

A BRIGHT AND HEALTHY HOME IN EVERY TIN
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P.5



THE **BRIGHT** FINISH FOR ALL EXTERIOR FACINGS

Listen-in to Taubmantime —

Anne Stewart's absorbing Home

Session—ZB Stations, 3 p.m. every Thursday; 2ZA, 9.45 a.m. every Thursday; 1XN, 2XG, 1XH, 2XA, 3XC, 9.45 a.m. every Saturday.

TAUBMANS

Enamelised BUTEX

"A Better Job With Taubmans"

BOOKS

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called Tich. They all lived in the house for four months with Topboy, Lady Leeds, Tree, Bingy, and Tich Taylor, till the three-man film they were working on (*I Met a Murderer*) was finished. Then the house, Violet, and Tich Taylor reverted to the owner and the Masons moved here and there. Topboy, Lady Leeds, Tree, Bingy and all. But, to finish just that one story, in 1946 Violet Taylor finally extracted herself from Berkshire and came to house-keep ever more for the Masons and their family, in London, New York, Hollywood or anywhere. The book is dedicated to her.

Every reader who shares life with a cat, or cats, or a succession of cats, will want this book not to borrow but to keep; it is, for one thing, full of practical hints on simple treatments for ailing cats, nursing mothers, and wobbling kittens. There is good advice about feeding—don't give too much, cut it up small or scrape it, remember to give water to drink, and always try to give natural foods: "Most experts think beef is the best food for cats, though it can't possibly be their natural food. (Whoever heard of a cat catching a bull?)" This is a happy sentence; but in strict regard for historical probability, I must suggest that beef may be a natural food of cats. At any rate Pamela Mason feeds her cats beef, but she scrapes it.

The Masons agree with T. S. Eliot's views on the naming of cats; they say Nigger and Blackie are names which show that the owners just arrived casually—Whitey was the only cat of that description in their story. Their other cats have always had a number, and a puzzling array of names: Tree, for instance, was Harold, Harold Haddock and just Haddock, and later Albert, Baby and La Baby—all added gradually and used at various times during the 12 years of his life.

—J.

BIBLICAL HISTORY

THE BIBLE AND ARCHAEOLOGY, by Sir Frederic Kenyon; George G. Harrap & Co. Ltd. English price, 15/.

SIR FREDERIC KENYON became famous for his work in purchasing the Codex Sinaiticus manuscript from Russia in 1922, but as Director and Principal Librarian of the British Museum for 21 years he has built up a more enduring reputation in archaeological scholarship. This, his fourteenth book, is a major work, the first edition of which was largely obscured by the outbreak of war. Now it is available to the interested public.

He surveys the results of the last hundred years of archaeological discoveries as they affect the authenticity, interpretation and text of the Bible, and his book gains immensely in interest through plates which show the most significant of the obelisks, tablets, wall-paintings, bas-reliefs, steles, monuments and papyri. The first impression made upon the reader is one of surprise at the extent of the evidences available; the second is the remarkable degree of authenticity in the Biblical record. Adjustments in location of battles, the size of the armies involved and the extent

of the victories achieved need to be made in all ancient documents to correct national and political bias, but the broad themes of the history of Egypt, Syria, Palestine and Mesopotamia recorded in the Bible are amply verified. The Hittites of the Pentateuch, once only a question mark, have now assumed major historical stature. The earlier roots of the primitive codes and myths (using the word in its technical meaning) of the Bible are now visible, and there is scarcely any critical question upon which some light is not thrown. On the basis of this evidence the author gives his verdict that the text of the Bible has been more firmly established, its general authenticity confirmed and its meaning elucidated by modern research.

—F.R.B.

HARD WORK

A SURGEON'S WORLD, by Max Thorek; Robert Hale. English price, 12/6.

THIS is the autobiography of a penniless Hungarian immigrant who made good in the United States. He had to work hard to get through college (his fees were paid in return for his playing the drum in the college orchestra), and much harder still when he established his medical practice in the Chicago slums where he lived. The chronicle of an immensely active, full life, it is a perpetual astonishment to the reader, not that Dr. Thorek founds a hospital, is so up-to-date in gland grafting and research generally, or invents some new, safer way of doing a risky operation, but that he has time to play the violin in an amateur orchestra, organise an international professional body, travel to Europe, lecture everywhere and write books, on photography as well as surgery. It is true that he writes badly, but this personal record of an acute, restless spirit is the sort of bad

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ST. JOHN ERVINE'S biography of the late Viscount Craigavon (above) will be reviewed by O. N. Gillespie in the ZB Book Review session on Sunday next, November 27. Other books, and reviewers, will be: "The Girl on the Via Flaminia," by Alfred Hayes (W. S. Wauchop); "The Face and Mind of Ireland," by Arland Ussher (Mrs. S. O'Leary); and "The Miracle of Cardenrigg," by Tom Hanlin (Frank Sargeson). The chairman will be Nelle Scanlan. The session originally scheduled for November 27 (details of which were published in our last issue) will now be heard on December 4.

N.Z. LISTENER, NOVEMBER 25, 1949.