

BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

of the development of roads and railways, and of irrigation on which prosperity now largely depends. There are some curious omissions. There is no map—a serious matter; and in the liberal supply of photographs there is none either of Vincent Pyke or of William (later Sir William) Fraser.

—L.J.W.

GREAT PHILOSOPHER

ALFRED NORTH WHITEHEAD, an anthology, selected by F. S. C. Northrop and Mason W. Gross: Cambridge University Press, English price 75s.

THE only criticism which can be made of this noble anthology must come from personal preferences. It was clearly no easy task to compress, even into 924 pages, the full range of Whitehead's thought. One of the smaller books, *Religion in the Making*, is reprinted in full; and the first six chapters of *Science and the Modern World*—the historical section—are given without abridgment. Ample justice is also done to *Process and Reality*, the supreme expression of Whitehead's thought, and the hardest to read. The first part, included in entirety, gives his conception of what should be attempted by speculative philosophy, and goes on to sketch an outline of his own system; and the first six chapters of the second part illustrate the application of his general ideas to the traditional philosophical problems. In their

treatment of *Adventures of Ideas*, however, the editors have had to sacrifice too much. Only one chapter has been reprinted from the first part—"Sociological"—which explains the evolution of the idea of freedom as a factor in Western civilisation. These early chapters have a special relevance to our own times. They could well have replaced the section of a mathematical treatise which stands thornily in the first part of the anthology. Yet the book as a whole is most valuable—an excellent introduction to one of the greatest thinkers of the century.

—H.

THE NEW CRITICISM

LITERATURE AND CRITICISM, by H. Coombes: Chatto and Windus, English price 10s.

SCRUTINY, that dour, ill-mannered, but in so many ways admirable Cambridge periodical that was forge and anvil for Dr. F. R. Leavis and his followers, has lapsed at last: but its soul goes marching on. The New Criticism of which Dr. Leavis is high priest is firmly established across the Atlantic; and in this short book Mr. H. Coombes, an English disciple, provides a popular manual of the *Scrutiny* method for "teachers of English and senior students in particular." The book has all the moral earnestness, something of the gritty style, but fortunately little of the bad temper of its chosen exemplars; and it should be really useful to sixth-form and university teachers.

Mr. Coombes gives more attention to poetry than prose, and considers many

parallel passages in chapters under the headings Rhythm, Rhyme, Imagery, Poetic Thought, Feeling and Diction. His own judgments are the fashionable ones—Donne and Hopkins provide his touchstones, Shelley and Milton are roughly handled, D. H. Lawrence and George Eliot are revindicated. But there is nothing loose or facile in his argument. Chapter and verse are cited, and a clear demonstration is given of a whole critical method. There is an appendix of well-chosen passages for further criticism. This is a text that will be most stimulating where it provokes most disagreement: it should be particularly suitable for adult education classes.

—J.B.

INDIAN DYNASTY

THE FOUNDING OF THE KASHMIR STATE, by K. M. Panikkar: Allen and Unwin, English price 15s.

WHEN the Sikh Empire began to disintegrate after the death of its founder, Ranjit Singh, in 1839, the chance came for an able and not particularly scrupulous young man to obtain a kingdom for himself. Ghuab Singh was a skilful diplomatist. As Rajah of Jammu he contrived, during both the Sikh wars, to conciliate the British without antagonising the Sikhs. The reward of his circumspect behaviour was the State of Kashmir, over which he and his descendants ruled until the partition of India. In spite of the palace intrigues, betrayals and assassinations with which its pages are crowded, this book gives

a lucid and well documented account of a short period of Northern India's troubled history.

—R. M. Burdon

WILDE AT HIS BEST

THE YOUNG KING AND OTHER STORIES, by Oscar Wilde: Folio Society, English price 18s.

WILDE at his best was an artist whose reputation grows with the decades, a reputation which Carson's just reprobation of Wilde the man will not dim. These short stories are Wilde at his best and the publishers have done good work in producing a new edition of an established classic. The format, the Perpetua type, the wood engravings by John Gastra, and the paper are a joy to behold. Should be purchased by the discriminating bibliophile.

—F. J. Foot

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

HELLENISM AND THE MODERN WORLD, by Gilbert Murray; Allen and Unwin, English price 5s. Six radio talks which make interesting comparisons between ancient and modern conflicts between "Hellenic" and "barbarous" societies.

IT ALL STARTED WITH COLUMBUS, an improbable account of American History, by Richard Armour; McGraw-Hill Publishing Company, N.Z. price 12s. People who enjoy the lighter treatment of history may be amused by this odd collection of nonsense and misinformation. It is described also as the first book from England bound in high-gloss plastic.



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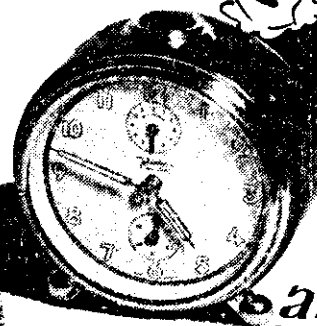
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