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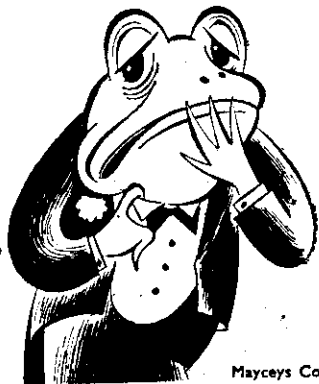
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BOOK REVIEWS (Cont'd)

(continued from previous page)

proven," and Hopkins always has the last word. This is scholarship and criticism of an uncommonly high order.

The first chapter (there are only five) is an attempt to explain "inscape" and "instress"—words which Hopkins coined and never properly defined. They are, according to Dr. Peters, expressive of Hopkins's interpretation of the philosophy of Duns Scotus, and they describe the individual, distinct, active essence—the "personality" almost—of even inanimate objects. Once this is understood the rest is relatively easy and logical. The obscurity disappears, and the oddness becomes not only reasonable but inevitable. The difficulties of grammar and syntax arise not "from freakishness or an unbridled desire to be invincibly queer and startlingly original" but from Hopkins's peculiar (the word is Dr. Peters's) personal conception of reality, which could only be expressed in this peculiar, highly personal way. Considering that this God-obsessed poet was trying to express, not the attributes, but the essence, the "inscape" of God Himself, it is not surprising or unnatural that he is difficult even if you do sympathise with his point of view, and unintelligible if you don't.

But Dr. Peters does not leave a general definition to cover particular cases. He says: "It is these idiosyncrasies of style that tell in Hopkins's poetry and not one of them can we afford to neglect." We do not neglect one. The thoroughness with which he treats each one and his insistence on accurate factual reference is best illustrated by his own statement. "I have taken the trouble of counting the adverbs ending in -ly in the poems; the sum-total is twelve."

Dr. Peters's aim was to make Hopkins "more intelligible, more accessible." I think he has succeeded. —S.P. McL.

FOR RADIO ENGINEERS

RADIO ENGINEERING—VOLUME 1. By E. K. Sandeman, Ph.D., B.Sc., M.I.E.E. Chapman and Hall.

THIS is rather different from the usual academic type of text book in that it deals more with the practical application of radio principles to the equipment used in radio broadcasting, and gives a wealth of information on the adjustment and maintenance of such specialised equipment, more particularly that in use at transmitting stations. The author is a prominent engineer on the staff of the British Broadcasting Corporation and he has developed the book from instructions which have been written over the past years for maintenance engineers at BBC transmitting stations. Although an attempt has been made to make it a suitable book for beginners, by logical explanations and the use of a minimum amount of advanced mathematics, this does not detract from its usefulness as a practical reference book for experienced operating and maintenance engineers.

The text opens with an elementary chapter on "How Broadcasting is Done" and then proceeds to discuss electrical units and the theory and application of direct and alternating currents as applied to radio practice. After a brief chapter on thermionic valves there follows a comprehensive treatment of amplifiers and oscillators, principally applying to transmitters, together with radio

frequency drive equipment and modulators of various types. The information contained in these sections should be of great value to the operating engineer. A considerable portion of the subsequent chapter dealing with transmitter types relates to the design and adjustment of the "Doherty" high efficiency transmitter amplifier, an improvement on which, known as the "Fortescue System," has been developed by the BBC for economy in high-power transmitters. The book concludes with a very useful section on feeders, aerial coupling circuits, and aerials, and also deals with the basic mechanical design considerations involved in triatic suspension of high frequency curtain arrays.

Altogether this book is well worthy of inclusion in the library of technical personnel required to operate and maintain radio transmitting equipment. It is well indexed.

—W.L.H.

LEST SOME FORGET

RAVENSBURCK. By Denise Dufournier. Allen & Unwin.

REVOLT AGAINST HITLER. The Personal Account of Fabian von Schlabrendorff. Eyre & Spottiswoode.

IT is no doubt good for us, and for our children, that authentic echoes of the Nazi terror should continue to be recorded. Most of us have short memories, and books like these, which are records of actual experience, and not vulgar attempts to exploit horror, will help to prevent us from lapsing again into the frame of mind so many of us had before Belsen.

In the most horrible way, too, each of these books corroborates the other. The first, translated from the French, is a woman's account of the suffering of dazed and dying women in circumstances of such horror that it is difficult already to believe that they existed. They did; and whether Mme. Dufournier over or under dramatizes her own experiences, the over-all picture can no longer be questioned. But if anyone did feel like questioning it, he would find his scepticism disappearing as he read the second of these books—an account by one of the survivors of the revolt against Hitler in 1944. For this is Nazism on the higher levels, and the more sharply the scene changes the more it is the same scene, with the same actors, and the same methods and policy. The story of the revolt itself is as absorbing as any thriller of fiction, and when it fails, the methods by which Himmler attempted to make other revolts less likely differ only in detail from the methods employed by Hitler's thugs everywhere. The brutality to which the conspirators were subjected is sickening even after all the other horrors with which Hitlerism made the world familiar. But what makes it more disgusting than anything else is the calm and lofty courage of some of those condemned to torture and death. Here is a note written by one of the younger conspirators, with his hands shackled, a few minutes before his execution: "Dear Mother, now I have overcome the last tremor of unrest that shakes the tree-top before it crashes. And thus I have reached the goal of mankind. For we can and ought to know how to endure consciously what the inanimate plant suffers. Goodbye. They are coming to fetch me. A thousand kisses. Your son."

It is well to remember that the Nazis did not debase all their fellow Germans.

NEW ZEALAND LISTENER, AUGUST 27.