

Brief Notices

BLANSHARD, PAUL. *Religion and the Schools: The Great Controversy*. Boston: Beacon Press. 1963. 265 pp. \$4.95

The "great controversy about religion and its place in the educational process that has been going on in America for more than three hundred years" is the subject of this useful, well-documented book by a writer whose previous books — to name but two of them, *American Freedom and Catholic Power* and *God and Man in Washington* — have long made him himself something of a storm center. "The whole religion-and-schools controversy," writes Mr. Blanshard, "has been made more complex and more political by the fact that America's largest church, the Roman Catholic, does not accept the religious neutrality of the American public school system" and that "its leaders are demanding that its own church-related schools operate at public expense side by side with public schools." But Mr. Blanshard does not spare Protestantism — especially Southern Protestantism, which, he declares, has "been violating the Supreme Court's ruling against religious instruction in public schools more consistently than any other religious segment in the population." Although he says of the Jewish involvement in the controversy that "the most literate and detailed analyses of church-state issues in education have come from several great Jewish organizations centered in New York," he does not fail to add that there are "a few Orthodox rabbis committed to Jewish religious day schools and eager to receive public money for those schools." In addition to surveying the controversy from Jefferson to Kennedy and examining in some detail the New York State Regents' Prayer and the Bible reading and Lord's Prayer cases of 1962 and 1963, *Religion and the Schools* also provides appendices containing the texts of Supreme Court decisions, a bibliography, and an index.

DAHLBERG, EDWARD. *Because I Was Flesh*. Norfolk, Conn.: New Directions. 1964. 234 pp. \$5.00

In this remarkable autobiography, the notable Boston-born, Midwestern-reared novelist and literary critic describes his boyhood in "wild, concupiscent" Kansas City, Missouri, where his mother was the proprietress of the Star Lady Barbershop. Dahlberg's style in *Because I Was Flesh* is much like the city which he calls variously "my Tarsus" and "the burial ground of my poor mother's hopes." It, too, is "wild" and "concupiscent" — and very beautiful.

DEUTSCH, BABETTE. *Collected Poems, 1919-1962*. Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press. 1963. 182 pp. \$4.50

The delicate, yet tonic, sensibilities which are manifested in the poetry of Babette Deutsch — Mrs. Avraham Yarmolinsky in private life — have made her one of America's most justly celebrated poets. The present volume, the twenty-sixth in the Indiana University Poetry Series, includes eighteen new poems in addition to a selection of Miss Deutsch's poems between 1919 and 1959 and a number of her translations from German, Russian, Japanese, French, Greek, and Finnish.