

A Prophet Of Decadence

"Nietzsche," by H. A. Reyburn.
(Macmillan & Co., London, 33/6).

NIETZSCHE was one of the most remarkable people of the nineteenth century. This book reveals him as artist and musician, philosopher and poet, but supremely as moralist and lord of language.

Abnormally sensitive, hypochondriac and misanthropic, egotistical and aloof, in revolt against early upbringing and handicapped by ill-health, he provides an amazing study for the psychologist.

His friendships were few and fleeting and his enmities long and lasting. He was for many years a professor of philology, but he despised exact scholarship and was singularly devoid of historic sense. He never adjusted himself to the realities of life or to the ways of men in the world. He was never a systematic thinker, cared nothing for logic or consistency and dealt chiefly in brilliant and often perplexing aphorisms.

Professor Reyburn does not conceal the eccentricities of this wayward genius, whose unhappy life ended under the cloud of insanity. Yet he affords good evidence that Nietzsche has been grossly misrepresented by literalists and propagandists. Nietzsche, so far from being a forerunner of Prussianism and Nazism, hated the State and had no time at all for racialism and nationalism.

The doctrine of self-renunciation excited his special ire, for Nietzsche's ideal was the "Super-man," whose genius for domination enabled him to exploit and enjoy the fulness of freedom.

Professor Reyburn shows that Nietzsche's thought is really a transcription of his experience of revolt and frustration.

"Loopy."—Written and drawn by Hardie Gramathy. (J. M. Dent & Sons, London).—An attractive new children's book, told mainly through vivid pictures on every page, which should delight every small boy. Loopy, the hedge-hopping aeroplane, with his funny antics will quickly find a place in the affections of young readers.