



**'only the pleasure
percolates'**

PLEATED TISSUE

COTTON WOOL

The seven-ply tips used in the new Abdulla Cooltip cigarettes are constructed from layers of cotton wool laminated on to pleated tissue.

Abdulla brings Virginia smokers a fully-filtered cigarette . . . flavourful and smooth

Cooltip Fully-Filtered cigarettes bring you the pure enjoyment of smoking in all its rich Virginia flavour: only the pleasure percolates.

These luxury cigarettes, packed in attractive aluminium cases, **2/4 for 20**

COOLTIPT
FULLY-FILTERED

66062

ABDULLA MAKE THE BEST VIRGINIA CIGARETTES

If you care for
your hair—use
PALMOLIVE
brilliantine
because it contains
OLIVE OIL

COLGATE-PALMOLIVE LTD., PETONE



BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

of the poems are unassertive as Australia most certainly is not. Unfair, so briefly, but James McAuley should not, in ten and a half pages of heroic couplets, keep on addressing Dryden as "dear John"; it may be doubted if satire can now be effective in an ambitious literary exercise.

Some comparison with our own *Landfall* is inevitable. They have roughly similar aims, and both, being non-commercial except in the battle against increasing costs, receive a subsidy from public or semi-public funds (which *Meanjin* more delicately refers to as a subvention). If both quarterlies are concerned with the local scene it is from an emphasis on regionalism not narrow nationalism. (There is a valuable article in *Meanjin*, "The Importance of Regionalism," Geoffrey Thomas.) And both, by keeping a window open on the international world of thought and letters, have achieved an integration based not on self-esteem but on self-respect.

—D.G.

AMERICAN STORIES

THE LAST HUSBAND, and Other Stories. by William Humphrey; Chatto and Windus. English price 12/6.

THE short story belongs to our time: a portmanteau age, though the word is already out of date. The race is to the swift, and publication to the brief. Even the novelist earns his leisure to write, and the name to justify publication, by magazine pieces. William Humphrey is an American who has been printed in the best places: *The New Yorker*, *The Swane Review*, *Harper's*, and *The Quarterly Review of Literature*. They don't make many mistakes, and they haven't in his case. He is one of the innumerable competents in his particular genre, who would have achieved greater recognition in any time other than his own; but now "also runs."

There is a moving story about a boy and his father's gun; and how he grows up suddenly one day, freeing himself from the image of his father. There is a wickedly subtle story, ingeniously told by a first-person narrator much less subtle than the author, about an erring husband. There is a pathetically tragic little story about a second wife, old and worn out, finding herself ousted by the first: "She thought of Virgie, safe in Heaven these fifty years, safe in Mr. Hardy's mind, forever young and pretty. Surely, she thought, shuffling a finger across her withered lips, surely when the Lord called you, you didn't have to come as you were. What else could Hell be?"

Altogether there are 238 pages of pleasant bedside reading, with more than a hint that Mr. Humphrey's novel-in-progress will be worth buying.

—A.V.

MANY ADVENTURES

VAGRANT VIKING. by Peter Freuchen, translated from the Danish by Johan Hambro; Victor Gollancz. English price 18/.

PETER FREUCHEN — explorer, trader, film actor, farmer, sailor, lecturer, and journalist (to quote his own summary) — here tells a bright and breezy story of his extraordinarily adventurous life. If at times on his own showing he lacked discretion, he never failed in courage, in loyalty to his country, and in practical sympathy for the under-dog even at the risk of his own life.

Freuchen's first experience of the Arctic was with Mylius-Erichsen's expedition; later with Knud Rasmussen he founded a trading post at the Eskimo settlement they named Thule, which is now a busy outpost of American defence. His journeys in the Arctic required fortitude as well as great vitality; nearly always they had to kill some of the dogs for food, once they were forced to eat the strips of walrus skin from under their sled, and another time ("Sundowner," please note) to chew rabbit excrement.

Freuchen's war-time experiences in the underground movement in Denmark, his adventures in Russia and Siberia, and his travels in South America are in another category; his experiences in Hollywood and elsewhere as a film star in yet another. There is space only to mention them in a short review.

—L.J.W.

DARWINIAN SELECTION

EVOLUTION AS A PROCESS, an introductory essay by Julian Huxley, and contributions by 18 leading biologists; Allen and Unwin, English price 25/-.

THE aim of this collection of essays is to combat the idea that biologists studying evolution are actually dealing, not with one process, but with many processes. On first reading one may be forgiven for believing that it strengthens the very point of view it seems to combat. Aspects of the problem are approached from so many angles that it takes a little thought to seek out the common thread. In the end, however, all roads lead to Rome. By evolution we mean the operation of selection, in the Darwinian sense, upon the gene complex.

There is now no scientific opposition to the fact of evolution, but the manner of it is one of the growing points of biology. Here, too, the information is accumulating sufficient for a synthesis. It appears that selection, operating on quite small variations, can account for all we desire to explain, given time. It is the failure to take due account of time that has been the weakness in the past.

The essays are very uneven. Some are downright tedious. But all illuminate in some way or other the role of selection. As one would expect in a book where Julian Huxley is principal editor, there are some delightful studies of bird behaviour. The general reader, however, may well prefer the contributions of Fisher, Corner and Westoll. My own preference is for Young on "Memory, Heredity and Information."

The reader should be warned of the need of a technical vocabulary in many of the essays. Some will find the comprehensive bibliographies intimidating, others exhilarating. The philosophically minded may be disappointed at the failure to grapple with the determinism that stems so naturally from the modern view of the gene complex. The distinguished authors are not alone in this failure. The bleakness of determinism is its own deterrent. But there's no avoiding it if one pushes these essays to their logical conclusions.

—J.D.McD.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

YACHTING WORLD ANNUAL, 1954; Iliffe and Sons, English price 30/-. This large and handsomely produced volume gives full information of last year's yachting season. Details of the races fill many pages, and may not have much interest outside England; but the special articles, and the section on "notable yachts," should appeal strongly to yachties everywhere.

N.Z. LISTENER, AUGUST 13, 1954.