

1943

Thoughtful Reading

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Thoughtful

Reading

Jo Ann Reeves reviews the thoughts presented
in current philosophy books available in library

A RENEWED interest in the importance of philosophy has accompanied wartime adjustments. . . Some books on the subject are challenging and will help the reader crystallize his ideals in terms of longtime values.

Mama's Bank Account—Katheryn Forbes (Harcourt Brace & Co., 1943).

Beneath these amusing tales of Mama, Papa and their delightful Norwegian-American family is a wealth of Mama's instinctive wisdom which the reader will want to borrow for his own life and problems. Her philosophy is characterized by the imaginary bank account which she maintained for twenty years because "it is not good for little ones to be afraid—to not feel secure."

There's No Place Like Home—James Lee Ellenwood (Charles Scribner's Sons, 1939).

The material phases of a home are rapidly approaching perfection, but according to experts parents are "strangling the happiness of their children's careers." The author tells in an amusing and informal manner how he solved his problems of finances, manners, morals, grandmothers and even the use of the radio.

"A home is a place to grow up in, have fun in and develop in. Parents and children can live together and like it . . . and develop joy and fun in family life."

The Human Comedy—William Saroyan (Harcourt Brace, 1943).

"You must remember always to give of everything you have. . . You must give to all who come into your life. Then nothing and no one shall have the power to cheat you of anything, for if you give to a thief, he cannot steal from you and he is no longer a thief."

This is the story of ordinary people who faced the same tragedy of war that has come to many families. Their adjustment to the loss of one of their sons is an inspiring part of this human, philosophical story.

The Prophet—Kahlil Gibran (Albert Knopf, 1923).

This book is written in the singing words and phrases of the Psalms. "And ever has it been that love knows not its own depth until the hour of separation . . . You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give. Surely he who is worthy to receive his days and his nights is worthy of*all else from you. And he who has deserved to drink from the ocean of life deserves to fill his cup from your little stream."

Its philosophy affects every reader and is so real that it will stay with him always.