

Book Review**published in the *Camrose Canadian* December 15, 1948, p.2****(by A.Stewart)****“SHANNON’S WAY”****By A.J. Cronin**

The twilight settled slowly over the wide expanse of green valley below. They watched the last vestiges of golden sun gradually flat westwards and down. Because it seemed sacrilegious to break the divine stillness of the evening, not a word was spoken. Shannon looked at his companion searchingly. There was something so fresh and clean and vital about her. She was comely but not beautiful. There was a faint flush on her cheeks and her breath was coming in little staccato jumps, her eyes fixed firmly on the darkening hills. Then in wonderment and almost fright the realization burst upon him – she loves me, he thought – she is in love with me! Without thinking he pulled her to her feet and began to hurry her down the slope.

“Shannon’s Way” is tale of a young doctor who wanted desperately to devote his life to research and yet who seemingly led a jinxed life – in medicine, science and love. While it lacks the depth and power of Cronin’s other books, it manages to retain the dignity of ideals that is so much a part of several of his novels. It depicts brilliantly the complexities of religion in love, although it does not offer a real solution to the problem. Finally, it is a story of deep love and of a great mind struggling for recognition among its contemporaries. This book is available on the shelves of the Public Library.

Book Review**published in the *Camrose Canadian*, January 14, 1949, p.9****(By A. Stewart)****“AND THE WALLS CAME TUMBLING DOWN”****(By Mary White Ovington)**

This stirring and dramatic book is the autobiography of Mary White Ovington, who dedicated her life to the emancipation of the Negro. She began her struggle in 1904 and after many years of untiring work her efforts are bearing fruit. She has lived to see the day when lynching is a thing of the past, when, in some places at least, black and white sit down side by side to eat a meal in a public restaurant. She can watch with pride, black and white children trudging to school, books under their arms, in friendship and peace. But it has not been easy.

Prejudice is, perhaps the most solidly rooted element in a human being. Because there is no reason to it, because it is arbitrary and unlogical, it is hard to root out. It cannot be destroyed by knowledge of the facts nor any other process. All these things Miss Ovington learned in her years with the N.A.A.C.P. Yet she combatted prejudice and in many cases helped people to overcome this defect, making them more democratic citizens. This book is not so much her biography as the history of the N.A.A.C.P. She takes no credit for herself, but gives full credit to all the well-known names who helped make it a success. Today the organization has grown almost international and has one thousand, one hundred branches.

This book is full of many anecdotes, many tragic, some amusing, of Negro life, and hers and other associations with it. While it does not deal with conditions in our country, much of it is true of us and our treatment of Negroes. It is a book to be read with interest by all people everywhere and one from which many people should learn a new meaning of tolerance.

This book is available at the Camrose Public Library.