

# Better smoke



## BOOKS

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tribe, pattern of birth, marriage and death, skills of camping and hunting, and migrations are well handled, as are his other subjects. This book is sociology without fuss or jargon.

Christiane Ritter and R. M. Patterson are subjective in their approaches and their narratives can be read as simple stories of adventure clearly told. Mrs. Ritter, as a sensitive Central European plunged timorously into an Arctic winter with her husband and a companion, had a lot to learn and much time to brood. For long periods her men were away hunting, and her nearest neighbour was 60 miles away. She won her fight against loneliness and blizzards. Her writing is acute and honest. R. M. Patterson and another young man went after gold which they never found. They lived on game and trapped for skins. The background of their trials was always the river, whether the Liard or the South Nahanni, and their achievements in tracking canoes through narrow turbulent canyon rapids are stirring to read about.

These travellers faced violent death by cold, storm or mischance. They survived by their courage and commonsense. Their tales are fascinating. All three books are well produced, with good photographs, line drawings and sketch maps.

—John Pascoe

### LOOKING AT AMERICA

*AMONG THE AMERICANS*, by Rom Landau; Robert Hale, English price 21/-.

ROM LANDAU'S book is lively, penetrating, egotistic, dogmatic, entertaining, and full of new observations

about America. What does he say about the attitude that can be broadly described as "McCarthyism"? Very interestingly that it has produced two notable reactions—a cynically anti-American attitude among



Rom Landau

some who would otherwise be normal American liberals and progressives, and among others an even more radical departure from the American search for happiness through material prosperity, and a turning to a search for help in idealistic Eastern philosophies. The first group would not have him say a good word about America; the second provided him with attentive hearers, for Mr. Landau, who had come to America to lecture and teach about Morocco and to champion the cause of Moroccan independence, had much to tell them about the Eastern outlook.

—W.B.

### LOVE PLAIN, LOVE COLOURED

*SCHOOL FOR HOPE*, by Michael McLaverty; Jonathan Cape, English price 12/6. *LOVE IS A BRIDGE*, by C. B. Flood; Victor Gollancz, English price 15/-.

*TELL FREEDOM*, by Peter Abrahams; Faber and Faber, English price 12/6. *MARY ANNE*, by Daphne du Maurier; Angus and Robertson, Australian price 16/-.

IMAGINE Jane Austen translated into terms of modern Ireland and you have some indication of the scope of Michael McLaverty's sedate and decorous little novel. It concerns the love of a middle-aged headmaster for a young teacher and the disfiguring jealousy of his sister. The world of this novel is narrow, but it is not niggling. Its truth of feeling is obscured by a curious woodenness in the writing.

*Love is a Bridge* (a young man's first novel) is supposed to be "sensitive and civilised" and "about decent people," dangerous and revealing claims. A couple fall out, and after the husband's unsuccessful remarriage, eventually come together again. Both the wives have charming children, and one must commend the graceful manner in which people on opposing sides in the sex war keep up courteous appearances. Civilised, maybe; but sensitive? Anyway, it is a good picture of that America where money supplies a sort of traditionalism of its own.

Peter Abrahams's autobiographical novel gives a terrifying insight into the South African inferno—a region, in the scriptural sense, without love. Even as a member of the comparatively privileged "coloured" class, the young Abrahams has a hard enough upbringing. The book is not designedly a tract, but this account of its author's youth rouses both sympathy and indignation.

Daphne du Maurier bases her novel on the life of a picturesque great-great-grandmother, Mary Anne Clark (some-time mistress of the Duke of York, son of George III), who set the fashionable and parliamentary world by the ears in her attempts to conquer some security for herself and her children. A clever woman, Mary Anne is not clever enough to avoid going too far and goes to jail for criminal libel. This lively story is suited to its author's romantic talents; it is as edifying as the adventures of Moll Flanders.

—David Hall

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