

National Book League

BOOK LISTS

For further books on subjects included in *British Book News*, readers should refer to the series of Book Lists issued by the N.B.L. The 94 given below (more are in preparation) are available post free at the prices shown from the National Book League, 7 Albemarle Street, London W.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Aeronautical Engineering (4d.) | History, British (5d.) |
| Air Training Corps (4d.) | Holland (2d.) |
| Alcohol and the Drink Question (3d.) | Horses and Horsemanship (4d.) |
| America, Latin (4d.) | Housing, Town and Country Planning (4d.) |
| America, United States of (7d.) | India and Burma (7d.) |
| Anthologies of One-Act Plays (7d.) | Interior Decoration (3d.) |
| Anthropology (4d.) | Ireland for the Traveller (3d.) |
| Architectural Heritage (7d.) | Judaica (4d.) |
| Architecture (3d.) | Liberal Principles and Policy (3d.) |
| Art, British (4d.) | Literary Prizes (3d.) |
| Art, Indian (3d.) | Maps (5d.) |
| Atlases (3d.) | Medicine and Surgery (4d.) |
| Australia (3d.) | Music and Musical Appreciation (5d.) |
| Automobile Engineering (4d.) | Natural History (4d.) |
| Books and Reading (4d.) | New Zealand (4d.) |
| British Civilization and Institutions (10d.) | Norway (4d.) |
| British Commonwealth (3d.) | Nursing (4d.) |
| British Commonwealth, Constitutional Relations of (7d.) | Oxford Group (2d.) |
| Building Construction (4d.) | Pacifism, Theory and Practice of (2d.) |
| Canada (5d.) | Philology (3d.) |
| Chemistry, Industrial (5d.) | Physical Education (2d.) |
| China (4d.) | Poland (3d.) |
| Christianity and Social Problems (4d.) | Psychology (4d.) |
| Church of England (4d.) | Psychology, Educational (4d.) |
| Classics, The English (7d.) | Psychology, Industrial (3d.) |
| Commerce (4d.) | Quakerism (2d.) |
| Common Wealth (3d.) | Radio and Telecommunication (3d.) |
| Communism (2d.) | Rationalism, Freethought, etc. (4d.) |
| Conservative Outlook and Principles (3d.) | Reference Books (5d.) |
| Co-operation (3d.) | Religion, Comparative (3d.) |
| Crime and the Treatment of Criminals (3d.) | Science, Pure (7d.) |
| Czechoslovakia (4d.) | Ships and Seamen, British (5d.) |
| Drama, Community (4d.) | Soviet Russia (4d.) |
| Drama, Religious (4d.) | Speech (4d.) |
| Economics and Public Finance (3d.) | Sussex (3d.) |
| Education (4d.) | Tolstoy, Leo (2d.) |
| Engineering, Mechanical (7d.) | Transport (4d.) |
| English Literature: History and Criticism (5d.) | Turkey (3d.) |
| Englishwoman, The (2d.) | War, First Year, 1939-40 (7d.) |
| Food and Dietetics (2d.) | War, Second Year, 1940-41 (7d.) |
| Garden and Allotment Food (4d.) | War, Third Year, 1941-42 (7d.) |
| Gardens, British (5d.) | War, Fourth Year, 1942-43 (7d.) |
| Germany (3d.) | Wesley (John) and Methodism (3d.) |
| Government, Central (2d.) | Wine and Food (3d.) |
| Government, Local (5d.) | Workshop Practice (4d.) |
| Health (4d.) | Yugoslavia (3d.) |
| History, Ancient (4d.) | Zionism (3d.) |

BRITISH BOOK NEWS

A Monthly Selection of Recent Books

No. 72

Books on Plant Diseases and Pests: 1939-1945

by W. C. Moore

Robert Burns: 1759-1796

by Janet Adam Smith

Bernard Shaw at Ninety

by Hesketh Pearson

Thackeray

by H. N. Wethered

LONDON

NATIONAL BOOK LEAGUE
PUBLISHED FOR THE BRITISH COUNCIL

JULY 1946

PRICE: SIXPENCE

background. A chronological list of the painters is given together with a list of the plates giving the actual size of the originals.

Music

THE MEANING OF MUSICAL HISTORY. J. A. Westrup. *Oxford University Press*, 1s. 6d. F8. 32 pages.

The doctrine of progress has often led historians of music to regard certain stages of the art as preparatory to later achievements. The purpose of this essay is to examine the absurdities to which such an attitude can give rise and to discuss in general the historian's function.

Radio

B.B.C. YEAR BOOK 1946. *British Broadcasting Corporation*, 2s. 6d. C3. 152 pages. 32 pages of illustrations. 1 map.

The articles in this book deal with such subjects as religious broadcasting, television, engineering developments during the war, recent trends in listening, the Clifton Rocks Tunnel, the country magazine, B.B.C. men in prison camps, etc., with a review of the year's broadcasting in Britain and overseas.

