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State were developed by individual enterprise. The Englishman has always fought for individual rights, and, says Richard Law, M.P., in the chapter "The Individual and the Community," one day he will turn on the bureaucrat. On the other hand, the moat produced a certain insularity of outlook, and national freedom and existence as a great power depended on one thing, command of the sea. As time went on and Britain deliberately staked her livelihood on world trade (with more abundant results than anywhere else), her position became more and more like an inverted pyramid. It has been said that Britain always lives "on the edge of doom." The aeroplane and the unprecedented changes

cording to Lady Violet Bonham Carter, the Englishman remains in a measure a child all his life (which foreigners have noted) and she mentions the English genius for nonsense. No continental could have written the "Alice" books or the Lear verses. There must be a connection between this childishness and a remark by I. J. Pitman in "Recreation and Games" which is particularly appropriate amid this year's long-drawn test match ordeals for players, spectators, and listeners. "Ten minutes of hopscotch or of cricket against a lamp-post is (apart from the danger from and to traffic) worth all the international meetings ever staged in any sport." He believes too that the English "actively dislike Olympic Games." He is probably

right, but all the same they flocked to Wembley day after day.

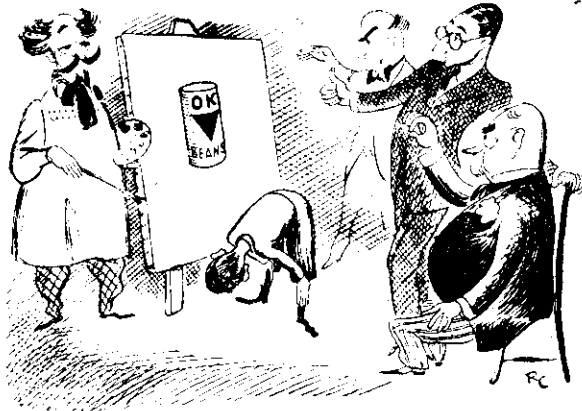
The most baffling people in history, one might say. The "nation of shopkeepers" who have always been poets. A people who push fondness for animals deep into sentimentality, yet hunt the fox, the otter, and the half-tame deer. A nation that has known no conqueror for nearly a thousand years and has fought more widely than any in any age, yet remains strongly non-militarist. They dislike thinking, but

their thought has profoundly influenced mankind. Look at their roll of scientists. Non-mystical in religion, they are mystics in living, in that they hold there is something higher than reason. In the final chapter, "An Attempt at Perspective," the editor lists these "constants" in English life: social homogeneity; the vogue of the amateur; the figure and idea of a gentleman; the habit of voluntary service; eccentricity; and youthfulness. In the last, as in their insistence on the reign of law, they resemble the ancient Greeks. I would add a remark I came on recently, that the first thing to be said about the English was that they did not kill each other. You have only to look at the foreign news any day to see what this means. They are kindly, tolerant, ready to give the other side a hearing. More than anything else, this quality, plus their general ideal of freedom based on law, makes their continuance as a great nation absolutely vital to the defence of true civilisation.

—A.M.

Reading for Pleasure

THE golden rule about books is always read, for pleasure only. Not the pleasure of mere self-indulgence, but the pleasure which is profit. It is true that we read when we are tired and want to relax, but then we read a different kind of book—or should do so. After reading a real book you should feel—not relaxed, but tired, and at the very best you should feel shattered. You are never quite the same person again. The book becomes part of your own biography. Such a profound experience comes, perhaps, only a dozen times in your life, and if it comes after the formative period of youth, you renew yourself, you regain a lost youth."—Professor J. Isaacs in a BBC talk.



"The English are an art-loving people"

in world economy make this more true than ever. If she fell she would never rise. The chapters on industry would please Sir Stafford Cripps by their highly skilful marshalling of facts. Do you realise that with less than a thirtieth of the area of the United States, Britain has more than a third of America's population, or that before the war only 6 per cent. of the occupied population were in agriculture? And if you think of manufacturing in terms of big bosses and armies of hands, reflect on this, that in 1935 four-fifths of industrial firms in England employed not more than ten workers. The other day an economist made the point that efficiency was not necessarily measured by size; some of the smaller firms in Britain were in the lead.

IN "The Visual Arts" A. E. Richardson makes a statement that will be received with astonishment, and perhaps with guffaws. "The English are an art-loving people, ever appraising lucidity of accomplishment, which they never fail to recognise." It depends possibly on what you mean by art. Gardening, for example, is a national art in England, as it is in New Zealand. Cohen-Portheim would have gone some way with Richardson, for he assured Europeans that England had far more art—especially in the domestic sphere—than they had supposed. In "Literature" James Sutherland finds an explanation of the nation's magnificent body of poetry in the reticence, the in-drawing of the Englishman, his habit of intellectual and emotional privacy. He draws from a deep well of his own. Professor Garrod remarks that the meaning we give to the word "humour" is essentially and exclusively English. Where tenderness and seriousness fail, English humour ceases to be the best in the world. Ac-



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