

inadequate summary. I must at the same time say that the novel's imperfections are so obvious that it almost becomes superfluous to mention them. The story is one, I imagine, that should lend itself admirably to much dramatic tension, clear-cut and incisive; but instead, mainly, I think, on account of the over-adjectival and journalistic language employed, there is a continual blurring, a lack of focus. And this, by the way, is quite apart from a number of borrowings that the author has not fully assimilated into his own personal manner of feeling and thinking. The total effect is one of insipidity; although it is just barely possible to suppose that it may be an effect that Mr. de Mauny has deliberately sought to achieve—in order, one might infer, to reflect the somewhat insipid character of much of our country's life. Whatever the novel's faults may be, however, I imagine that only the cocksure reader will remain unaffected by its power to disturb and stimulate.

### ECONOMIC THEORIES

A HISTORY OF ECONOMIC DOCTRINES, by Gide and Rist; Harrap, 21/-.

THIS work has long enjoyed a great reputation in the country of its origin and, in translation, in English-speaking countries. In this, the seventh edition, there are a hundred or so pages dealing with events since the death of the senior author, but little change other than that.

It is very good for us to submit our economic theories to the cool and detached analysis so characteristic of the French school. We obtain a new view of Owen, Malthus, Smith, Ricardo and Mill; to name just a few English economists whose theories are examined.

The chief weaknesses of the text are connected with Marx and the Swedish school. For example, the authors cite the growth in numbers of small manufacturers and the decline in numbers of large enterprises, overlooking entirely that Marx was concerned with the share of industry falling to either section. Similarly we are invited to examine the great increase in individual share-holding, but we are not told that it was the control of large enterprises which interested Marx; and no one will say that share-holders exercise effective control of modern business. The Swedish school is highly regarded by the junior author, but the space devoted to others, frequently of merely academic interest, could with advantage have been devoted to the doctrines of this school.

The authors do not hesitate to take sides in controversy, and positive guidance is offered. It is to be regretted that the sensible practice of reducing all direct quotations to footnotes has resulted in some of these carrying over for several pages to the great detriment of the argument in the text. The book comprises 800 pages, of which nearly 40 are index. The latter is adequately cross-indexed. Most of what the authors have to say is worth careful reading, and the excellent index is a valuable aid to this.

—J.D.M.

### ROUND AND ROUND

A JOURNEY ROUND MY SKULL, by Frigyes Karinthy; Faber and Faber, English price, 8/6.

RE-READING this new issue of a Hungarian writer's account of an illness, I wonder whether the book has not been somewhat over-estimated. I read on the dust jacket the ecstatic remarks of the critics of 1939 and remain

somewhat nonplussed. Notoriously other people's symptoms are rather a bore. Add their dreams, and the risk of their becoming tiresome is considerable. Karinthy defends himself with some adroitness from the anticipated charge of egocentricity, and yet this intense preoccupation with self is the main point of the book.

The descriptions of his relations with his doctors are excellent. Karinthy, once a medical student and now married to a doctor, all too often backed his own judgment against the professional. Only once was he right—when, after he was finally trepanned in Stockholm by a famous Swedish brain surgeon, he had an instinct that his sight would not be affected, as the specialist had feared. In the early stages of the growth of the tumour on his brain he must have been quite intolerable to deal with, fitting from doctor to doctor until he got a kinder diagnosis (controlling some doctors "like mediums" to get the answer he wanted), checking up on what they said by looking it all up in a text book or getting yet another opinion, and evading treatment until he was himself convinced. Karinthy confesses to a "self-dramatising instinct." He has given full play to this and created a document in which the undertones and implications are of greater interest than his main narrative.

—David Hall

### MOUNTAIN GHOSTS

TRAVELLERS IN SWITZERLAND, by G. R. de Beer; Geoffrey Cumberlege, Oxford University Press.

THIS good reference book will please anyone interested in the Swiss Alps. Its scope is as wide as the title implies, and many persons of consequence who have journeyed in Switzerland have a place in the miscellany.

The author divides his work into three parts: one where time is the basis (continued on next page)



JOHN MORRIS, radio funny man and quiz compère, who will review the latest "Pick of Punch" in the ZB Book Session on Sunday evening, September 25. Other books which will be noticed during this session are "Horowhenua," by G. Leslie Adkin (reviewed by Eric Ramsden); "Reasons of Health," by Douglas Reed (Norman Berrrow); and "The Real Bernard Shaw," by Maurice Colbourne (F. L. Combs). O. N. Gillespie will be in the chair

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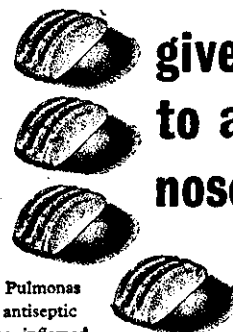
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