



- BOOK REVIEW -

OUR CASE

by Christopher Hollis

Reviewed by Herbert L. Johnston

In a succinct little essay of some sixty pages Christopher Hollis, an English historian well known to American lecture audiences, has summarized the case of the Allies against Germany in such a way as to make the issue crystal-clear to the average reader. The invasion of the Rhineland and of Austria, and even the claims to the Sudetenland could, he points out, be at least sufficiently justified to have made it highly imprudent to go to the rescue of those who showed no great anxiety to be rescued. There was, too, the hope that Hitler was sincere, at Munich, in renouncing any further territorial claims in Europe. After the seizure of Prague, however, there could be no doubt that Nazi ambitions were not confined to the union of Germanic peoples, and it became clear that a stand would have to be made.

The author then reviews the course of Hitler's dealings with Poland in the months preceeding his invasion of that country, pointing out the glaring inconsistencies in his claims. "Now", he says, "at the very moment when he was invoking the principle of self-determination in his own favour, he was proclaiming his intention to violate it when it happened to work against him." By the Nazi-Soviet pact directed against Poland historically the eastern outpost of Christendom the last conflict could be removed from Christian minds. This pact which has united all civilization against it enemies has freed us from the curse of pretending to fight the battle of Christianity with persecuting, atheist Bolshevism as an ally." At last the issues were beyond doubt, and the Christian could proceed with a conscience perfectly clear.

From this point Mr. Hollis proceeds to a remarkably dispassionate outline of the German case and an admission of the justice of many of their claims. What he will not allow, however, is the Nazi manner of their settlement, and after demonstrating the injustice and inconsistency of Hitler's demands on surrounding nations he disposes convincingly of his accusations against Britain and France.

Finally, he deals with the Allied war aims and the general conditions upon which alone a just and lasting peace can be made. This is, he maintains, neither a national war nor a class war, but a religious war such as no conflict has been since the days of John Sobieski. But if such a war is to have the only outcome which makes it worth fighting, if we are to be worthy of the Christian cause we claim to be defending, we must make certain that the peace that follows this war is a Christian peace that will allow Germany to take her place in a Christian concert of nations. Mr. Hollis concludes: "The cause for which we fight is not Poland, nor France, nor the British Empire. The cause is the cause of Christian freedom, the right to tell mankind of his true nature and of his immortal destiny and to tell him that, that lesson forgotten, all that has happened has been inevitable for we fight to free Germany from her pagan rulers and to reinclude her in the Christian unity, and, however, long our purses and however powerful our guns, we cannot hope for true victory in such a struggle unless we are first Christians ourselves."

Our Case is of the times, timely. No doubt written hastily, the structure and punctuation of some of its sentences leaves something to be desired. But in spite of this fact, and in spite of the certainty that the author's opinions will by no means be unanimously accepted, this little book can be sincerely recommended as a brief, clear, and forceful statement of the case of the Allies against Germany and of the general moral issues involved in the present war.

CALL MY BROTHER BACK

Michael McLaverty

Reviewed by James McGaughey '40

The novel, "*Call My Brother Back*," treats of the difficulties and the trials of a family of McNeills in Ireland over a period of two and a half years, and shows how, by their optimism and never-say-die spirit, they met and successfully overcame all obstacles.

Born on an island off the coast of Ireland, they led the life of an ordinary family whose means of sustenance came from the land and coastal waters. After the

sudden death of the father, the family moved to Belfast. Here Colm, now in his early teens, attended a boarding school, while the burden of support fell on Alec, the elder brother.

College life, however, was not of long duration for Colm, his brother Alec having been killed by a riotous mob less than a year after they came to Belfast. Colm manfully shouldered the burden, and the story ends on a happy note with the young man, his mother, and his brother and sisters enjoying their annual Christmas feast.

Although in places there is a lack of order, and although the author seems to have no special thesis to prove, or message to deliver, the portrayal of local color and human interest makes the novel well worth the time required to read it.



One example is worth a thousand arguments.

Gladstone.

Honor is purchased by deeds we do; honor is not won,
Until some honorable deed is done.

—*Christopher Marlowe*