BOOK REVIEWS

CRADLED IN THE WAVES

John T. Croteau, Ph.D.

Toronto Ryerson Press 1951 (149 pp.)

Our land in 1930, so fair and rich in promise, a country grown to independence and living at peace with powerful neighbors, felt the buffeting of new social and economic forces that fell upon the people with the chilling fury of an Arctic storm. Men were out of work and hungry; crops could not find a market; workers' skills were rusting with disuse; the ambition and strength of youth were not wanted. The times called for a new pioneer, a new kind of courage and, above all, new and different techniques to master these strange forces that had paralized the economic life of the land. A dynamic movement in the Maritimes, known as the Antigonish movement, showed that co-operation is a social catalyst that can bring about a real tolerance and good feeling among men of different faiths and races. The conviction of this movement is that, in most instances, the basic approach to adult education is the economic one: there is not much use in talking to a fisherman or a farmer about culture until you have given him a decent standard of living.

In Prince Edward Island an autonomous movement arose, which used the Antigonish model and maintained friendly relationship with the fellow-workers in the movement of the sister provinces. Dr. Croteau, destined to become leader of this movement, was called to Prince Edward Island to occupy the Chair of Economics and Sociology, endowed by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and for the next thirteen years he taught at St. Dunstan's University and at Prince of Wales College. He always kept in mind that no co-operators, or anyone else, should attack a complicated social problem with any fully developed chain of ideas or formulae; that a general blueprint is good, but there should be enough flexibility in the movement to follow the bent of the participants. Thus he undertook with great energy to drive to establish Credit Unions, Co-operatives, and to promote Adult Education, and hence, to bring to the people of Prince Edward Island the benefits of such a movement. Perhaps to him this is only a simple Christian Act; in essence this made up the movement he

was perpetuating a series of Christian acts. If the acid test of leadership is for a group to carry on successfully after the leader is gone, then his work has been most successful.

Dr. Croteau tells us in his exciting story, **Cradled in the Waves,** the experiences, the trials, the hardships, which are connected with such a movement; of the extraordinary struggle that was required to secure essential working facilities. These hardships were increased with the slowness, the obstinacy, and the unreliability of people in general. In particular he found fishermen, as a class difficult to organize. The relating of such human characteristics with skill and good humor, the vividness and clearness of detail, which could only result from the personal experiences of an eye-witness, makes most entertaining and elevating reading.

This book is recommended to anyone who believes in the Brotherhood of Man, and who wishes to make it fact of life. It proves that our social frontiers are still open. It is possible in co-operatives, as well as in many other organizations, to accomplish a lot if one does not mind taking the hard and dirty jobs. This would be a good vocation for a young person who wishes to make a real contribution to society. "Any worthy movement will welcome young people who are willing to pitch in and to work", says Dr. Croteau. And it is through such work, through such services, that we derive lasting benefits. The account of Dr. Croteau's thirteen years of work, and the contributions, through his self-sacrifice, and that of many of his contemporaries to the success of this movement, which offers true promise in terms of human happiness and high dividends in the form of an orderly and peaceful world, makes one come to appreciate the expression in concrete terms of the concept of the Brotherhood of Man.

—C. J. C. '53.

THE QUIET LIGHT

Louis DeWhol

New York J. B. Lippincott Company, 1950 (317 pp.)

Have you ever stopped to think how little is known about the personal life of The Great Philosopher, Saint Thomas Aquinas? We are inclined to think of him only as a great philosopher, but St. Thomas was more than that; for one does not become a saint simply by being a noted philosopher. Perhaps Pope Pius XII sensed this lack of

knowledge about St. Thomas when he suggested this topic to Mr. DeWhol for the subject of his latest novel, **The Quiet Light.**

The Quiet Light is the story of the youngest son of a noble Italian family, who, contrary to the expectations of his family that he should have power and prestige in the Church, becomes a poor, humble Domincan monk.

The setting for the story is the turbulent Italy of the XIII century, when the excommunicated emperor, Frederick II, was travelling about the country with a large retinue of soldiers besieging monasteries, churches, and anything he might come upon.

The author, although he displays no unique style, tells the story in such a manner that the reader is kept constantly enthused. The introduction of several sub-plots adds a great deal to the interest of the story, but it is Thomas Aquinas who dominates the story. Mr. DeWhol succeeds very well in portraying the exceptional qualities of this great saint: a blending of a mighty intellect and child-like simplicity.

Louis DeWhol, the author of the book, got the idea of writing this novel from an audience with the Pope in 1948. Mr. DeWhol asked His Holiness to suggest a subject for his next novel. After a moment's reflection, the Holy Father mentioned the name of St. Thomas; **The Quiet Light** is the result. The author, although not particularly well known, has written more than twenty books, a few of which are: **The Living Wood, The Throne of the World,** and **Imperial Renegade.**

By reading this book one can not only get a good description of the personal life of Thomas Aquinas, but also an accurate survey of the history of Europe during this period. It could also be a great source of inspiration for anyone who wishes to imitate some of the characteristics of a great man who was both a Saint and Scholar.

—J. A. M. '53

"The family is more sacred than the state."—Pope Pius XI.

"A fashionable woman is always in love—with herself."—La Rochefoucauld.

"God's in His Heaven: All is right with the world."—Browning.