

she chose as her own motto the words "Fortune Infortune Fortune," and caused them to be traced round the walls of the church she built to house her husband's body and her own, a last gesture of mediaval piety in a humanist world.

For the first 23 years, her life, like that of any other princess, was manipulated to serve the end of personal power politics. Daughter of Maximilian I, married at three to the Dauphin and for 11 years educated in France, only to be jilted for a more advantageous match: married at 15 to the Infante of Spain and widowed within a year; she was married for the third time idyllically to Philibert the Handsome, Duke of Savoy, only to be widowed without issue two years later. Not surprisingly, she refused to consider matrimony thereafter, even to Henry VII of England, and devoted herself assiduously to her own game of politics as Regent of the country of her birth, the Netherlands. Here she fostered her brother's orphans, marrying off her nieces with equal disregard of personal consequences, and educating the future Charles V of Spain, Emperor of the Old and New Worlds. Her death found her resigned and convinced, in an age of war, of the values of peace.

First published in the Netherlands in 1941, this biography of a woman by a woman was written by Dr. de Jongh while she was working for the Underground. The distractions of her occupation have detracted little from the scholarship and insight of the portrayal. Against the extraordinary complexity of the political scene, the personality of her subject emerges as dynamic, resilient, artistic and pious, an effect to which a very skilful translation contributes.

—J.R.T.

SPRINGBOKS ON TOUR

SPRINGBOK STORY, 1949-1953, by Danie Craven; A. H. and A. W. Reed, N.Z. price 16s.

AS an international player, highly successful coach, and author of the best existing manual on the game, Danie Craven is a Rugby authority whose opinions merit serious study. His new book is essentially an account of the 1951 Springbok tour of Britain and France, although it contains sections on the 1949 All Blacks and the 1953 Wallabies. He attributes the failure of the 1949 All Blacks to realise their full

potentialities to tenseness and over-emphasis on physical rather than tactical training.

Having learnt in some bitter controversy after the 1949 tour that his polemical zeal could lead him into regretted indiscretions, Dr. Craven now writes so cautiously that the account of the wonderfully successful 1951 Springbok tour is a little disappointing. Rarely does he lift the iron curtain of his reticence on significant matters, although he is amiably expansive over trivialities. The chapter "Old Soldiers Never Die" arouses the suspicion that the Springboks are not only the best Rugby players in the world, but also the most fanatical. Welshmen and New Zealanders who doubt this heresy should read the account of how and why the dangerously concussed Ryk van Schoor returned to the field in the Irish international.

As Dr. Craven is obviously an extremely shrewd practical psychologist, it is interesting to note his faith in the therapeutic value of team singing and practical jokes for a touring team liable to staleness and boredom. It appears that his talents as a writer lie in exposition rather than description, as he becomes appreciably more fluent in his excellent concluding chapter, "Lessons." Although his comments refer to South African Rugby, most of what he says is certainly relevant in this country. Above everything else, he stresses the fundamental importance of good handling by every man in a team of international calibre.

The illustrations include three cartoons and some beautifully produced photographs which are more suited to a souvenir booklet.

—R.G.W.

CRIMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

MURDER AT MIDYEARS, by Marion Mainwaring; Victor Gollancz, English price 10s. 6d. *THE WIFE OF RONALD SHELDON*, by Patrick Quentin; Victor Gollancz, English price 10s. 6d. *HEAR NO EVIL*, by Stephen Ransome; Victor Gollancz, English price 9s. 6d. *CRIME, GENTLEMEN, PLEASE*, by Delano Ames; Hodder and Stoughton, English price 10s. 6d. *LADIES' BANE*, by Patricia Wentworth; Hodder and Stoughton, English price 10s. 6d. *THE CAT AND FIDDLE MURDERS*, by E. B. Ronald; Victor Gollancz, English price 10s. 6d.

THERE is much to be said for placing a murder in a University institution. Like an English country house, the place provides ample manoeuvring room; the freshness of youth swirls round oddities on the staff; and you can drape your mystery with learning. For these and other reasons I found Marion Mainwaring's *Murder at Midyears* very agreeable. This new writer chooses for scene an American college for women, and for victim an overbearing professor of English whom no one mourns. The plot is exciting; there are some likeable people to balance the crankiness and crime; the study of English is skilfully woven into the narrative; and the writing has colour and wit. Marion Mainwaring is a welcome recruit.

Patrick Quentin's *The Wife of Ronald Sheldon* is perhaps a little disappointing after *Fatal Woman*, but it has exceptional quality. There are two megalomaniacs—a rich American publisher, employer and friend of the narrator—and an English author of coterie appeal who is brought over, with a slave family to write for the firm. From this a strong plot of love and crime develops. I cannot credit the blindness of the narrator in not seeing through his boss long before, but this sort of thing is not uncommon in detective stories.

Hear No Evil, by the now practised Stephen Ransome, is the most gripping

(continued on next page)



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