

love everybody while endlessly he fought with his wife.

Alexandra Tolstoy has been loyal to her father, but it is no saint who lives in these pages, even after the conversion. He suffered much, and worked faithfully for good causes; yet he never ceased to be the egoist who had written two of the world's greatest novels, and his tragedy was the diversion of that giant energy from its true creative tasks.

—H.

UP FROM THE SLIME

MAN, TIME AND FOSSILS, by Ruth Moore; Jonathan Cape, English price 21/-.

THIS book attempts to trace the course of human evolution. Ruth Moore calls herself a "reporter." Certainly human interest, in the American use of the term, is very prominent.

The first section deals with the deduction of the theory of evolution. The sections on Darwin, Lamarck and Mendel are particularly interesting, and bring together materials formerly scattered. The chapters on Haldane, Fisher and Wright probably indicate reasonably modern views on the manner of evolution. The fact of evolution, of course, has not been sensibly disputed for half a century. In the main the point made is that evolution is progressive adaptation and nothing else, a matter of change of genetic frequency.

The remainder of this section is very weak. How on earth Cope came to be included is a greater mystery than any discussed in the book. True, he was a great excavator, but, then, so is a bulldozer. What can one make of a book that gives a chapter to Cope and scarcely a page to Weissmann? The chapter on De Vries fails to emphasise that his evening primrose was a hybrid, and thus he was led astray in his study of mutations.

The second section deals with the evidence for the theory of human evolution. All the major excavated skulls make suitable appearances. The author vividly brings to our attention the fact that man's pelvis made him man, and not his brain. The development of the pelvis to permit an upright stance long predated the brain of modern man.

Methods of dating the remains receive deserved and careful attention. The reader will find an excellent account of the uranium dating of the age of the world, and the fluorine and radioactive carbon dating of man. These are very well explained and I know no place, other than the original literature, where the material may be found.

This book is intended for popular consumption, but there is one point made in the last chapter which goes much deeper. The theory is that a pelvis, shorter and more upright than that of the ape, forced man to walk as he does, and thus freed his hands, and set his head at its present angle. All science is judged by the accuracy of its predictions. It is proposed in Chicago to operate on an ape to give him a human pelvis. He should, then, of his own volition, walk upright. This proposal will bear thinking about.

—J.D. McD.

MAN OF ACTION

TWO-GUN COHEN, by Charles Drage; Jonathan Cape, English price 16/-.

A MAN of action with a grand story to tell, General Morris Cohen, of the Chinese Nationalist Army, unbuckles his guns and tells it. Most of this biography is in the first person, and you can almost hear him talking: slangy, direct, full of reminiscence and adventure, shrewd and humorous. A Jew, Stepney-born, but his parents Polish, Cohen went to China in 1922 to become Dr. Sun Yat-sen's bodyguard

after a wild youth spent largely in trouble and in industrial school. He had been a professional boxer, farm hand on a Canadian cattle ranch, card-sharp, gambler, railway sapper N.C.O. in France, real-estate hustler. In China he mixed with war lords, diplomats, bandit chiefs, pirates, Russian Communists, fought in civil wars and revolutions, and was a sort of pet bulldog (ambidextrous) and A.D.C. to Dr. Sun and the Soong family.

Mah Kun, the nearest the Chinese could get to his name, was courageous and resourceful and something of a showman; and if he sometimes sailed close to the wind in smuggling in arms and ammunition to Chinese revolutionaries (on commission), his employers trusted him and sent him overseas on important missions. The chronology of his story is often not clear simply because he doesn't stop to give dates—events happen in summer or in May, but in what year?—but Cohen is a story-teller who prefers to live history rather than write it. The Japanese took him prisoner at Hong Kong, paid off some old scores, and repatriated him to Canada in September, 1943.

—W.A.G.

A CHARACTER

CHUCKLING JOE, by Crichton Porteous; Phoenix House, Ltd., through A. H. and A. W. Reed, Ltd., 12 6.

JOE chuckles, but he's a man to be taken seriously. He belongs to a Peakland dale in Derbyshire, and most of what counts up there belongs to him. Dialect, too. "So 'e were sent ta a college where 'e were gooin' ta learn it aw. 'E went there for 'ears, and then 'e took one o' th' farms as theer is up theer, but could 'e mak' it pay? Could 'e 'eck! This 'ere college farmin', it's worth nowt." If Joe were alive taddee (sorry, today!) he'd be 81; and when Crichton Porteous last saw him—over the last 30 years Porteous has been recording Joe's savings and has filled out most of his life—Joe hadn't yet been to London, though he had once been to Blackpool and several times to Manchester. A good bedside book, but more than merely that.

—L.J.W.

ENGLISH POLITICAL IDEAS

POLITICAL THOUGHT IN ENGLAND. TYNDALE TO HOOKER, by Christopher Morris; Oxford University Press, English price 6/-.

THIS Home University Library volume is a history of English political assumptions and thinking in the 16th Century, among Catholics and Protestants and puritans, the formal writers and the poets and dramatists, the lawyers, politicians, theologians, and pamphleteers. It is a first-rate little book, solidly learned and judicious but never heavy. It is both economically and clearly written. And the problems with which it deals are not out of date, because neither the nation-state nor the individual, neither authority nor the individual conscience, has ceased to be with us.

—J.C.B.

TEAM-WORK

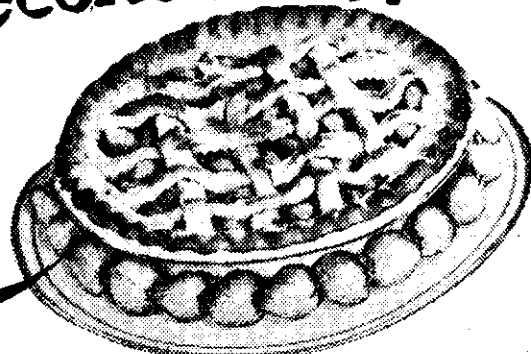
CAUGHT BY THE SPRINGBOKS, an account of the South African cricket tour in Australia and New Zealand, 1952-53, by Jack Cheetham; Hodder and Stoughton, English price 15/-.

THIS is a wicket-by-wicket and reception-by-reception story of the South African cricket tour of Australia and New Zealand the summer before last. Told in somewhat pedestrian fashion, it may be a little tedious to some readers. It has, however, two points of exceptional interest. It tells of a side that set out under the handicap of popular despondency and even despair (what was the good of sending a side shorn

(continued on next page)

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1½ cups "Pateo," 6 peaches, ½ cup

sugar, 1 tablespoon lemon juice.

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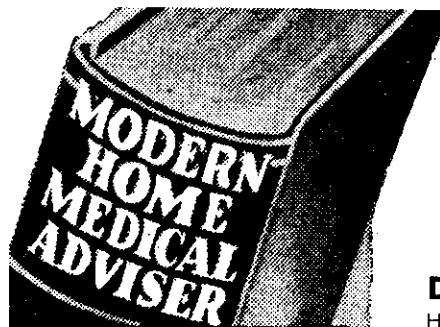


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