

## We're Sorry, but . . .

**W**RITERS who have experienced the agony of rejection, which is to say practically anyone who has ever put pen or pencil to paper, should find solace in "Rejection" (Addison-Wesley) by John White.

For example, the author says that James Joyce's "Dubliners" was rejected by 22 publishers; when at last it was printed, someone bought out the entire edition and had it burned in Dublin. James M. Cain reportedly titled his novel "The Postman Always Rings Twice" because it had been rejected so many times before publication that each day the postman rang twice. Giuseppe di Lampedusa was so distraught over a publisher's rejection of the only book he ever wrote that he hid the manuscript and died thinking his life's work was worthless, but "The Leopard" became a posthumous best seller on both sides of the Atlantic. Beatrix Potter's perennial best seller, "The Tale of Peter Rabbit," was rejected by at least seven publishers. It wasn't until the author published it herself that Frederick Warne, one of the seven, changed his mind and agreed to take it on.

Other huge sellers rejected at least once, according to Mr. White, are "War and Peace," "Peyton Place," "Lust for Life," "The Good Earth," "The Fountainhead," "To Kill a Mockingbird" and "A Confederacy of Dunces." The author's bio on this trade paperback reads, "John White is no stranger to rejection. When this book was accepted for publication, he didn't know quite what to do."