



## Does your STOMACH settle down for the night?

If your stomach feels unsettled when you are about to retire, take one teaspoonful of De Witt's Antacid Powder in a little water. This will ensure that you will not be troubled or disturbed by the distressing symptoms of acid stomach. Not only does De Witt's Antacid Powder begin to neutralise excess acidity right away, but it also spreads a protective coating over the inflamed walls of the stomach.

So get yourself a canister to-day. Price 2/9, Double Size 4/6 (incl. tax).

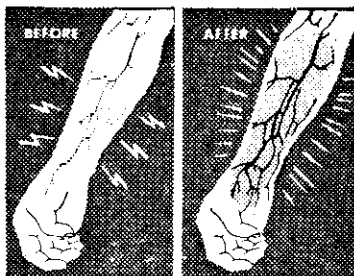
A product of E. C. De Witt & Co. (N.Z.) Ltd., 9, Herbert Street, Wellington, New Zealand.

**DeWitt's**

**ANTACID POWDER**

Neutralises Acid

Soothes Stomach - Relieves Pain



## Infra-Red Photos Explain Why SLOAN'S HELPS RELIEVE RHEUMATIC PAINS

Scientific infra-red ray photos of the blood vessels below the skin-surface prove that after the application of Sloan's the veins expand. . . evidence that the treated area gets extra supplies of vitalizing blood that also washes away waste matter and poisons.

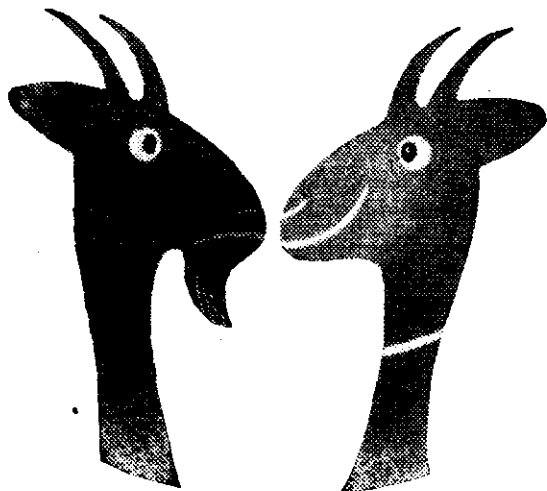
Scientists further proved that this beneficial action prevails deep below the surface. There it lasts for hours . . . right where the pain is. To treat rheumatic aches, neuralgia, stiff-neck, sore muscles, you should include the use of Sloan's.

Always see your doctor about rheumatism. Meanwhile, to help relieve pains, use Sloan's regularly morning and night.

## SLOAN'S LINIMENT or BALM

Drawings above made by physician,  
based on infra-red photos.

Mellier (N.Z.) Ltd., 49 Swanson St., Auckland



Good mornings

begin with

**Gillette**



... the sharpest edge in the world!

## BOOKS

# DESPAIR IN THE SUN

THESE DARK GLASSES, by Greville Texidor; the Caxton Press, 6/6.

THESE Dark Glasses is a tale of disillusionment set in the French Riviera, and from its pathological overtones it reads like the product of a sick mind. Yet it is written with such skill, and is so artfully contrived, that its literary merit cannot be ignored. On the surface it is slick, sophisticated, and clever, but basically it is deadly serious. The action, described in diary form, covers a period of nine days at Calanques, a holiday resort near Marseilles, in the late 1930's. The characters—Comrade Ruth Brown, who writes for the "Save Spain Committee," Gloria, the nymphomaniac American, Soskia, the blonde in the off-white Bugatti, Julian the artist, Otto the blond Aryan, Howard the bourgeois Englishman, and others—attend wild parties in cafés and cliff-side cabarets, lie on the beach in the sun, and discuss (between drinks) their neuroses or "the state of the masses."

The general tone of the book is one of acute pessimism. Ruth Brown, the narrator, has reached the ultimate stage of despair, an icy hysteria in which she doesn't care what happens to her or what she does. "It's ghastly being bottled up with all these phoney people," she says; but she adds "I do not wish to leave. There is no future. Suicide plans are meaningless . . ." She lives on the verge of a dream world in and out of which she passes almost imperceptibly and at will, in the midst of a nightmare of Freudian symbols. What is the cause of this state of mind? One reason appears on the first page—her friends Victor and Malcolm have been killed in the war in Spain. Her mental crisis is thrown into relief by the strange assortment of figures she meets at Calanques, all acidly sketched in with a few strokes, since the shortness of the narrative (only 81 pages) prevents any detailed development. Maladjusted, frustrated, many of them are *avant garde* intellectuals and eccentrics for whom free love and sexual abnormality have become almost a way of life.

Ruth Brown's story develops into a rejection of the ideals and attitudes they represent—their belief that Communism was the only cure for the world's ills, that Spain was worth saving, even at the cost of one's best friends, that Picasso was the last word in art, and Freud, Marx and the Left Book Club the last thing in philosophy and literature. Even their stock words and phrases—"bourgeois," "Freudian," "Trotskyite," "the toiling masses," "one of these up-to-the-minute Lefts"—are sarcastically played upon to appear as a worn and almost meaningless currency. "It's too bad having to bother about the masses," says one character, but "Wasn't it naive to trust the intellectuals? *Toujours plus haut, toujours plus avant sur les cimes.* It was only a clearing they led us across. Now they are disappearing into the fog." The significance of *These Dark Glasses* lies in the author's intuitive awareness of that fog, and of the futility of what seems to her to be the blind leading the blind.

Technically the book is very well written, and the disciplined economy of



GREVILLE TEXIDOR  
No strength through Freud

style and construction produces a tight rhythmic pattern of an unusual yet aesthetically satisfying texture. The author was born in England and came to New Zealand in 1940. One or two short stories with a local background had revealed a considerable ability, but they had not prepared us for anything quite like this.

—P.J.W.

## SAINT AND LAWYER

MAHATMA GANDHI, by H. S. L. Polak, H. N. Brailsford and Lord Pethick-Lawrence; Odhams Press. English price, 12/6.

MOHONDAS KARAMCHAND GANDHI, lover of the common man of India, is the subject of hundreds of books. This one was written by people who knew him well and had direct contact with him during the three phases of his career. One was a lawyer, another a journalist, and the third a Secretary of State for India.

Dealing with the first phase, Mr. Polak enables the reader to observe Gandhi's mind in process of development. The leading characteristics of his personality are discussed with intimate knowledge. This section describes his youth and training, and especially his efforts on behalf of oppressed Indians in South Africa, in the course of which Gandhi discovered himself and his message. In this period the first experiments were made which revealed to him what his beliefs, and ideals meant in the stress of actual affairs, when their truth had to be tested at the cost of other men's sufferings, as well as his own. Mr. Polak was articulated as a solicitor to Gandhi from 1905 to 1908, and was for 10 years his closest confidant. There is an intimacy and sureness of touch about this section which is perhaps not to be looked for in the later ones.

Mr. Brailsford deals with the period between the wars when the idea of struggling for Indian independence was maturing. This was the time of jail