

do the duty of one's station, said the *Gita*. What was that; and why do it if all would be the same in the end?"

THOSE who wish to study the *Gita* intensively may now do so in a new translation, with a full introduction and notes, by Sir Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, who is perhaps the most distinguished living Indian philosopher (he is certainly the best-known in the West). The fragment quoted above is, I think, sufficiently typical of the whole. After Arjuna's first expression of his doubts, there are many chapters of ethico-theological instruction, at the end of which the prince is satisfied, and the battle proceeds. The dialogue repeatedly returns to the point that inner detachment is not incompatible with outward activity (the *Yogi* and the Commissar may well be one and the same person), and such detachment is set forth as the principal aim of the good man.

I must confess that the Gospel of Non-attachment is one which awakens in me, not merely the hesitation which Dr. Catlin feels, but an unshakable antipathy. But it seems to me important that this feeling, by whomsoever it may be shared, should not be mixed with racialism. The "world-view" in question has had its Western as well as its Eastern advocates, and has been criticised as eloquently by Pandit Nehru as by any European writer. The former point is made abundantly clear by Professor Radhakrishnan's notes, which provide a wealth of Western parallels both to features of the *Gita* which he admires, and to aspects of popular Hinduism which he is at one with most Europeans in disliking.

—Arthur N. Prior

THE WAR AND THE PEOPLE

THE AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY IN WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION. By Ronald Walker. Geoffrey Cumberlege, Oxford University Press. Issued under the auspices of the Royal Institute of International Affairs. Price, £1/10/-.

THE Institute always seems to choose topics really worth discussing when it puts in motion its celebrated round-



NGAIO MARSH (above) will review "Shakespeare's Producing Hand," by Richard Flatter, in the ZB Book Review Session on Sunday evening, June 26. Other books to be discussed in this session are: "A Simple Guide to Big Business," by Clifton Reynolds (reviewed by Professor R. S. Parker), "Fifteen Years' Hard Labour," by Claude Mullins (B. L. Dallard), and "Sons of Noah," by Negley Farson (Anton Vogt). The chairman will be F. A. Simpson.

table discussions. Similarly, when it commissions a book the subject will be important and the author much more than competent. Thus it is with this work. It traces the manner in which Australia undertook a great industrial expansion parallel with her military commitments. There is much to excite the admiration of New Zealanders, even when it is noted that the overseas commitments were proportionately less than ours.

The author was in an excellent position to evaluate the effort he describes: he was Deputy-Director General of the Department of War Organisation of Industry. And he brings a sound sense of balance to his task. In a little more than 400 pages he has described the war economy as a whole, reviewed the more important particular war-time changes and entered upon a lengthy discussion of the problems associated with reconstruction.

The first section is a history of the steps, legislative and administrative, whereby Australia organised her war economy. We are shown the inside of the industrial scene as it existed pre-war and the system of "checks and balances" of State versus Federal power is outlined. Then came total war. Controls, rationing, labour problems, politics and planning all raised familiar heads. The author has something worth-while to say on all of them. But his most intense interest for us will be found in his analyses of particular changes. The farming community may find special interest in the chapter on agriculture, but the attempts at "stabilisation" will have more general interest. Wartime banking controls are so carefully examined that one can almost see the genesis of recent Australian banking legislation. On another tack, excess purchasing power and price control remind one of this side of the Tasman.

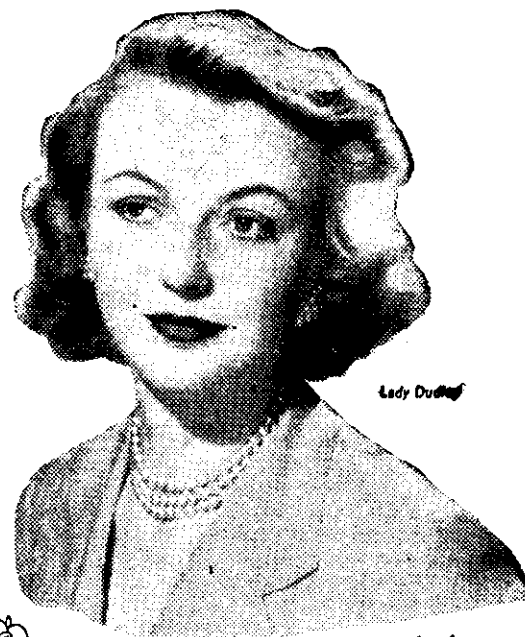
Post-war reconstruction meant, in Australia as in New Zealand, "the re-establishment of servicemen and munitions workers, together with a measure of social reform." Neither country seems to have realised how the war had altered the whole of the discernible future. The alteration will be more marked in Australia. Her war-accelerated heavy industrial development has an air of permanency lacking here. Labour problems are one key. The whole chapter on "Full Employment at Home and Abroad" will repay study.

This is a history. Walker seldom permits himself the indulgence of planning any portion of Australia's future. He contents himself with commenting, with clarity and forthrightness, upon the plans of others. His opinion of the present crop of Australian politicians is nowhere directly stated, but is nowhere in doubt. The role of the economist is equally searchingly examined.

Walker is factual without being dull. He understands how to use footnotes to convey references without disturbing the flow of the reasoning. He correctly uses graphs and charts for the tools they are and subordinates them accordingly. But an index of fewer than six pages can give only a skeleton service.

Our author is quotable, as witness: "... a commercial society is inherently pacifist;" "industrialisation of warfare weighs the scales against the hero;" And, on advertising, "The department

(continued on next page)



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