: "The Lady and the Tigers," by Olga S. Greenlaw. The tigers are not blood-thirsty animals but the well-trained pilots of the American Volunteer Group which operated with the Chinese air force in 1941 and 1942. As for the lady, she is the wife of Harvey K. Greenlaw, Chief of Staff and Executive Officer of Col. (now Brigadier General) Claire L. Chennault, who organized the fighting force to protect the Burma Road. Mrs. Greenlaw participated in the bold activities of the group in her capacity as War Diary Statistician and Editor of the A. V. G. News. Her book is based on these official reports and on her personal notes. She is not a great writer, but she has witnessed great things and writes about them with impressive simplicity—not without a dry sense of humor and at times with stirring dramatic accents. She describes, in her sturdy and factual manner, how a bunch of daring American boys succeeded in destroying 600 Japanese planes and keeping the Burma Road open a little longer; every week counted, every day was important for our cause. But the main result of the Volunteer Group's heroism—in Mrs. Greenlaw's opinion—is that it awakened America to the fact that China is our ally—fighting for the very things we fight for.

"Chinese Reader for Beginners," by Shan Wing Chan, Assistant Professor of Chinese and English, Stanford University. Want to learn Chinese? If so, here is an excellent opportunity: you couldn't find a more competent guide than Professor Chan.

To me, the Chinese idiom is fascinating. It sounds suggestive and enigmatic, like the twitter of miraculously clever birds. As for its written characters, they have the intriguing beauty of insolvable mathematical formulas. Of course, I can't help feeling that it would take me years to master these basic exercises in Chinese speaking and writing which, according to the Professor, should be covered in 60 lessons or three semesters. Frankly, I don't believe that I could manage, after so short a time, to decipher a Chinese menu card or a Chinese laundry bill. Chinese vocabularies must be pretty hard to memorize. Who would expect, for in-

stance, that "Tung" is the Chinese word for "boy, lad," while "kan" stands for "make haste, hurry." But maybe I am particularly stupid, and while I imagine myself as still lingering over the first paragraph of Shan Wing Chan's "Chinese Reader for Beginners," I visualize one of my smarter fellow students already advanced enough to jot down a few puzzling symbols which indicate, "Kan, tung!" and are meant as an admonition to my dull Occidental mind: "Let's go! Make it snappy, boy!"

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