

BOOKS

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stories among the best I have seen in a long time. They stand up well, too, when read more than once. I hope other readers will not be put off, as I nearly was, by the slow opening of the first story. As it turns out it is a good one, but I think the author might have put something more eye-catching (even typical) in the window.

Mr. De Vries, another *New Yorker* writer, has collected a mixed bag, slighter than Mr. Cheever's (sometimes deceptively slight), but still worth while whether in parody, story or sketch. Not every piece is a winner, but the author writes well, and is easy to read, can be very penetrating, and at his most amusing (in a sketch like "Household Words") is as funny as Perelman.

North Country Tales is one of those English collections, solid and good and in this case often distinctly regional. Most of the stories belong to this century, but there are a few from the past. Even in this company one of the best is by a writer—Winifred Williams—who has lived in America and written for the *New Yorker*.

In *Tales to be Told in the Dark*, a successor to the same editor's *Ghostly Tales to be Told*, "told" and "dark" are the operative words; for Mr. Davidson believes that telling, rather than reading, stories is one of the most agreeable

of arts. Here he gives some advice on how to do it, selecting stories that one might like to hear, but would hate to be able to read, in the dark. —F.A.J.

MAINLY BEVERIDGE

BEVERIDGE AND HIS PLAN, by Janet Beveridge; Hodder and Stoughton, English price 15/-.

THIS title suggests a book mainly about the Beveridge Report, but in fact the book includes a fairly full account of the life, to date, of Beveridge himself. This makes it more rather than less interesting, as it describes the turning points in Beveridge's career that led him to study the question, and to write, first, in 1924, the pamphlet *Insurance for All and Everything*, and later, in 1942, the famous Report. This point of time is reached half way through the book; the rest is given over to the story of the reception of the Report. As is well known, the Report at once became a best-seller attracting attention in other countries, among them war-time Germany and the Nazi leaders. The Beveridge proposals, however, were tardily noticed by Churchill's Government; Churchill didn't want to confuse immediate issues by consideration of post-war reforms, an attitude that contributed to his defeat in the following elections.

Lady Beveridge who, as Mrs. David Mair, had worked in collaboration with Beveridge for many years before her marriage to him in 1942, is a tremen-

A STOP ON THE JOURNEY

[HAVEN'T much to say, we came up slowly,
And stopped at a village, asking the eyes of the people
Till the things unsaid and the silences drove us away.
We called at the petrol station, and hung our faith
On a football match and a change to dirty weather.
A child followed us and wept; the factory belched
And warmly breathed its smutty benediction.
The main street slept, or lent a tattered ear
To family-talk and fat admonishment;
The sweet shops saw us not, no time for eyes,
No time for fright or tear, presentiment.
And summer almost here!—no time for yes or no,
For slim discussion and paltry argument.
The tearooms beckoned us bleakly in
While the church and the hotel stuttered sin
And the trees and the fields and the cattle laughed at us.
I do not know, perhaps we came too slowly,
Perhaps we neglected the right things, or debated a moment
On winter or passion—some senile argument:
I do not know, but the tearooms muttered "Stranger."
And the sweet shops turned and laughed as we drove away.

—David Elworthy

dous advocate not only of the Plan, but also of her William. Her book is lively and full of interest and carries some appropriate illustrations.

—L.J.W.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

EVANSTON, 1954, by Jonathan Bennett; Presbyterian Bookroom, Christchurch, 2/6. A report on the Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches. It is written clearly and con-

cisely, and should help people to reach a closer understanding of the ecumenical movement.

HUMPHREY DAVY, by James Kendall; Faber and Faber, English price 10/6. A concise biography of a man who, although best known for his invention of the miner's safety lamp, was famous also for his experiments with laughing gas and for the breadth and variety of his scientific interests.

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