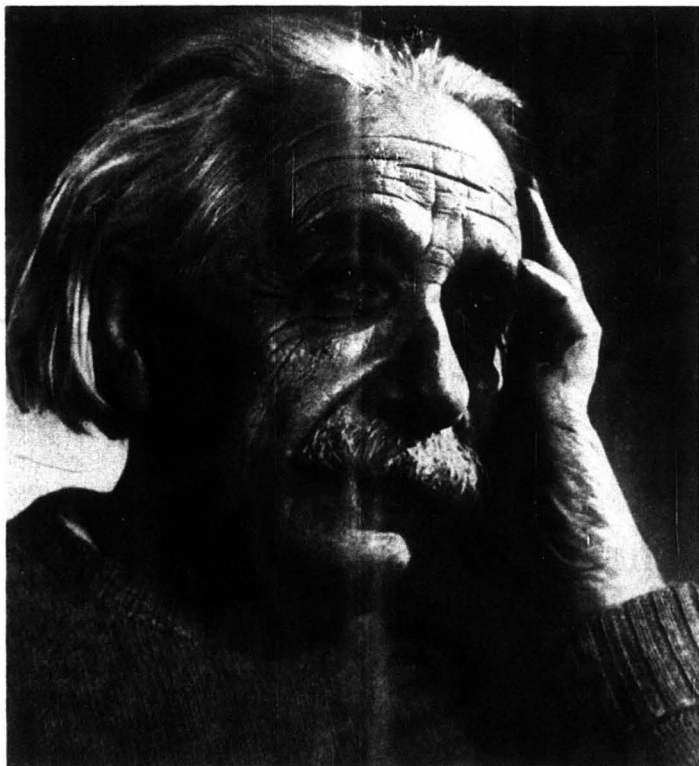


Literary Guide

MAY 1955

ONE SHILLING



IN SEARCH OF KNOWLEDGE Introducing a new series on specialist subjects for the layman. Our photograph of Albert Einstein is by Karsh of Ottawa

RONALD W. HEPBURN LANGUAGE AND A CHOICE OF LIFE

G. S. FRASER PORTRAIT OF ROBERT GRAVES

ARCHIBALD ROBERTSON THE END OF ANTIQUITY

A History of India

J. C. POWELL-PRICE. This book should prove the most authoritative and up-to-date in its own field. With full documentation, it traces the development of India from the early civilisations in the Indus valley up to the present day—including in its scope religion, education, art, literature, architecture, and the condition of the people. 63 half-tone plates and 25 line maps. 47s

Educational and Social Change in Tropical Areas

MARGARET READ. The theme of this book is the application of social anthropology to educational problems. In most tropical areas the whole process of government is one of educating and improving the condition of the people. This process often brings new ideas in conflict with traditional cultures. Professor Read argues that problems thus arise in which the educationist can profitably look to the anthropologist for guidance. 8s 6d

The Value Judgement

W. D. LAMONT. The author is primarily concerned with the question, 'What is the nature of the mental activity in which we attribute goodness or value to things?' In his attempt to construct a theory of valuation Dr. Lamont is forced to conclude that certain of the basic laws of economics will not bear logical analysis. Edinburgh University Press 25s

NELSON



The Listener for a Viewer

There is a special place for *The Listener* in every home where television entertains. If you are a regular viewer, this weekly journal of the BBC brings into your hands the pick of the week's broadcast talks which you might otherwise have missed. When you buy *The Listener* you invest in the best of contemporary thought on current affairs, science, religion, philosophy, art, literature, and music. New verse by eminent poets is published regularly; new books are reviewed weekly. Take *The Listener* every Thursday — on its merits. You will appreciate them.

The Listener

A BBC PUBLICATION EVERY THURSDAY
YOUR NEWSAGENT HAS IT

Literary Guide

VOLUME 70 NUMBER 5 MAY 1955

Contents

PERSONALLY SPEAKING <i>Hector Hawton</i>	4
PORTRAIT OF ROBERT GRAVES <i>G. S. Fraser</i>	6
ENDLESS QUEST <i>Royston Pike</i>	9
THE END OF ANTIQUITY <i>Archibald Robertson</i>	10
SARTRE ON LITERATURE AND LIFE <i>H. J. Blackham</i>	11
LOVE AND MR LAWRENCE <i>Patrick Williams</i>	13
LANGUAGE AND A CHOICE OF LIFE <i>Ronald W. Hepburn</i>	14
THE RISE OF THE ROBOTS <i>R. J. Motyn</i>	17
LEARNING ABOUT PHYSICS <i>E. H. Hutten</i>	19
ON THE AIR <i>Philip Dalton</i>	22
MOONSTRUCK PHILOSOPHER <i>Humphrey Skelton</i>	23
MUSICAL DETECTION <i>Scott Goddard</i>	24
RAPID REVIEWS	26
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	27
LITERARY GUIDE CROSSWORD	31

Editorial Offices

40 DRURY LANE, HIGH HOLBORN,
LONDON, W.C.2 COVENT Garden 2077

Publishing and Advertisement Departments
12 ST JAMES'S PLACE, LONDON S.W.1
HYDe Park 3879 and GROsvenor 8288

Annual subscription 13s 6d post free

Albert Einstein

THE carefully prepared obituaries of Einstein lay untouched in the silent 'cemeteries' of Fleet Street when the news of his death came over the air. Yet the passing of a great man is always a shock and the world never seems quite the same afterwards. The brain that conceived the most revolutionary scientific theory since the days of Newton has been bequeathed to the dissecting slab, but the ideas it secreted live on and will continue to fertilize the minds of the future. For as long as the scientific adventure continues, the name of Einstein will be honoured. It may be that he was the last of those solitary geniuses who transformed the outlook of a whole epoch; or it may be that what can be achieved by the mole-like industry of anonymous teams will reach its limit, and that the age of giants will return.

