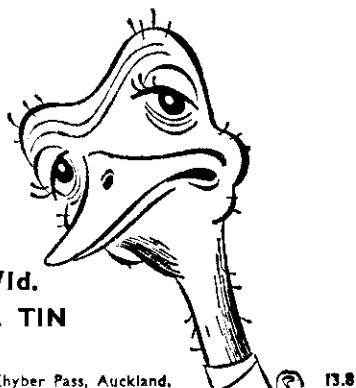


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BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

the same category as the *Conversations*,
it may be that we can begin to look
forward to a generation of fairly lusty
infants.
—Isobel Andrews

FLECKER AND SOME OTHERS

LIFE INTERESTS. By Douglas Goldring.
Macdonald. English price, 12/6.

THE tone of Douglas Goldring's *Life
Interests* is set most clearly by his
reminiscence of James Elroy Flecker and
his essay on *The Gentleman Tradition
in England*. The book consists of 18
lively discourses on somewhat time-
faded subjects by an author whose in-
terests are principally literary.

Flecker, *fine fleur* of the English pub-
lic school and university system, of the
witty irresponsible undergraduate life in
pre-1914 England, is recalled with a
sense of loss. Goldring, a contemporary
and friend of Flecker, feels that the
young men of the period with their
mauve silk shirts and gloom carefully
cultivated in their verse possessed a
spontaneity, "a generosity of heart and
mind" lacking in those who succeeded
them—the sons of the hard-faced men
who profited from the first world war.

Shortly before September 3, 1939, the
British Council subsidised a Greek pro-
fessor to write a book on *The Gentleman
Tradition in England*, for, no doubt, the
edification of the professor's country-
men. The title conveys something of the
sentiments of the British Council, at
least, at that time and provides Gold-
ring with the subject of an essay.

Amusing and enlightening incidents
are related in a long piece on D. H. Law-
rence, whom Goldring also knew. Law-
rence, for instance, hadn't any qualms
about tapping a rich relative, an uncle
who owned a stocking factory, for the
odd tenner. And the attitude of the day
towards Lawrence, ranging from worship
as a latter-day Christ to vilification as
a pornographer, is brought back vividly.
—J.R.C.

COMPRESSED MEAT OF OLD ENGLAND

*THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION, 1760-
1830.* By T. S. Ashton. Home University
Library. Oxford University Press through
Geoffrey Cumberlege. English price, 5/-.

PROFESSOR ASHTON puts a good
deal of meat into a dish of 160
pages. He traces the development of in-
dustries, transport, labour relationship,
monetary technique and much else, in
compressed paragraphs or episodes. For
a book of this nature it is the only
treatment, and it is adequately done.
He is no Trevelyan. The facts are there,
to be found if you want them; they are
not clothed in the light which illumina-
tes anything of which Trevelyan writes.

The close connection between Dissent
and the development of industry is well
known. Professor Ashton accounts for it
chiefly by saying that most Non-Con-
formists came from the better educated
section of the middle classes. He is
persuasive, but a man's mind and spirit
do not necessarily burn brightly be-
cause he happens to come from an edu-
cated section of the community. The
fire has to come from within.

—G.leF.Y.

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