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dominant figures of our generation—and no one will deny that Lewis plays a most significant role in the American scene. But Sulzberger is not content to write the biography of the mine leader affected by the desire for unionization which originated in the working class. To him, the CIO, its growth as well as its strategy, is completely Lewis' creation.

This is not only a distortion; it is unfair to Lewis himself. There is no attempt to deny Lewis' contribution to labor's growth when he is appraised in relation to the forces that motivated and taught him. History is not molded by one man alone, no matter what his stature, though often leaders express decisively the desires of the masses.

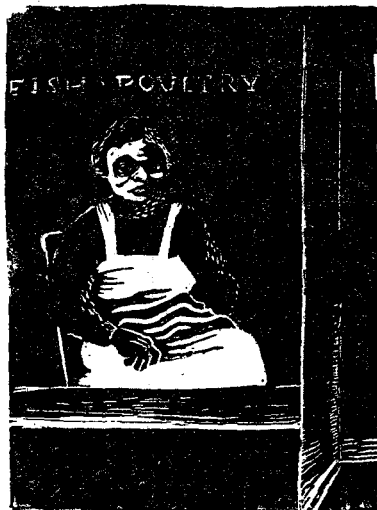
Yet *Sit Down with John L. Lewis* is a warm book that makes the mine leader live and that presents him convincingly. The book serves the important service of arousing the reader's admiration for Lewis, painted as an ogre by the press. It explains in simple terms the CIO as one of the main forces fighting for the preservation of democracy. It is successful in its attempt to introduce a much-discussed and much-labeled leader to the public. But by portraying Lewis as the only instigator of all CIO action, Sulzberger has found a too-easy answer to the question of why the CIO has prospered.

BRUCE MINTON.

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BEGIN NO DAY, by Wellington Roe. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$2.50.

IN A prefatory note to this novel, Wellington Roe tells us that Middle River, the story's locale and quite obviously intended as Danbury, Conn., is "any small industrial city in America. The forces and evils portrayed therein exist in industry, regardless of whether it makes hats or battleships." Since Roe consciously assigns such universality to his novel, the reader is justified in assuming that the author wants us to believe that his workers, his foremen, his capitalists, his union leaders, and his Communists all have their prototypes throughout American industry and that the



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events in this novel can happen, indeed are happening, in most comparable situations.

Chick Vail, the protagonist, is the only credible character. An ambitious young interne, he is snatched away from his work by the death of his father, a prosperous manufacturer, and is forced to assume the presidency of the Vail & Boughton Hat Co. The elder Vail, we are told, had been something of an idealist, always playing ball with the AF of L craft unions and maintaining a personal interest in the welfare of his workers. He refused to renege on his principles even when the depression put a serious dent in the firm's income; Vail & Boughton, when Chick takes over, is a white elephant, \$50,000 in the red, creditors on the doorstep, and the men's-hat market as inelastic as ever.

Faced with the problem of reorganization, Chick is forced—against his better instincts, Roe assures us—to cut wages, stagger work, and speed up production. Simultaneously the CIO is organizing the Middle River hatters, and both the new union and the Manufacturers Association are anxious for a show of strength. Inevitably, Chick is caught between the two, used as a catspaw by the other manufacturers, misunderstood and mistreated by his workers, ruined by the strike that follows. The story ends in grief all around; Vail & Boughton is forced to close, and the workers fail to make the gains they expected. Chick is unable to continue either in his chosen profession or in the work circumstances forced on him.

Chick Vail—although he fails—is a sort of ideal boss to Wellington Roe. He fights excesses on both sides, but is not a hypocrite in recognizing his class interests. As such he is reasonably understandable. But since this is a novel about capital and labor, Roe had to give us his ideal worker, a counterpart to Vail. The ideal worker is Tim O'Dowd, head foreman in the plant, and he is, as even his name would imply, something out of a *Saturday Evening Post* story. He talks in a rich Irish brogue about the scoundrels who are Chick's competitors in Middle River, and he wishes that all bosses were like Chick and all workers like himself. He is painfully learned, reads Shakespeare, Spinoza, and Tolstoy, and, when the plant is struck, sides with Chick Vail. In the end he is stoned and blinded by Alice Vail, who, by a fantastically incredible series of circumstances, involving drunkenness, Lesbianism, and Communism, finds herself picketing her brother's factory.

