

sentences and fasts, the time of campaigning for "non-violent non-co-operation," home spinning, prohibition, education, and the removal of "untouchability."

Lord Pethick-Lawrence gives an administrative official's view of the painful and difficult steps which Britain and India had to take before independence could be achieved. He shows how influential Gandhi was even when out of office in Congress and not always in agreement with his colleagues who were leading Congress.

Whether or not this book gives an accurate interpretation of each point in the Indian struggle, or of Gandhi's part in it, a picture is drawn of an extraordinary human being. On the one hand his selflessness and spirituality gave him the authority of the saint; on the other the lawyer and politician in him often gave the appearance of any agitator. His strength lay in his love of India, his friendship for the village people rather than the intellectuals, and his integrity in suffering. The root of his being was religion.

—J.M.B.

FORTRESS ISLANDS

MALTA: by Sir Harry Luke; Harrap and Co. Ltd. English price, 15/-.

"EVEN St. Paul," say the Maltese of their most venerated saint, "—even St. Paul suffered shipwreck in Malta." This tiny archipelago has been washed with the waves of every European civilisation. In prehistoric ages great creatures lumbered across it while it was still an arch of a landbridge from Europe to Africa, many of them escaping the descent of the ice age only to perish in the caves of the islands. Sir Harry Luke, in what is undoubtedly the most enduring of his many books, has reconstructed the impact of successive civilisations from primeval times upon these tiny but momentous islands. Yet this is far more than a history. It reveals every part of Maltese life past and present, its politics, religion, art and wars, from the extraordinary story of the Knights of St. John to the horror of the slave galleys.

A thousand years of fortress existence has left its mark upon the archipelago. Its people and buildings persist, stubbornly, in an archaic mode of life which is, however, not without its charm. Sixty-eight plates, maps and drawings are of great assistance in understanding the author's notes upon Maltese art and architecture, while a series of noble portraits give meaning to the author's analysis of the decline of the famous order of St. John. The manner in which wealth and pride slowly but surely replaced the simple integrity of the founders is convincing proof that the greatest peril for an idealistic institution is the subtle menace of material success. All Europe seems to have had a hand in Maltese affairs and many witty and shrewd quotations from famous visitors who have relaxed in its sunshine add sparkle to a book which is a scholarly survey of an island steeped in the forgotten movements of past ages.

—F. R. Belmer

AVALANCHE

WHEN THE MOUNTAIN FELL, by C. F. Ramuz; Eyre and Spottiswoode. English price, 8/6.

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(continued on page 19)

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