

guage of the Canaanites, and this became Hebrew. Without a doubt, the Hebrews not only adopted the language and the customs, but also absorbed the population by intermarriage.

The Arabs were merely the last wave of Semitic expansion out of the desert.

Mr. Spear mentions the Khibiri (habiru, hapiru, abiru) of Tel el Amarna fame. However, this does not refer to an ethnic or language group, but means a class of wandering laborers, mercenaries, and semi-nomads; each one of the peoples mentioned had their beginnings as Khibiru.

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Tied by Tri-Consonantal Root

FOR INFORMATION on the migrations from the Arabian Peninsula, *A History of the Arabs*, by Philip K. Hitti, should be consulted. The peninsula has been the source of many migratory peoples including the Chaldeans, Canaanites, Phoenicians, Aramaeans, and Hebrews. There are two main routes followed by these people, one into Palestine and one into Mesopotamia.

All of these speak a language of the Semitic family whose best-known characteristic is the tri-consonantal root, and these same peoples are responsible for all major writing systems predominant in the West. The Hamitic language family is closely akin and is found almost solely in Africa among some Ethiopian peoples, the Berber tribesmen and the Copts, last remnant of the ancient Egyptians.

The Mediterranean peoples, used as a broad (ethnic) term, include the original inhabitants of Italy, Iberia, and Greece, as well as the Semitic and the Hamitic populations of the Middle East and Africa. This group includes the Hebrews and the Arabs, for both came to power after migrating from the Arabian Peninsula and both speak a language whose familial resemblances far outweigh their differences.

The people mentioned in Mr. Spear's letter are not Arabs. This term is used correctly only when referring to the people of the latest migration from the Arabian Peninsula, circa 622-50 A.D. From Damascus, Baghdad, Cairo, Cadiz and the numerous petty kingdoms of North Africa they ruled almost the entire Mediterranean and the Middle East. Certainly the Levant was under Arab control from the fall of Byzantine Jerusalem and Alexandria in the seventh century to the fall of Baghdad, conquered by Ghengis Khan, and the Mameluke Turk revolt from slavery in Cairo, both occurring in the thirteenth century.

Mr. Shobe correctly pointed out that the time of Hebrew rule in Palestine from Joshua until the conquest of the same by the Babylonians is of slimmer duration than that of Arab overlordship. But Mr. Shobe does not make clear the distinctive differences between these rules. The imperialistic control of Palestine under the Arabs was similar to that of the same territory under the Romans; it was a province of one or another of the Caliphate empires. Only under the Hebrews was it a kingdom in its own right; be that king the great David or be it Herod who ruled under Roman suzerainty.

VIRGIL STROHMEYER, JR.,
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Criminal Record

Fact

The Secret War for Europe: A Dossier of Espionage. By Louis Hagen. Foreword by Sir Kenneth Strong, K.B.E., C.B. Stein & Day. Photographs. \$5.95. By precept and example, the Berlin-born author, a resident of Britain since 1936, makes an excellent case for his conviction that "the intelligence services have assumed a new, vital, and creative role in world politics," because they need never concern themselves with prestige or face-saving. Mr. Hagen has given us a solid, well-reasoned book that makes fascinating reading.

Counterplot. By Jay Epstein. Viking. \$4.95. Two years ago Mr. Epstein published a cogent analysis of a much-criticized inquiry which carried the subtitle *The Warren Commission and the Establishment of Truth*. Lee Harvey Oswald's activities in New Orleans looked as if they might prove a profitable trail to follow. Oswald's Gulf Coast odyssey extended from the spring of 1963 into the autumn. Out of it sprang "Jim Garrison's case," and also this valuable addendum to *Inquest*. Mr. Epstein's terminal chapter is called "The Making of a Demagogue."

Fiction

Clutch of Constables. By Ngaio Marsh. Little, Brown. \$4.95. Artist wife of Yard super Roderick Alleyn kills time on an English inland waterways cruise while other people kill people. Firm plotting, deft characterization as expected.

The Ascent of D-13. By Andrew Garve. Harper & Row. \$4.95. Yankee-English mountain-climbing twosome attacks peak on Russo-Turkish border in attempt to salvage top-secret device (if it's there). Vintage Garve.

The Tallyman. By Bill Knox. Crime Club. \$3.95. A tallyman, this instructive and lively narrative informs us, is an unfrocked loan shark, than which there is no more detestable character in all Glasgow. But Inspectors Thane and Moss have to bring home his killer just the same.

Cop Out. By Ellery Queen. World. \$4.95. Trigger-happy hoods (plus one hoodess), following bank heist in U.S. town of 16,000, snatch policeman's daughter as security pledge. Authors' fortieth anniversary offering rings bells, triggers sirens.

Dossier IX. By Barry Weil. Bobbs-Merrill. \$5. Israeli agent assigned to British

on special mission performs prodigies of valor in France and Switzerland. Highly knowledgeable performance, complete with rough stuff.

Another Way of Dying. By Francis Clifford. Coward-McCann. \$4.95. English demolition expert, vacationing in Sicily, gets a chance to display his talents; there's a girl in the case; fine travelogue, with superb ironic terminal twist.

The Brass Rainbow. By Michael Collins. Dodd, Mead. \$3.95. Dan Fortune, one-armed New York shamus, goes all out in effort to prove innocence of small-time gambler down whose back the cops are gustily breathing. Story A-1, weather wretched.

Seven Seats to the Moon. By Charlotte Armstrong. Coward-McCann. \$5.95. What hospital patient has not bent an ear willy-nilly when an unseen roommate opens a conversation with a visitor? J. Middleton Little, an impeccable California businessman, followed this pattern, and what thereafter happened to him (and to the roommate) makes a corking good story.

A Six for the Toff. By John Creasey. Walker. \$4.50. The only private eye in the world entitled to wear "Honourable" in front of his name bypasses a wealthy American client so that he can see the Test Match (that's English for World Series). Why not a lot more about cricket? There are dead.

A Kiss Before Dying. By Ira Levin. Simon & Schuster. \$4.95. Launched in 1953, this ruthless essay in covetousness richly merits the restoration to print here accorded it. —SERGEANT CUFF.

WIT TWISTER #109

By ARTHUR SWAN

The object of the game is to complete the poem by thinking of one word whose letters, when rearranged, will yield the appropriate word for each series of blanks. Each dash within a blank corresponds to a letter of the word.

To _____ reigns of
kings who misuse might,
The entomologist could do his bit
By stealing to the monarchs' _____
_____ at night
And hiding nests of _____
_____ where they sit.

(Answer on page 82)