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## THE BLACKBIRD

MADE BY THE SWAN PEOPLE



# Cerebos

IODISED SALT

Guards health and assists to prevent and guard against Goitre

See how it runs!

## BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

this year his only major "continental" contribution is "Shakespeare's Italy," backed by the unchallengeable authority and scholarship of Mario Praz. The International Notes remain; for all their inevitable scrappiness, it is only here that the literary or dramatic student may read of *Henry VIII* at Nairobi, of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Kuala Lumpur or Ankara, of a *Love's Labour Lost* in New York, with the Princess of France arriving in bloomers in a model-T Ford.

For the more serious contributors, the central theme of this volume is rather loosely denfied as "Shakespeare's style"; criticism of the subject is firmly traversed by M. C. Bradbrook, Gladys Willcock has an article on Elizabethan English, A. C. Partridge a study of Shakespeare's orthography, and George Rylands a note on dramatic speech. J. Dover Wilson provides a first instalment of a popular account of "The New Way with Shakespeare's Texts"; there are theatrical contributions by C. J. Sisson, J. W. Saunders and W. A. Armstrong; and the usual valuable accounts of recent productions and Shakespeare scholarship. Though nothing here is really outstanding, the Survey certainly continues to justify its annual appearance.

—J.B.

### FUNNY STORIES

**CONSULT YOUR PILLOW.** by John Coates; Victor Gollancz, English price 10 6.  
**LUCKY JIM.** by Kingsley Amis; Victor Gollancz, English price 12 6.  
**SIMPLE TAKES A WIFE.** by Langston Hughes; Victor Gollancz, English price 12 6.  
**JOHN ISKANDER.** by Donald C. Eyre; Robert Hale, English price 10 6.

A STORY with a moral, carefully inverted, *Consult Your Pillow*, proves the efficiency of the carefree drifter, the ne'er-do-well, at coming out on top, or falling on his feet. The adventures of Eric Cooper, the artist who becomes a business tycoon by a series of wholly involuntary accidents, are made into a witty comedy by this dangerously self-conscious writer. John Coates's very first paragraph takes us embarrassingly into his confidence about the problems of portraying his hero. No writer has his tongue deeper in the cheek; his invention is even so sluggish that he uses the same device, an unexpected will, no fewer than three times. But we may forgive him much in gratitude for the creation of Eric, who finds and conquers the comfortable women of Renoir on so many occasions and whose silliest actions always prove his wisest.

Another good comedy, but with a bitter undercurrent of satire, *Lucky Jim* is the decline and fall of a probationary lecturer in history at an English Redbrick university. This glimpse of academic backyards has a distressing realism, though the hero—apart from the final happy ending—is too heavily victimised for the book to have anything but surface verisimilitude.

Langston Hughes's Negro hero is also something of a victim, almost wholly his own. This new series of sketches of an engagingly feckless character is not as good as *Simple Speaks His Mind*, but the same wry humour runs through it. There are occasional side-swipes at the treatment of the Negro even in "liberal" New York.

The last novel on our list, *John Iskander*, is an adult relative of one of those romances of action which found

such satisfied audiences in the *Boys' Own Paper*. The behaviour of a mighty avalanche in the Himalaya will surprise mountaineers; even so, it serves the exigencies of the plot. —David Hall

### FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS

**THIS I BELIEVE.** edited by Richard R. Murray; Hamish Hamilton, English price 12 6.

THE fundamental beliefs of 100 different people, 50 British and 50 American, are given in this book. The writers are all persons who have had recognition in their own fields, and the reader therefore feels that what they have to say carries the weight of a "successful" life. It is significant that the students of philosophy will not find a philosophy which, more than any other, leads its followers to what is regarded as "success." Each article is accompanied by a short biography of the author, so that the statistician can interest himself searching for correlation between vocation, or age, or education, and beliefs. My main reaction was surprise that 100 selected people could differ so widely on the fundamental issues.

—B.C.

### SACRED WRITINGS

**THE PRINCIPAL UPANISADS.** edited by S. Radhakrishnan; Allen and Unwin, English price 50 s.

THESE sacred writings, perhaps the earliest of their kind, have been translated from the Sanskrit by a distinguished Indian scholar. They are not easy reading for Europeans, even for those who have studied the historical and religious background of Indian thought; but in the midst of much that seems to be trivial, repetitious or impenetrably obscure there are sudden insights which bring the reader closer to a world of spirit. Eighteen of the principal Upanisads are given, and there are many annotations. The book cannot have a wide appeal, but it should be welcomed by students of comparative religion who have felt the need of a translated and edited version.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

SHORT stories by James Courage and Frank Sargeson are published in the June issue of *Landfall* (the Caxton Press, 5/-). Sequences of poems come from Denis Glover, Ruth Dallas and Charles Doyle. Once again, in finding space for longer work, the journal gives a valuable service to New Zealand letters. Commentaries include notes on the prospects of McCarthyism, the Australian National Opera Company, Douglas Lilburn's symphonies, and the National Art Gallery. The book reviews seem to be a little thinner than usual.

**KITCHEN TABLE TALK**, by Ambrose Heath; Victor Gollancz, English price 8/6. Five hundred recipes by an expert, reprinted from the *Manchester Guardian*.

**WHAT SHALL I READ NEXT?** by F. Seymour Smith; published for the National Book League by the Cambridge University Press, English price 10/6. A personal selection of 20th Century English books, with very brief notes.

**THE HOLY BIBLE**, published by the Cambridge University Press, 60/-. This edition, known as the Pitt Minion Reference Bible, has a system of textual references which permits the removal of distracting letters and figures from the text. It should be of special value to ministers and students, though plain readers might prefer fewer references and a larger type.

N.Z. LISTENER, JULY 23, 1954.