

the rapid increase of the artificially introduced rabbit and the cactus itself, grow the insects in quarantine through at least one generation before they turn them loose to do their worst.

SMITH AND JOHNSON LEADING U. S. SURNAMES

The expression, "As common as Smith, Brown and Jones", is not based upon scientific investigations, but it is a close approach to the facts, according to a report by Howard F. Barker, of Riverdale, Md., in a recent issue of American Speech.

The three most popular surnames of America are, Smith, Johnson, and Brown, according to Mr. Barker, who has lately made a study of the frequency of surnames. Smith is a name borne by more than one in each hundred of our population. Johnson has come into second place; and even Brown and Williams have taken the lead over Jones.

Certain cities show peculiarities of their own. The name Johnson leads in St. Paul and Minneapolis, for instance, by virtue of being a favorite name among Scandinavian-Americans. Smith leads in New York City with Cohen, Miller, Brown, and Schwartz following in the order named. In Chicago, Johnson leads again; in Boston, Smith leads with Sullivan close on its heels.

There are more Smiths and Johnsons in the United States than there are people in Detroit. The Browns brought together would fall little short of making a city the size of Boston. The Williamses total somewhat more, the Joneses some what less than the population of Los Angeles, the Millers could almost take command of Pittsburgh; the Davises would fill San Francisco or Buffalo.

The number of people bearing our ten leading names in a 112,000,000 total are as follows: Smith, 1,304,300; Johnson, 1,024,200; Brown, 730,500; Williams, 684,700; Jones, 658,300; Miller, 625,800; Davis, 537,900; Anderson, 477,300; Wilson, 422,300; Moore, 363,400. The ten names are all from the British Isles and may be traced to different parts of the islands.

TABLOID BOOK REVIEW

THE DECLINE OF THE WEST. By Oswald Spengler. New York: Knopf. 1926. \$6.00.

At last a publisher has been found with the courage to carry out the translation of this colossal work. If not an epoch-making book, it is undeniably an epoch-marking book. Though prepared before the war, *Der Untergang des Abendlandes* measures the depths of despair into which the war has plunged thinking men of both the victorious and defeated nations, alike victims of the Great Catastrophe. In scope of conception, profusion of learning, boldness of generalization, impressiveness of utterance, eloquence of language, Spengler ranks with the German philosophers of the old school, with Hegel, Schopenhauer and Hartmann. He also shows the characteristics of the German philosopher in his overloading of sentences, cloudiness of meaning,

arrogance of assertion and intolerance of opposing opinion. It is a work that no thinker can afford to ignore, however much he may disagree with its thesis.

According to Spengler's theory Europe passed from the stage of Culture to that of Civilization in 1800, and has before it the stage of Caesarism, lasting from 2000 to 2200 A. D. The present disintegration of European states into minor nationalities is the beginning of a gradual decomposition of folk-organisms into amorphous masses of men. These will be ultimately reabsorbed into one empire which will in the course of time degenerate into the character of a primitive Asiatic despotism. The final stage of decadence, coming after the year 2200, is that of "Egyptianism, Mandarinism and Byzantinism," a static and torpid state in which the imperial mechanism will grow gradually weaker and the country will become at length the booty of younger peoples or foreign robbers, resulting in a relapse into the dark ages and finally into the chaos of primeval savagery.

Dr. Spengler believes that he has discovered the universal formula that will define the course and forecast the future of the history of all human institutions, and modes of thought, whether political, industrial, esthetic, scientific, religious or philosophical. He brings history into the field of natural history, and makes of it merely a form of comparative morphology. The historian is to him an idle and impotent spectator. He can describe but not prescribe. For the world lives out its life in such invariable sequences as the seven ages of man.

DISEASE PREVENTION. By H. H. Waite. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company. 1925. \$4.50.

The art and practise of war against disease is all compactly set forth in this one convenient volume, which deserves a place on all public library shelves, and is a book that public health officials, sanitary engineers and even thoroughly awake general medical practitioners simply cannot afford to be without. The material it contains has hitherto been so diffusely scattered in reference and text books and special articles in epidemiology, bacteriology, parasitology and a dozen other fields that access to a reasonably complete medical library has been necessary to make it available. For this reason the book should be especially valuable to workers in small or isolated communities, or to the field sanitarian whose work is always in the nature of a flying campaign.

READINGS IN THE STORY OF HUMAN PROGRESS. By Leon C. Marshall. New York: Macmillan.

Intended for junior high school, but nobody is too old to find them readable, and nobody too wise that he will not learn something from them. These "Readings" range from the past of the Cro-Magnon man to the future of simplified spelling.
