

Shield. There is much here to hold the veteran and profit, the young player. Reese considers our bowling was better 50 years ago, when Fisher and Downes, Frankish and Upham were playing. The left-handers failed in Australia in 1898 because conditions were unfavourable, but English conditions would have suited them. The lesson that stands out in the book for the young cricketer is practice—more practice—and still more practice.

The book is too long. There is even a little too much cricket—the cricket in which Reese himself is not involved. He writes competently and brightly, though not with distinction, but much of the travel record belongs to the Tourist-writing-home class. There is, however, real value in his working experiences at sea. We don't hear enough about the men of the Merchant Navy, and the engineers get less notice than the deck officers. Reese's first ship from England was a small tramp going to the Far East. There was no refrigeration for food and no electric light. In this record of his voyages below the water-line there is something of the interest that has made "A Surgeon's Log" a classic of the Red Ensign.

Admirably Illustrated

There is interest, too, in Reese's account of his life as a businessman in New Zealand, with its dealings in cement and timber, and the running of sawmills and ships. He and his eldest brother and partner, T. W. Reese, cricketer and historian of the game, have never allowed the game to interfere seriously with their work. The book is admirably illustrated. Many lovers of the game, especially those of middle age, will be glad to add these photographs of teams and individuals to their collections. The photograph of "W.G." at sixty-four, going out to bat, is worth the money by itself.

R. C. Robertson-Glasgow's "46 Not Out" is a very different kind of book. Whatever he may have been at the crease, he is a stylist in words. Most cricketing books are written by batsmen. "Robinson Crusoe," as he is called, was a bowler, and generally went in last. Charterhouse, Oxford, and Somerset were his sequence. He was good enough to play for the Gentlemen at Lord's and dream of a "Trial" for England. What makes him important in the literature of the game is his social and cultural background. Born in the old privileged class, he was at school when the first war began the shattering of its world, and he expresses his dislike of some aspects of the new world in witty and pungent English. He approves, however, of the disappearance of an old public school system, in vogue when he went to Charterhouse, by which the housemaster was not paid a fixed salary, but was expected to make a profit out of the boys. Steeped in the classics at school and university, Robertson-Glasgow combines the fastidiousness of the classicist with a keen appreciation of varieties of character. There is some good cricket—Oxford-Cambridge rivalry, and the carefree play of Somerset, which is so far down in the championship that it can afford to "it bloomin' 'igh, bloomin' 'ard, and bloomin' often."

It also produced Jack White, a left-hand slow bowler for whom England would give its head to-day. The chief interest in the book, however, lies in the writer's personality and the picture of the society he depicts. He cares nothing for popular reputations, and though he is a journalist (perhaps because he is) refuses to call Fleet Street "The Street of Adventure." He knows "an old man with a beard who is far more interesting than Mr. Bernard Shaw," and considers all streets exciting. He is one of the best cricket reporters in England, and, reading this, you will understand why. He has learned that dullness is a cardinal sin, but that brightness must keep arm-in-arm with fact. A book to be read for its lively cricket chapters and for what goes before and after.

The slim centennial book about the Graces covers familiar ground, but even those soaked in the subject may find something new here and there. There is a good deal about "E.M.," who was older than "W.G." and preceded him slightly in the revolutionising of batsmanship. Like "W.G.," he played till he was over sixty. Both were "characters"; "E.M." the more downright and unpredictable of the two. Annoyed by a barracker when he was batting, "E.M." left the wicket and chased the man out of the ground. Sixty years ago a Lancashire bowler, Crossland, caused a controversy like that raised by Larwood in Australia. After a scene at the Oval over this bowling, Lancashire played Gloucester, and Crossland's first ball just missed "W.G.'s" head. When the crowd protested, Grace walked over to the noisiest section and told them he would have the ground cleared if there was any more of that. He then hit Crossland all over the field till he had scored a century. This sort of thing helped to make Grace unique in cricket history. "G.F." was the family's tragedy. A fine batsman, bowler, and fieldsmen, he lives in cricket history chiefly by a catch he took in the first test match played in England, which atoned somewhat for his two "ducks." But "though one were strong as seven, he too with death shall dwell"; a fortnight later "G.F." was dead at thirty. The only drawback to this record of the most famous of cricketing families is that the edition is limited to a thousand copies; why, we don't know. It will be surprising if a larger edition is not called for.

