

BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

days, the people concerned, the hospitality, the sport, the humour of the life, the natural history of the district is admirable, and is supported by good illustrations in drawing and photograph.

—A.M.

THE QUICK AND THE QUEER

THE HONEYED PEACE, by Martha Gellhorn; Andre Deutsch, English price 10 6. **THE JOKER**, by Jean Malaquais; Victor Gollancz, English price 12 6. **THE WHEEL**, by Christopher Leach; Chatto and Windus, English price 8 6. **LINCOLN MCKEEVER**, by Eleazar Lipsky; Andre Deutsch, English price 12 6.

THE short story is in less of a decline in America today than it is in England, where very few journals still print it. Those in Martha Gellhorn's book are top-flight New Yorker-type stories of post-war chaos, European or American. They have drive, ruthlessness, and insight, and are as successful as they are uncomfortable to read.

Malaquais is original. If you look on him as another Kafka (of whom there are inevitable trace elements), you may wax ecstatic about this translated novel of the future and the individual against the state. Or (like me) you may merely find it tiresome with the peculiar doctrinaire thoroughness of the French when they throw aside realism, their natural

strength. But these fantasies of the state rampant are undoubtedly ingenious.

The Wheel, virtually a long short story, is more successfully bizarre. An ex-soldier goes, against advice, into hot nomad-ranged deserts (North Africa? Arabia?) and suffers a nightmare captivity, from which, just as fortuitously, he is rescued. The book shows a respectable talent, but is not in itself very engrossing.

The ingredients that make up **Lincoln McKeever**, a story of a lawyer defending a "framed" Spaniard in New Mexico about 1900, are well tried and tested—a dash of moral fervour, stirring legal jousts, a love interest, a heartbreak, and a background of violence stretching to the utmost the forms of law. Of these four it will sell the most and be worth the least. But you could wait for the film.

—David Hall

INSIDE DARTMOOR

THE TRUTH ABOUT DARTMOOR, by George Dendrickson and Frederick Thomas; Victor Gollancz, English price 12 6.

DENDRICKSON and Thomas have recently been released after spending four years and two and a half years respectively inside. I have no reason to doubt that they tell the truth and nothing but the truth; whether they tell the whole truth is, possibly, another matter, and in part a question of emphasis. Even so,

there is enough damning evidence here to stir the British public and Parliament to do something about it. The authors give well reasoned suggestions as to what can and should be done to reform Dartmoor, and as to what must be done before Dartmoor can give its prisoners the slightest chance of reforming themselves. I hope one is entitled to the comfortable feeling that some things that happen at Dartmoor can't happen here. Concerning homosexuals, these men have some cogent arguments for not penalising under the Crimes Act, but segregating for treatment consenting adults in such activities. As the law stands: "For every homosexual who enters prison two come out." There is some internal evidence that the authors of the book are not the writers, but that is by the way.

—L.J.W.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

BENGAL TIGER, by Hall Hunter; Robert Hale, English price 10 6. A story of action and romance in India 100 years ago.

DARNBROOK, by George Moor; Hodder and Stoughton, English price 10 6. A first novel with a setting on a Yorkshire farm.

WESTERN ENTERPRISE IN FAR EASTERN DEVELOPMENT, by G. C. Allen and Audrey G. Donni-thorne; Allen and Unwin, English price 20 -. A description of Western trade in China and Japan, mainly for students.

THE ART OF COARSE CRICKET, by Spike Hughes; Museum Press, English price 7 6. Another of those light-hearted books about cricket—but this time cricket without ashes and statistics. Line drawings by Antony Wysard are delightful.

MOTH

*MOTh against the window beating the delicate bloom of your wing,
Diminutive eyes afire, and frantic forelegs scrabbling—*

*Turn, turn to the night:
You never can reach the light.*

*But I have hands to lever the frame or smash the stubborn glass,
And a mind to follow the tracks my fathers found for me to pass
And nourish every spark.
I shall not choose the dark*

—Elsie Locke.

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