Theatre

THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE. W. J. Macqueen Pope. *W. H. Allen*, 17s. 6d. D8. 350 pages. 49 illustrations.

A history of the great early nineteenth-century theatre from the days of the actor Edmund Keane. Drury Lane was built on the site of the famous seventeenth-century theatre of the same name associated with Nell Gwyn, the Restoration period, and the triumphs of Garrick and Sheridan in the eighteenth century. Since then it has contributed little to the history of the drama in Britain, and has been mainly the scene of Christmas pantomime and musical comedy.

Dancing

FOLK DANCES OF SOUTH INDIA. Hildegard Spreen and R. Romani. *Oxford University Press*, 7s. 6d. sC4. 150 pages. 4 plates.

The purpose of this book is to put into written form some of the traditional music and steps of the folk dances of Kummi and Kollatam. These dances are gradually being lost in modern conditions, and their revival in the schools of India has been hampered till now by the lack of a standardized terminology.

Cricket

TO THE WICKET. Dudley Carew. *Chapman & Hall*, 7s. 6d. C8. 192 pages.

A review of cricket in England between the wars. The author was special correspondent of *The Times* newspaper, and during this period travelled all over England watching and describing cricket. The 'Dissertation' with which the book opens is one of the most acute, sensitive and balanced essays ever written about cricket. Each county is dealt with separately, its story traced through the 1920's and 1930's and its leading players critically assessed. Together with P. G. H. Fender and Neville Cardus, the author is one of the most eminent English writers on the subject, and his book should take its place among the few works which comprise the true literature of cricket.

LITERATURE

American Literature

THE WORLD OF WASHINGTON IRVING. Van Wyck Brooks. *Dent*, 12s. 6d. D8. 387 pages.

This is the first volume of the author's literary history of the United States, preceding his earlier volumes, *The Flowering of New England* and *New England: Indian Summer*. The present work covers the first half of the nineteenth century and gives a fascinating picture of the shifting patterns of the American social scene from 1799 to 1845. It is built up round the lives and work of Washington Irving, James Fenimore Cooper and Edgar Allan Poe. The chapter on Poe is a literary and psychological assessment of the highest order. His book is primarily a history of the mental growth of a nation, of rapid emergence and enormous vitality. It is an important work of scholarship which can also be enjoyed by the ordinary intelligent reader. (813)

English Literature

READINGS IN ENGLISH LITERATURE FROM CHAUCER TO MATTHEW ARNOLD. Gerald Bullett (Editor). *A. & C. Black*, 7s. 6d. C8. 250 pages. Notes. Index.

A collection of representative passages from the works of the great English writers from Chaucer (1340?-1400) to Matthew Arnold (1822-1888), with an editorial commentary designed for those who are at the beginning of their interest in English literature. The commentary, by a well-known novelist, aims at helping the reader to see each author in the context of his time and to arrive at a preliminary estimate of his quality. Each main period is prefaced by a short essay on the type of literature for which it has since become famous. There are explanatory introductions to the work of Chaucer, Mallory, Spenser, Shakespeare, Milton, Dryden, Richardson and Fielding, Dr. Johnson, Wordsworth, Tennyson and Browning, and others. (820.2)

THE PENGUIN NEW WRITING NO. 27. John Lehmann (Editor). *Penguin Books*, 1s. C8. 192 pages. 12 pages of illustrations, including 4 in colour.

This number in its new post-war format includes: short stories by William Sansom, Jim Phelan, Norman Swallow, Anabel Farjeon; the first instalment of childhood memories by Frank Sargeson, an account by J. Maclaren-Ross of his meeting with the poet Alun Lewis in the army during the war, and Osbert Sitwell's recollections of the poet Wilfred Owen, killed in World War I. Stephen Potter writes on 'London Theatre: 1918 and 1945'; John Hampson on the change in the temper of the detective novel since 1900; and Radio Critic on 'Education on the Air'. There are poems by Edith Sitwell, Stephen Spender, John Heath-Stubbs, and C. Day Lewis, and a further instalment of 'From a Painter's Notebook'. The illustrations include examples of contemporary English painting and sculpture. (820.8)

Poetry

SHELLEY: A LIFE STORY. Edmund Blunden. *Collins*, 12s. 6d. D8. 320 pages. Frontispiece. Index.

See Digest, page 284.

A MAP OF VERONA. Henry Reed. *Cape*, 3s. 6d. 1C8. 60 pages.

