

crisp precision, making full use of an impressive reserve of literary and historical authorities. The literary criticism in this book is first-rate: Mr. Murry has re-read afresh everything by Swift, and his revaluation of the writings—especially the poems—is always interesting and generally convincing. His chapter on "The Excremental Vision" is sane and charitable, and a necessary pendant to any modern commentary on Swift. Altogether, this is one of the most solid and rewarding of Mr. Murry's critical studies. Compelled (for once) neither to love nor hate his subject, he treats Swift both with sympathy and with critical detachment; and when this measure of objectivity has been added to his genuine literary flair, Mr. Murry becomes a very formidable critic indeed.

—J.B.

MEETING THE RUSSIANS

CLOSE CONTACT, by Brigadier C. H. Dewhurst: Allen and Unwin, English price 12 6.

AFTER spending two years as Chief of the British Mission to the Soviet Forces of Occupation in Eastern Germany, Brigadier Dewhurst is still of the opinion that the Communists are not impossible to deal with "if one can separate what is 'natural' and Russian in them, from what is superficial and Communist." His experiences as herein recounted scarcely support this statement. On his own showing Russian methods of doing business are sufficiently exasperating to rouse the mildest tempered of negotiators to a state of fury, while their security measures produce situations that are reminiscent of some scene from a Kafka novel.

The author believes that Russia is weaker than is generally supposed; that the early enthusiasm of her people is waning, and that in the event of war her allies would prove to be a source of embarrassment. At the same time he deplores our own carelessness. While the Russians take extraordinary precautions to ensure the secrecy of their troop movements, and to prevent leakage of information regarding their latest inventions, we, on the other hand, publish reports in our newspapers concerning affairs of defence that might otherwise remain secret for a considerable time to come. Incredible as it may seem, Russian troops in satellite countries "are kept confined to their barracks for several months before being allowed out, and during this time they often don't know in which country they are."

Brigadier Dewhurst is an adventurous writer. He offers a theory that Stalin had already been dead for a month before his death was officially announced; and elsewhere he attempts, unwisely, I think, a sort of mass psycho-analysis of the Russian official class. His method of beginning each chapter in dialogue is of dubious merit, and some of his historical facts are incorrect; but his book is illuminating in parts and very readable throughout.

—R. M. Burdon

PEAK OF PHOTOGRAPHY

OUR EVEREST ADVENTURE, by John Hunt: Brockhampton Press, English price 12 6.

NEW ZEALANDERS have some cause to feel a close association with Mount Everest. Many of them have heard Sir Edmund Hillary and George Lowe give vivid lectures on the work of the successful 1953 British Expedition and have seen the fine film. The modest and stirring book by John Hunt, *The Ascent of Mount Everest*, has been read widely here, as elsewhere. Now there is a further treat available. Sir

John has written a short account in straightforward prose to which the emphasis is given by numerous striking photographs, some of which have never been published before. He has sub-titled his new book "The pictorial history from Kathmandu to the summit." It is a valuable companion to the earlier work, and produced with similar dignity and taste. Hillary has contributed some of the text.

The crisp reproductions by photogravure enabled the illustrations to be printed on the same paper as the text. The layout is exciting and fits the mood of the adventure. The photographs are of uniform excellence and no aspect of the expedition is neglected. The whole is a delightful and human commentary. Here are panoramas of gaunt mountain majesty, friendly close-ups of Sherpas and their children, fascinating jungle, terror by telephoto, chaotic icefalls, a relief model as convincing as an aerial view, storm-bound high camps, sunsets and stores dumps, men and ridges. This most evocative collection will have admirers wherever it is seen. The book is a triumph for British printing and book production, as the climb was for British mountaineering. The cover is a relief map drawn with skill and imagination. Seldom have such memorable experiences been so generously shared.

—John Pascoe

ADVANCES AND RETREATS

THE FLAW IN THE CRYSTAL, by Godfrey Smith: Victor Gollancz, English price 10 6. **LOOK NOT UPON ME**, by Denys Jones: Jonathan Cape, English price 12 6. **DOLORES**, by David Staction: Faber and Faber, English price 12 6. **THE RETREAT**, by Forrest Reid: Faber and Faber, English price 12 6.

THE FLAW IN THE CRYSTAL is an intellectual thriller (no bodies and plenty of contemporary ideas). Its dust jacket suggests that it was inspired by the disappearance of the two Foreign Office diplomats, Burgess and Maclean. A dedicated young public servant, Meredith, is detailed to investigate Graham Several, ex-fighter ace, business magnate and superman of London's younger intelligentsia, whom the Government is considering sending abroad on a highly confidential mission. The story takes in its stride the worlds of big business, diplomacy, Fleet Street and today's "gay young things," and contrasts the integrity and comparative inertia of the public service with the drive and lack of scruple of big business. This cleverly contrived novel is recommended for businessmen as well as public servants.

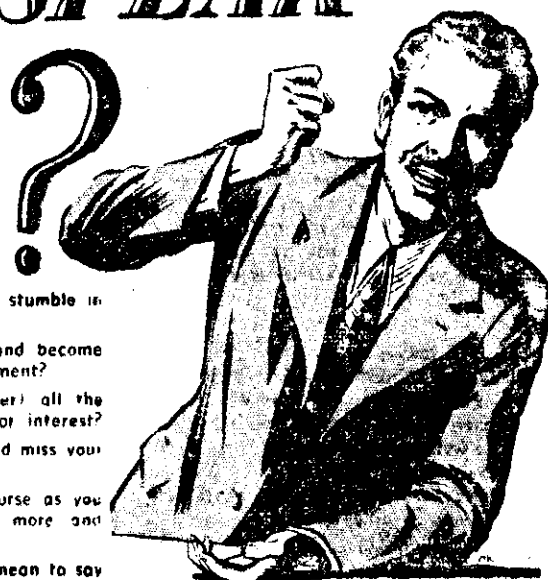
Look Not Upon Me is set in Kenya towards the end of the last war, when the Mau Mau terror was just beginning. It is the story of Lance-Corporal Carter, employed in the censor's office in Nairobi. He falls in love with a black nurse at a local hospital. The girl is, actually, a qualified doctor of medicine, well educated, charming and attractive. As the hospital is administered by whites she cannot work as a doctor. She must be content to serve simply as a nursing sister. The general frustration resulting from this situation is reinforced by well-drawn subsidiary characters. The African background is well conveyed.

Dolores is another expatriate novel by another young American. The story follows an attractive young girl from a secluded Californian beach to the fringes of Roman and Parisian society. Mr. Staction plods heavily, and, I'm afraid, wearily, in the footsteps of the Lost Generation.

Forrest Reid's novel, *The Retreat*, described on first publication in 1936 as

(continued on next page)

WHAT happens when YOU SPEAK



DO YOU hum-and-har and stumble in search of words?

DO YOU gape and gulp and become tongue tied with embarrassment?

DO YOU (huh, for whisper) all the time without tonal variety or interest?

DO YOU lose your point and miss your climax?

DO YOU get worse and worse as you feel your listeners getting more and more bored?

DO YOU forget what you mean to say as soon as you're on your feet?

OR

DO YOU marshal your arguments logically and convincingly?

DO YOU impress your listeners by forceful calm reasonableness punctuated by the right emphasis at the right place?

DO YOU reply to critics or enquirers without losing your self possession—OR your temper?

DO YOU feel your audience is WITH you?

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