—A.M.

FANTASY

AN ATOMIC PHANTASY: KRAKATIT. By Karel Capek. (Translated by Lawrence Hyde). George Allen and Unwin. N.Z. price, 9/6.

FIRST published in England in 1925 as *Krakatit*, and now reprinted (yet if this is so, why do the page headings read *An Explosive Fantasy?*), this story is about the intrigues that a young Czech engineer lands himself in when he discovers how to liberate atomic energy. The publishers say "it is a revealing experience to read this work of Capek's prophetic genius." It is recommended that readers test this statement for themselves—though a warning about the magazine-story writing is fair enough. Its sedative qualities are unmistakable. It is impossible to say what proportions of blame must be shared by author and translator.

—F.S.

Can you tell character from handwriting?

I find my Mentmore '46 a delightful pen to write with, and it is nice to hear my friends say "What a lovely pen you have!"

A Graphologist reports:

"This is the handwriting of a determined and careful man who likes his own way, but will always listen to the other man's point of view if only to disprove it."

He certainly knows a good pen when he sees it. Britain does not make a more elegant or more practical pen than the Mentmore '46' with its hooded, 14ct. solid gold, osmium-iridium tipped nib and patented bridge feed which ensures an even flow of ink at all writing speeds.

In Black, Blue, Maroon or Dove Grey.
With Sterling Silver Cap 50/-
With Rolled Gold Cap 58/6

MENTMORE '46'

MADE IN ENGLAND

Wholesale only: Ponsford, Newman & Benson 1948 Ltd.,
128 Wakefield Street, Wellington.



ENGINEERING OPPORTUNITIES

"ALL ABOUT MOTORS" ... is FREE!



GET THIS **FREE** BOOKLET

READ THESE LETTERS FROM GRATEFUL STUDENTS.

"I received my certificate and wish to thank your staff for their assistance and information, and will recommend your schools to anyone interested."—T.L.B., Nelson.

"The course I completed some time ago has stood me in good stead, and was instrumental in gaining for me the position of Engineer to a firm here."—K.W., Auckland.

"I am very pleased I took the course. It is a comfort to know that I am setting about repair work the proper way. I have had a thorough grounding."—H. Mac., River Banks, Westport.

"I am now employed in a fairly large garage, and feel indebted to the course in obtaining the job."—F.S.J., Taupiri, Waikato.

FREE BOOK COUPON — POST NOW!

Australian Technical Schools (N.Z. Branch), Dept 3, 138 Queen St., Auckland.
Please send me your FREE ENGINEERING BOOKLET, "ALL ABOUT MOTORS."
I enclose 2d stamp for postage.

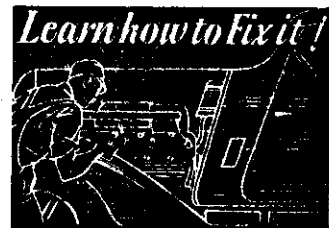
Name.....

Occupation..... Age.....

Address..... L 4/3/49.

THE AUSTRALIAN TECHNICAL SCHOOLS have trained students—since 1923—by Correspondence in Engineering subjects with marked success. At present we have students from all walks of life, Farm, Station, Rural, Factories, Workshops, Mining, Engineering and the SERVICES, all carrying on with their courses from all parts of New Zealand and Australia and OVERSEAS.

ALL ABOUT MOTOR-CAR Engineering. Send for FREE BOOK



For a limited time only we are making a special offer of training New Zealand students by Correspondence in MOTOR CAR ENGINEERING. Post the coupon below this very moment and receive our splendid FREE BOOK entitled "ALL ABOUT MOTORS," and get the full facts for yourself.