

BOOKS

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reasons for this derive from the great economic strength of the U.S.A., the close dependence of the rest of the world on U.S. economic policies, the unpredictability of these economic policies and, indeed, the expectation of instability because of domestic pressure groups and "purely political considerations."

The author discusses why and how sterling operated as an international currency before 1914 and analyses the profound economic changes that have taken place since then. He doubts whether the operations of the London financiers would earn Britain enough dollars to offset the losses on financial transactions that would follow convertibility—losses which would occur by fewer transactions in the British commodity markets. He recognises that there must be some workable system for international payments and puts forward a scheme which would not damage Britain as much as convertibility of sterling would.

The book is short, easy to read and a refreshing product of the London School of Economics.

—W.B.S.

CULT OF THE ORDINARY

AN END AND A BEGINNING, by Dorothy Cowlin; Jonathan Cape, English price 12/6.

THIS novel, which isn't without charm, is realistic to the point of banality. The people are so ordinary, so little

happens to them, and they have so few ideas, that the patient skill of the author seems misspent. But her characters do come to life, a hodge-podge collection of roomers from any apartment-house, anywhere in England; and their petty circumscribed lives cry out faintly for sympathy, for a little air in the holy prison of genteel poverty. The pathetic romance, like much of the rest of the story, was fathered by H. G. Wells's *Kipps*. Unfortunately, for an author without much vigour it's a dead-end beginning. Realism demands incident as surely as mood writing demands subtlety. There isn't enough here of either.

—A.V.

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

THE following books, recommended for children by the Broadcasts to Schools and Children's Department of the New Zealand Broadcasting Service, are listed under their suitable age groups:

10-13

THEY SERVED THE PEOPLE, by Josephine Kamm; the Bodley Head, English price 9/6. (Adventure stories of great Commonwealth pioneers.)

GREAT COMPANY, by Peggy Chambers; the Bodley Head, English price 9/6. (The fight against disease told for young people.)

DAUNTLESS IN DANGER, by Peter Dawlish; Oxford University Press, English price 9/6.

IRISH SAGAS AND FOLK TALES, by Eileen O'Faolain; Oxford University Press, English price 12/6.

THE KING'S CORSAIR, by René Guillot; Oxford University Press, English price 9/6.

KNIGHT CRUSADER, by Ronald Welch; Oxford University Press, English price 10/6.

UNDER THE HOLLIES, by Laurence Meynell; Oxford University Press, English price 10/6.

8-11

SUSAN, BILL AND THE WOLF DOG, by Malcolm Saville (illustrated

by Ernest Shepard); Thomas Nelson and Sons Ltd., English price 3/6.

SUSAN, BILL AND THE IVY-CLAD OAK, by Malcolm Saville (illustrated by Ernest Shepard); Thomas Nelson and Sons Ltd., English price 3/6.

THE CHILDREN OF GREEN KNOWE, by L. M. Boston; Faber and Faber, English price 10/6.

3-6

DITTIES FOR THE NURSERY, edited by Iona Opie; Oxford University Press, English price 5/-. (A collection of older nursery rhymes.)

THE SEEKERS

*VENUS the star, and this the season surely
Drawing the forerunners on ocean ways,
Linking the islands with the speech of kindred,
Sinking the sun, but lengthening his days.*

*New-made and glittering the Fish of Maui
Raised by canoemen from the ocean ways,
Venus their star, as now she shines above us.
What hopes adventure in these later days?*

*Now what world can we this season surely
Pluck from the future on its starry ways?
Venus above us, but the course uncertain,
Annihilation for the secret islands;
We noose the sun, may darken, shorten only Atomic days.*

—S. J. Harrox

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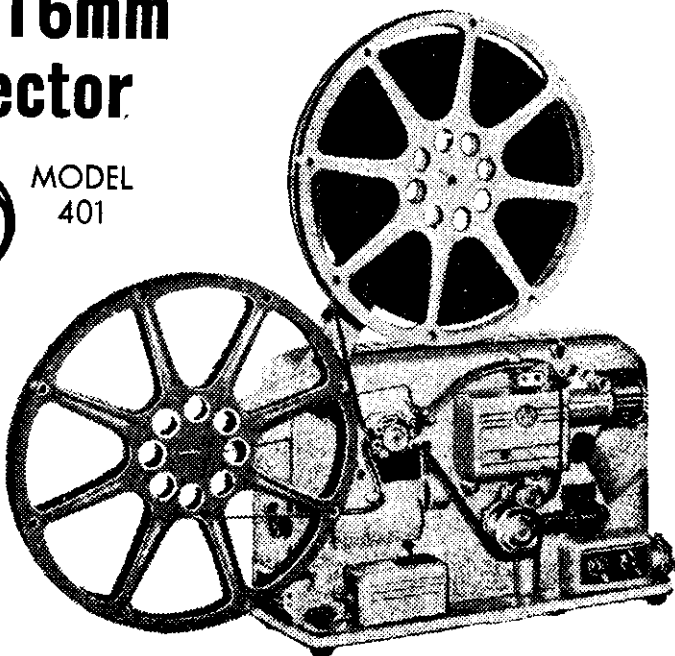
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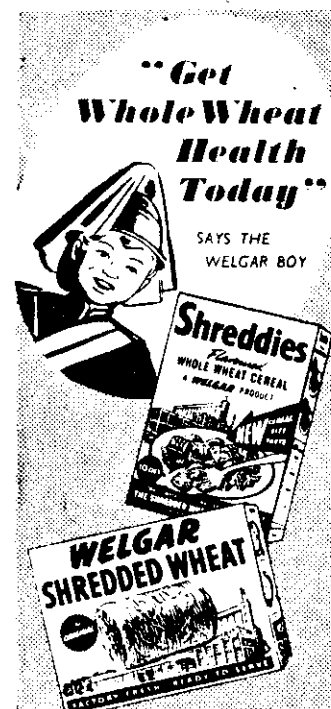
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