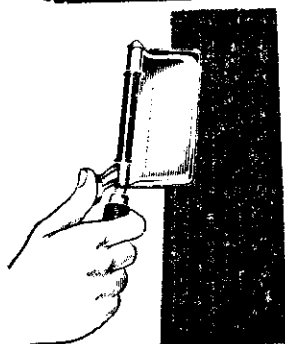
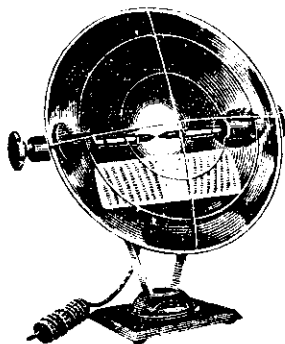


Leaders all over the world

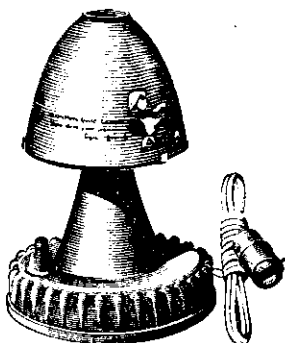
# PIFCO



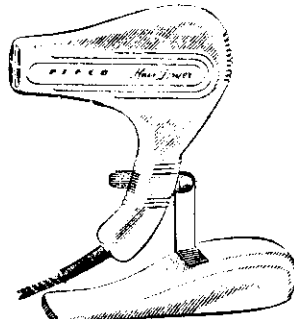
**PIFCO TROUSER PRESSER.** Look sharp and neat. Get that "knife edge" effect. Creases trousers, pleated skirts, school tunics, ties, etc., with minimum effort. Plugs into hotpoint or light socket. Easy grip handle. Chrome plated blades. Cat. No. ME 675 26/6.



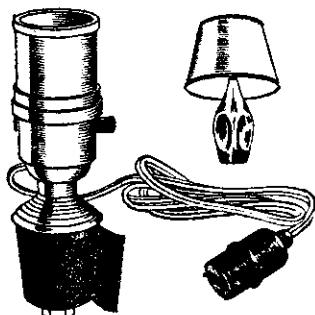
**PIFCO ELECTRIC SUNLAMP.** Maintain a sun tan—from your hotpoint—all the year round. Few minutes' treatment daily will give you the healthy, bronzed look. Cat. No. ME 731 £6/19/6.



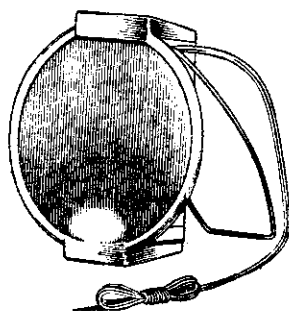
**PIFCO NURSERY LAMP.** 600 hours' light for one unit of electricity! Plastic lamp in assorted pastel colours. Plugs into light socket or hotpoint, and gives a low light output. Ideal as night-light for frightened toddlers, or sick room. Cat. No. MF 770 24/6.



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## BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

perature, relief, political boundaries, population and communications, as well as commodity distribution throughout the world in cereals, fruit and wine, beverages, forest products, vegetable oils, animal products, fibres, rubber, textiles, fuel, power, iron and steel, non-ferrous minerals and industrial products. The international trade in various products is shown in coloured diagrams, and there is a factual discussion on each product. Over one-third of the book deals with countries and territories with the main economic facts about each.

The producers of this book deserve congratulations for their industry and enterprise.

—W. B. Sutch

### AFTERTHOUGHTS

**THOUGHTS ON THE CONSTITUTION**, by L. S. Amery, second edition; Oxford University Press, English price 10/6.

MR. AMERY'S four lectures, first published in 1947, have been an ingredient in the knowledge and thinking of most people actively concerned with the British constitution since they made their appearance; and with justice, for they were the work of a man with long experience of the working of the institutions he described; a man, also, of critical power, not bemused by their sheer weight and intricacy. Certainly he was not well acquainted with the literature of Commonwealth development, but that lack he shared with most Englishmen, and it did not alter the value of his own personal contribution. This second edition contains 30 pages labelled "Postscript, 1953," which are a useful summary of the changes or tendencies of another six years. But the process of carpentering has not been good; the new timber has just been banged on and not dovetailed in, so that we have more than one contradictory statement, and the reader needs to get right to the end before he can be sure of anything. This is not really a good way to produce a second edition.

