

things he said in 1935, when it was barely possible to hope that the League of Nations would preserve the peace, could be said to-day with equal truth. The situation has not changed; it has become clearer, and more dangerous.

There are men now living (Professor Murray is one of them) who can remember when "peace was safe, steady progress a natural expectation, and spies and informers, passports and torture-chambers belonged to the regions of romantic fiction." They have seen order dissolve into chaos, and they know why it happened. The lunacy would indeed be incurable if men made no effort to climb out of the pit. There is much to be done and much to be learned by United Nations, and there will be many failures; but the movement towards world unity is not a cult or fantasy: it is a process of organisation as necessary for the world as is parliamentary government for a democracy. This book defines in clear terms, against a rich background of learning and experience, a task in which all men in some degree can play their part.

LIFE IN OLD CHINA

MR. DERELICT. By Liu Ngo (translated by H. Y. Yang and G. M. Taylor). George Allen and Unwin, London.

A CHINESE novel written in 1905 may not promise to have much attraction for present-day readers, and the discursive style of this book is an additional handicap. Further, there is an underlying allegory, so that the wandering physician becomes shadowy, and his adventures take place in a vague region of the imagination. Nevertheless, the reader who ignores or overcomes these difficulties will find interesting material. Mr. Derelict may remain elusive; but villagers, officials and sing-song girls come to life, and there are some notable passages. Most impressive, perhaps, is the description of a girl singing. It is an example of self-conscious writing, in the Chinese manner of an earlier period; and even in translation the climbing metaphors leave the reader a little breathless.

—M.H.H.

PRICKLY PREFERENCE

BRITAIN'S COLONIES IN WORLD TRADE. By F. V. Meyer, Ph.D., B.Sc. (Econ.) Issued under the auspices of the Royal Institute of International Affairs. Geoffrey Cumberlege, Oxford University Press.

WITH the British Government driving to develop the colonial empire, this full study of the history and economic effects of Imperial preference when applied to the trade of the colonies (as distinct from the Dominions), has a timely as well as a general interest. It is, however, a book for the student, professional or amateur, rather than the ordinary reader. Particularly is it a book for the experts who have to advise governments. Indeed it has an official origin, for it is a slightly altered version of a thesis accepted by the University of London, and the thesis was based on memoranda written by the author at the invitation of the Colonial Office when he was a research assistant at the London School of Economics.

The book is packed with facts and figures and deductions covering colonial trade in all its variety of kind and direction. It is impossible here to do more than make one or two observations on a detailed treatment of a world-wide

(continued on next page)

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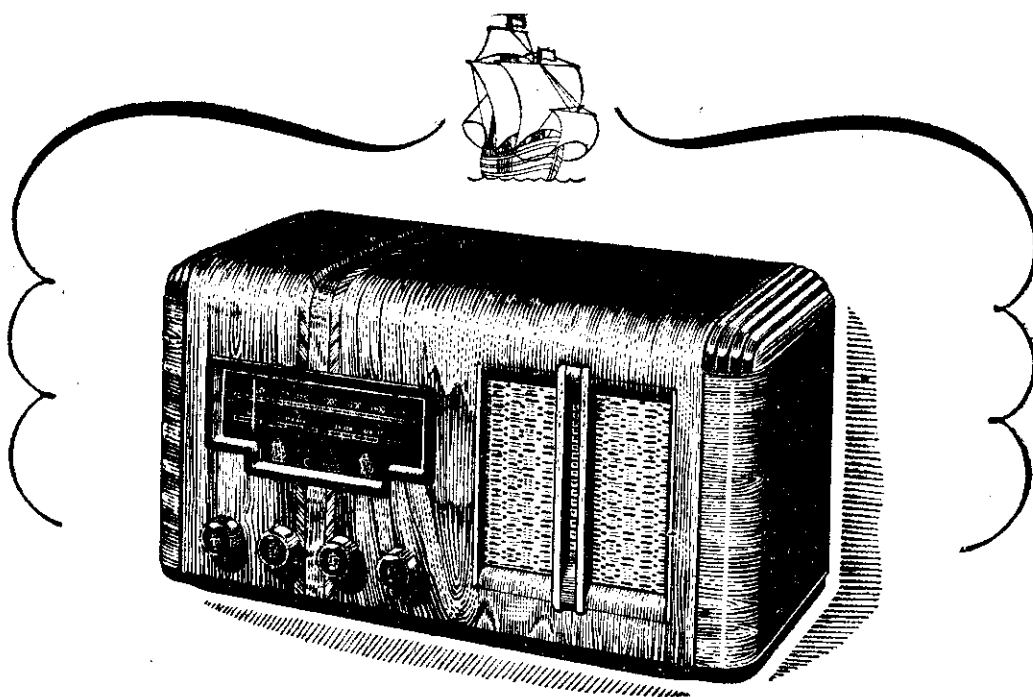
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