

might," Jennie sniffed.) Albert questioned his government's schizophrenic treatment of the Indians. He found it "very foolish to fight [them] with one hand, and to make presents, and give them arms with the other."

**LYING-IN: A History of
Childbirth in America**
by Richard W. Wertz and
Dorothy C. Wertz
Free Press, 1977
260 pp. \$10
L of C 77-72040
ISBN 0-02-934510-3

Two social historians take a look at the changing ways of childbirth in America since Colonial times. Much material is drawn from human documents—midwives' reports, diaries, letters. They make for lively reading on the decline of midwifery; the growing notion of pregnancy as illness; surgical intervention in delivery; and painkilling, including the use of amnesiac drugs in "twilight sleep." Illustrations range from a 16th-century woodcut of a fetus to photographs of an elegant Roosevelt Hospital room, complete with Oriental rug (1896), and husbands' candid camera shots of their wives giving birth by the "natural" Lamaze method. The authors hail the return of interest in childbirth at home.

A FINE OLD CONFLICT
by Jessica Mitford
Knopf, 1977
333 pp. \$10
L of C 77-2324
ISBN 0-394-49995-6

Like Lillian Hellman in her memoir *Scoundrel Time*, English satirist Jessica Mitford (best known for *The American Way of Death*, 1963) adds little to our knowledge of American communism in the 1940s and '50s. But like Hellman, she brings to life an odd minichapter in Anglo-American history, taking up her family's achievements and misadventures where *Daughters and Rebels* (1960) left off. Here are "Farve" (her eccentric paternal parent, Lord Redesdale), unflappable "Muv," and sisters Nancy, the wry novelist who ridiculed middle-class pretentiousness in her essay on U (upper-class) and non-U English usage; Diana, the outspoken British fascist, imprisoned in the 1930s for her political activities; and Unity, a member of Hitler's entourage, who committed suicide the day World War II broke out. A self-styled "Red Menace," Jessica Mitford married an American and became a member of the Communist Party in California. She quit the Party in 1958, finding it by then "an embattled . . . occasionally comical organization."