

fantasy." This sermonising perhaps explains the disappointment of the book. Clearly Professor Seton-Watson thought he was being objective in his writing, but his subjectivity is so apparent as to make one wonder by what process he selected his material. The author has in the past written well on Eastern Europe. It is a pity he has felt that the times made it appropriate to write on the pattern of Communist revolution. When such a work is really properly undertaken it will, of course, take many volumes; it won't be written in our time, and a Western European will probably not write it.

—W.B.S.

REAL CRIME STUDIES

MORE STUDIES IN MURDER, by Edmund Pearson; Arco Publishers, English price 12/6.

WIT is much more frequent in imaginary than in real crime stories, but there is plenty of it, perhaps in some readers' view too much, in the last book by Edmund Pearson, who died recently in New York. I had never heard of him, but from *More Studies in Murder* I should judge there is some justification for the publishers' claim that he was "a very great criminologist." These real crimes in various countries, some of them widely known, are re-told with mastery of facts, acute, impartial and unsentimental analysis, a sense of human drama and character, and a very lively style. For example, the hen-pecking of Major Armstrong by his wife was a motive for her murder, but as described by Pearson, it is also social comedy. "Sob Sisters Emerge," a study in American popular reactions to a woman's crime of passion, is what is colloquially called "a scream"; nevertheless, it is a highly enlightening picture of mass hysteria and perversion of justice. For one thing that makes this book notable is the skilful and often diverting way in which the criminal is related to his community. Criminals may be worse than the people about them, but they are not necessarily more strange.

—A.M.

ARMED CAMPS

QUESTIONS OF EAST AND WEST, by G. E. Hudson; Odhams Press, through Whitcombe and Tombs, 18/9.

MISTAKES made by the Western democracies and stumbling blocks liable to be encountered in the future form the main theme of this collection of 18 essays. It begins, suitably enough, with a comparison between Lord Castlereagh's diplomacy at the Congress of Vienna with that of Mr. Churchill and President Roosevelt at the Yalta Conference, somewhat to the latter's disadvantage. Roughly speaking, the book is divided into European and Asiatic sections, each under various headings. Speculation about the truth of the Red Army purge in 1937, and the real cause of Maxim Gorky's death leads on to an arraignment of what Mr. Hudson calls the Allied nations' complicity in Nazi aggression—to wit, the Munich settlement, and the secret agreement for the partition of Poland attached to the German-Soviet non-aggression pact of 1939.

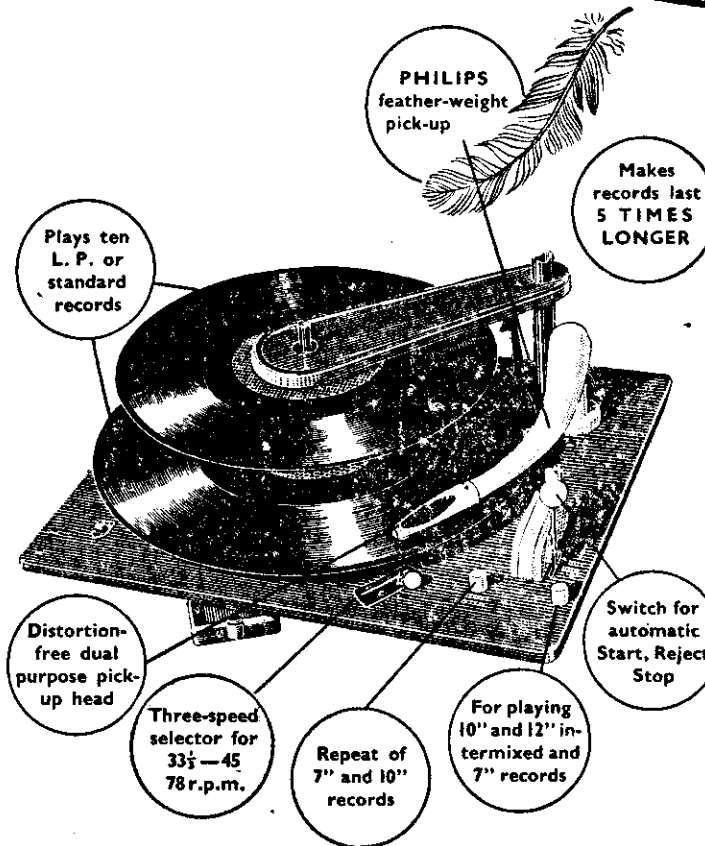
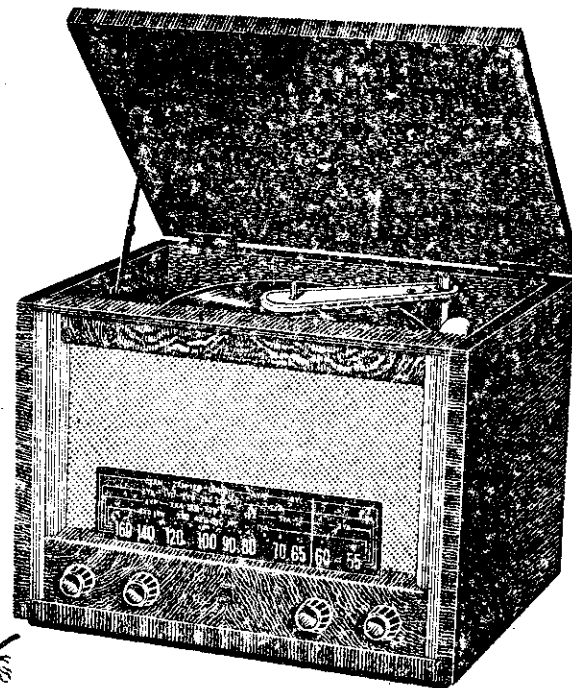
In passing over to Asia Mr. Hudson has much to say about conditions which render that continent so fertile a seed bed for Communism. "The main factor of crisis in Asia is not so much the poverty of the masses—which is nothing new—as the social and cultural disintegration that has been going on, for two generations now, under Western impact." The existing doubt and confusion play into the hands of the Communist who claims with sublime confidence that

(continued on next page)

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