Einstein caught the public imagination—the mop of hair, the abstracted gaze, the violin, were what people somehow expected of a scientist. In the twenties, the recondite theory which had just received experimental verification captured the headlines with such dubious phrases as 'space caught bending'. It was soon forgotten by a fickle public when the limelight was switched to the more sensational discovery of nuclear fission. Yet Einstein contributed profoundly to the developments that culminated in the atomic bomb. He warned President Roosevelt of its dire possibilities. He spoke his mind without fear and some of the witch-hunters would probably have liked to imitate the Nazis had they dared and consign his books, if not his body, to the flames. 'War seems to me a mean, contemptible thing', he once wrote. 'I would rather be hacked in pieces than take part in such an abominable business.'

Science is sometimes accused of maintaining a rigid orthodoxy. But a young man working in a Swiss Patents Office propounded a theory in the early part of the century that challenged what seemed to be the most impregnable part of the scientific edifice—Newton's theory of gravitation. Instead of being denounced as heresy Einstein's theory was put to the test and vindicated. Such a combination of imaginative boldness and humility before facts is the essence of the scientific temper.

The Editor



Henry Reed

IT is not easy to find the precise reasons for the present new public interest in archaeology, but it is probably at least partly due to the great popularity of Sir Mortimer Wheeler and his colleagues in the television series 'Animal, Vegetable, Mineral?'. Lately the BBC has catered for this interest in the remote past in a number of sound radio programmes. (The cynical may note that this is safer ground than rationalism, although archaeology is far from being non-controversial.) But although archaeological argument has been avoided as far as possible, a good deal of ground has been covered on the air, so to speak, and we have had 'The Lost Centuries', a survey of the Dark Ages, of the transition from Roman to Saxon England, besides programmes on the Mesolithic people of Britain and the pyramids of Egypt and a talk on 'Who Are the Welsh?' 'The Origins of Rome', and a talk on the Hitites are promised.

Vastly Entertaining

Most of our poets of any reputation have written for the radio, even if few have made their reputations on it. Louis MacNeice is better known to a

On the Air

Covering the month's broadcasting and noting programmes to come, this radio commentary will in future be a regular feature

by PHILIP DALTON

wide audience than he might have been, but it is Henry Reed who has become almost completely identified with the microphone. It is almost ten years since he wrote 'Noises' and since then he has produced about seventy talks and thirty commissioned features. He has been prolific, diverse and, to my mind, almost always vastly entertaining, and he is certainly entitled to what we might call his 'benefit'—a series of recitals of some of his most popular pieces which has been running throughout April. Among these re-broadcasts were 'Return to Noises' (April 5), 'A By-Election in the "Nineties"' (April 11), 'The Streets of Pompeii' (April 22), and we shall hear 'Moby Dick' again on April 29. These are Third Programme offerings, although for Reed's sake I would like to have seen some of them broadcast on the Home Service; they could baffle one.

Shakespeare Survey

'Measure for Measure' has lately occupied the attention of Nevill Coghill. In the latest quarterly Shakespeare Survey—*Shakespeare Survey*—Camb. Univ. Press, 172 pp, 18s., he argues with much force and scholarship that *Measure for Measure* can be fitted without difficulty into the pattern of Shakespeare's other comedies which 'start in sorrow and end in joy'. Contrary to what is usually thought, he maintains, it is not a 'dark misfit, a product of Shakespeare's 'Tragic Period' and an expression of disgust and cynical despair at human baseness and stupidity since the subject-

matter of the play is sin, its design must have a religious basis, but it is Isabella and the Friar-Duke who import religion into the play, not I.' *Measure for Measure* can have a happy ending because, on this basis, it ends in the light of repentance and forgiveness.

It is an interesting interpretation, even if it leaves many of the difficulties unsolved, and we had a chance to see what Nevill Coghill is driving at when Raymond Raikes's production of *Measure for Measure*, which was based on the Coghill interpretation, was broadcast on March 27, April 1 and April 23 (Third).

Shakespeare Survey 8 is, incidentally, being reviewed on April 26 by Frank Kermode, Lecturer in English at Reading University and a frequent broadcaster on the Third, and he will have something to say about Nevill Coghill's contribution to it

TALKS TO COME

Oxford Union Debate: 'This House believes that the methods of science are destructive of the myths of religion', Third, May 12.

'*Son and Lover*': reminiscences of D. H. Lawrence, compiled by Hardiman Scott, Third, May 8 and 10.

'*Night and Day*': three Science Survey talks on the effect of light on living organisms, Home, April 28, May 5 and 12.