

be admired only. One of the surprising things is that there are always more lovely quilts just for display than there are for sale. Not much wonder, though, for after putting so much work and time on these lovely creations, who wants to part with them?"

"A Summer Burning"

On the first page of *A Summer Burning*, a new novel by Harry J. Boyle, we read:

"As youngsters we accumulate deep down in our minds a kind of reservoir of semi-emotional garbage about the so-called rights and wrongs of living and behaving . . . It comes from our parents who are so well-meaning they pass it on as a legacy. They inherited it and feel they must give it to us as a moral shield against the evils of reality.

"It becomes an activated curse to the majority of men and women in North America at middle age or sooner. All this debris has been recorded on the memory side of our brains. It's the virus that comes up to plague all our actions. For the youth who goes straight from adolescence to cloister it doesn't matter because of the immunity. It fouls up the active mind of those who live and work in the real world, because this uncloistered world is not a virgin one. It's an adulterous one, which, while worshipping purity, uses evil when it is opportune and exists mainly in a confused state of justified sin."

This is the theme of the book. In the story Joe Doyle grows up to his sixteenth summer in the shelter of a good family life on an Ontario farm. Then, through a welfare service, a tough boy from the slums of Toronto comes to spend the summer on the farm and Joe is



Men who acted as models in a Fashion Show arranged by themselves as a feature of the program at Dromore Institute's Variety Concert and Annual At Home.



Second from left, Mrs. Agnes Leonard, charter member of Grace Patterson Institute in Oxford North on her ninetieth birthday, at a dinner given in her honor by her Institute. At left is her sister, Miss Grace Patterson for whom the branch was named. Others are the Area President, Mrs. Lorne Daniels and Mrs. Alex Woods.

suddenly exposed to "a world in which tobacco and liquor, sex, prostitution and crime play principal roles."

We do not recommend this book for reading at women's meetings as we recommended Mr. Boyle's earlier books, *Mostly in Clover* and *Homebrew and Patches*. It's not that kind of book. But it might give mothers and even fathers and others who care about what happens to youth a revelation of some of the tests an adolescent boy has to meet, some of the battles he has to fight within himself, and his confusion because no one has ever helped him to see why certain things are right and others are wrong.

Perhaps some readers will compare *A Summer Burning* with Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye*. A difference, as we see it, is that in *Catcher in the Rye* everyone the boy has to do with seems perverted in some way, every influence bent to destroy him. *A Summer Burning* has the compassion and warmth characteristic of Harry Boyle's work. There is the Doyle family's understanding tact in their efforts to bring some happiness to the ill-starred lad who is their guest, and their rapport with their own boy, so that even though they can give him little specific guidance, even though he sometimes wins and sometimes loses in his struggle to stand by his conscience, the story leaves little doubt that he will grow into an emotional maturity.

A Summer Burning is written with the skill of a master story teller. Published by Doubleday; price \$4.95.