The first book of a distinguished poet and critic. Stylistically, Mr. Reed is considerably influenced by the later manner of T. S. Eliot. In the title poem he muses over a map

of Verona and its literary and historical associations; in 'Tintagel' he evokes memories of Tristram and Iseult among the ruins of the castle; the more Tennysonian 'Philoctetes' and 'Chrysothemis' take the reader back to the ancient Greek world. There is also an ironical section, 'Lessons of the War'. (82L.91)

Essays

THE LETTERS OF CHARLES LAMB. *Dent*, 2 vols. 6s. sC8. 432:427 pages. (Everyman's Library)

The present edition of the letters of Charles Lamb (1775-1834), the essayist, is based on the definitive edition of E. V. Lucas published in 1935, and supersedes the first Everyman's Library edition by William Macdonald which appeared in 1909. (824.73)

ESSAYS BY DIVERS HANDS. New Series. Vol. 22. The Marquis of Crewe (Editor). *Oxford University Press*, 9s. 6d. 1C8. 160 pages. (Transactions of the Royal Society of Literature)

Contributions to the present volume include: A Comparison of Oliver Cromwell and Abraham Lincoln, by Isaac Foot; The Royal Theatre, Bristol, by James Ross; a study of Wordsworth in relation to modern poetry, by Victoria Sackville-West, and other essays. (824.91)

French Literature

ART AND POETRY. Jacques Maritain. *Nicholson & Watson*, 6s. C8. 75 pages.

M. Maritain, the eminent French Catholic critic, here develops some of his ideas on the nature of poetry, painting and music, originally put forward in his earlier *Art and Scholasticism*. The three essays included here were written at various times from 1924 onwards. The first is an appreciation of the painters Chagall, Rouault and Severini; this is followed by a series of dialogues in which certain fallacies of modern thought on art are discussed; and, finally, 'The Freedom of Song' deals with the problem of poetry as the spirit of the arts or as the creative source of the artist's workings, with special reference to the music of Arthur Lourié. His book is an illuminating and profound commentary on various trends and movements in modern art. (844.91)

Italian Literature

AND HE DID HIDE HIMSELF. Ignazio Silone. *Cape*, 6s. Translated by Darina Laracy. C8. 118 pages.

A play by the brilliant Italian anti-fascist novelist, based on his novel *Bread and Wine*, and set in the region of the Abruzzi mountains in 1935. (852.91)

Latin Literature

THE GOLDEN ASSE. Lucius Apuleius. William Adlington (Translator). *Lesley*, 10s. 6d. C8. 236 pages. 9 illustrations in colour.

A translation into Elizabethan English, first published in 1566, of the novel written by a Roman provincial in Africa in the second century A.D. It is largely a satire on priestcraft and quacks, but embodies an account of the Mysteries of Iris into which the author was initiated, and the exquisite fable of Cupid and Psyche. (878.9)

HISTORY [AND GEOGRAPHY]

WAVELL
IMMORTAL YEARS 1937-1944. Evelyn Wrench. *Hutchinson*, 18s. D8. 334 pages.

The former editor of *The Spectator* here gives an account of a journey he undertook in 1940 to the Far East. He visited Singapore shortly before it fell to the Japanese, and during the Cripps mission, neutral Afghanistan, and other countries. The most revealing section of the book is that on India, where the author met Mr. Gandhi, of whom he gives a convincing portrait, as well as a lively and informal account of the prevailing mood at New Delhi during Sir Stafford Cripps' visit. (915)

Biography

PROLOGIA PRO VITA SUA. Cardinal Newman. *Sheed & Ward*, 7s. 6d. C8. 234 pages.

A reprint of Cardinal Newman's great work which follows the edition of 1865, with an introduction by Maisie Ward. (922.2)

FROM A SOUTH SEAS DIARY, 1938-1942. Harry Luke. *Nicholson & Watson*, 12s. 6d. C8. 255 pages. 84 illustrations.

This diary covers the period of Sir Harry Luke's term of office as Governor of Fiji and High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, and records his travels and experiences in the island group under his administration. (923.2)

ALLENBY: SOLDIER AND STATESMAN. Field-Marshal Viscount Wavell. *Harrap*, 15s. C8. 383 pages. Illustrated.

A one-volume edition of the two parts of Lord Wavell's biography of Lord Allenby, originally published separately in 1940 and 1944 under the titles *Allenby, A Study of Greatness* and *Allenby in Egypt*. (923.2)

OPENING BARS. Spike Hughes. *Pilot Press*, 10s. 6d. C8. 382 pages.

The author, a well-known music critic, describes this book as the 'beginning of an autobiography'. Born in 1908, he is an Irishman who holds many unorthodox and unconventional opinions about music, and whose ruthless wit and vivacity has excluded him from the more 'serious' musical reviews. (927)

THE LIVING HEDGE. Leslie Paul. *Faber & Faber*, 10s. 6d. 1C8. 180 pages. 6 illustrations.

An autobiography of childhood and adolescence spent in south-east London during and after World War I. The author emphasizes the essential difference between childhood and the problems of adolescence, and contributes some valuable criticism of the educational system of Britain over the last thirty years. He also gives an account of the Kibbo Kift Social Credit Movement, or Green-Shirts. Leslie Paul is well known as the author of *The Annihilation of Man*, a book which did much to mark the beginning of the change in contemporary thought from materialism to a religious direction, written in reaction against the various 'ideologies' that have been usurping the place of religion in men's minds. (928)