—J.C.B.

### SLICE OF LIFE

**AMBASSADORS AND SECRET AGENTS**, by Alfred Cobban; Jonathan Cape, English price 21/-.

THIS is the kind of book that experts should write more often than they do. Professor Cobban has lived so long and intimately with his documents and through them with the men whose lives they portray, that he gives us a slice of life itself, refreshing alike for expert and general reader. The expert will find in it a day-to-day—at times an hour-to-hour—account of countless secret agents fishing in the swirling waters of Dutch politics on the eve of the French revolution; the details are related in masterly fashion to world politics. The general reader can pass quickly through the tangle of names to a human drama, worked out with the ingenuity of a detective story, and studded with wise and illuminating remarks by author and characters alike.

James Harris, the hero, was a man of ability and patriotism who played his hand well in a

small country torn by internal conflict and uneasily placed between three great Powers. These had no intention of leaving the Dutch to work out their own salvation; and the campaigns of the "cold war" seethed through the United Provinces, raising issues that are astonishingly contemporary. Ideologies counted for something in the diplomatic game, but personalities for more. Money was essential, and hospitality weighed heavier than reason. The personality of the Younger Pitt cuts insistently through. Indeed, one major theme of the book is the contrast between French willingness to promise rashly and Pitt's insistence that the friends of Britain must be led to expect no more than she could fulfil. The book ends with a British triumph, the enforcing agency of which was, conveniently, a Prussian army.

The whole makes good reading, and stimulating ammunition for those who believe that "all history is contemporary history."

—F. L. W. Wood

### THE FACE OF VIOLENCE

**THE THIRD SKIN**, by John Bingham; Victor Gollancz, English price 10/6. **THE LIGHT IN THE FOREST**, by Conrad Richter; Victor Gollancz, English price 10/6.

THE face of violence is highlighted from different angles in these two novels. In the first the ancient profile is revealed to a youth from a good home in the suburbs of London. In the second it is reflected in each of two conflicting ways of life: a primitive society that has raised and nurtured a youth, and the urban civilisation which is his heritage by birth.

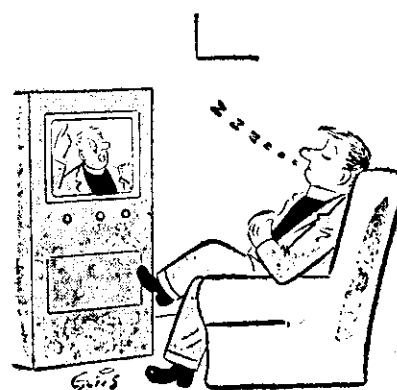
John Bingham attempts in the course of his fast-paced thriller to show what leads a youth with a respectable upbringing and education to become involved in a crime for which the penalty is death. Leslie Marshall, aged nineteen, a sensitive, imaginative, timid mother's boy, becomes an accomplice in the brutal murder of an elderly man. This outstanding thriller gains its strength from the author's efficient handling of the expected pattern in fiction of this genre: the defiance of authority, the common fantasy of urban man hemmed in by society's prohibitions and injunctions.

*The Light in the Forest* is the story of the rescue of a fifteen-year-old boy eleven years after he had fallen into the hands of a Delaware Indian tribe. The boy finds his parents to be devout, property-loving Presbyterians, and when opportunity offers he joyfully rejoins his Indian family. He cheerfully renounces all the trappings and privileges of civilisation for the primitive life of oneness with nature. But disillusionment comes finally when he revolts against participating in the savage violence which is

part of the Indian tradition. The final question is still to be answered as the boy heads back to our world and its propensity for erupting into the infinitely more devastating violence of modern war.

This short novel, written with surface simplicity and rather heavy characterisation, would appeal to young readers as well as adults.

—J.R.C.



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