I find it difficult to believe that Roe intended to write a story that would illustrate the billboard platitudes of the National Association of Manufacturers, for which he seems to have a fairly healthy contempt, yet that is the only thing one can conclude from this novel. Roe's concept of American industry is one in which, despite good intentions in most quarters, everything fails because of mutual misunderstanding. The elder Vail's benignity almost bankrupted the firm; Chick's generous sanity ruined his life; Tim's high-minded scabbing helped neither his boss nor the workers whose best interests he thought he represented; and the workers, by their naive estimates, defeat them-

selves. Everything fails, including the novel, because of the inadequacy of the analysis, and Wellington Roe is left as pitifully stranded as any of his characters.

RICHARD H. ROVERE.

## MAGAZINES

SCIENCE AND SOCIETY: A MARXIAN QUARTERLY. Vol. II, No. 3. 35 cents. 30 East 20th St., New York City.

THE summer issue of *Science and Society* maintains the high level of scholarship and pertinence reached by preceding issues. The articles and reviews, which deal with history, science, literature, and politics, are uncompromisingly Marxian in scope and direction. They are timely and readable too. Earlier complaints that the magazine is hard going and too difficult for the layman are no longer justified. Scientists and professional men who write for *Science and Society* are learning to express difficult matters in literary English free from needless technicalities.

Dr. Sigerist's article in the present number, a rapid, panoramic narrative of the historical interplay of science and democracy, should be of the greatest interest not only to specialists but to the general public. The same is true of Georges Friedmann's discussion of the "Revolt Against Formalism in the Soviet Union." Having studied cultural movements in the Soviet Union for several years at first hand, M. Friedmann is in a position to portray the reaction against mechanism and schematization in sociology, art, and literature.

Maurice Dobb, the English economist, defends several aspects of Marx's theory of value which have been attacked in recent times by well-known bourgeois economists. The article is supplemented by a communication, "On the Computation of the Rate of Surplus Value," in America, in which Varga's computations are brought up to date. The communication by Professor Getzels on "William Dean Howells and Socialism" throws a new light on this novelist and helps to recover the Marxian heritage in America.

A notable contribution is the second installment of the letters of Engels to Americans from 1885 to 1893, edited and translated by Leonard E. Mins. Engels' judgments on America, which he visited in 1888, were at once penetrating and prophetic. At a time when the frontier was stunting the growth of the labor movement, Engels' grasp of the historical forces led him to the conclusion that only when the Western lands had been completely grabbed up by speculators would "the time come, with peaceful development, for a third party." The immediate goal of the labor movement, he said, was "the conquest of political power by and for the workers. If we agree on that, the difference of opinion regarding the ways and means of struggle to be employed therein can scarcely lead to differences of principle among sincere people who have their wits about them." Engels was overjoyed with the entrance of the masses of the native-born workers into the movement in America. The workers, he knew, would not be spared blunders; "the confusion of trade unions, Socialists, Knights of Labor," etc., he wrote, "will persist for some time to come, and they will learn only by their own mistakes. But the main thing is that they have started moving, that things are going ahead generally, that the spell is broken; and they will go fast, too, faster than anywhere else, even though on a singular road, which seems, from the theoretical standpoint, to be an almost insane road." And he cautioned Socialist theorists in America to join the labor movement lest they dwindle down to a dogmatic sect.

Among the reviews and communications, the pieces by Robert S. Lynd on Arnold's *Folklore of Capitalism* and by Granville Hicks on Earl Browder's *The People's Front*, are particularly striking.