

# BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

this passion is suspect. Miss Clements flavours the mystery with odd characters and a lively style.

I thought James Hadley Chase's previous thriller less murky, but *You've Got it Coming* is a horrible recital of gangsterism—idiotic as well as vile—and irregular and errant love. An open port-hole would be inviting. —A.M.

## COCKNEY SPARROW

FRED BASON'S THIRD DIARY; André Deutsch, English price 10/6.

COR luv a duck, Fred has slopped another basinful, to use with slight amendment the elegant expression he

himself quotes. For a good few years he has been taken up, become a character, a card, a British institution, on terms of writing acquaintance with a good few authors and celebrities.

The field over which he allows himself to wander is extensive. Theatre and literary figures both local and Transatlantic bob up often and are discussed with the impudent Cockney sparrow wit which has made the Diaries popular. The landlady's wisdom is underlined and there is some wry philandering or would-be philandering.

He still addresses bodies such as the Professional Women's Clubs of Great Britain and calls Somerset Maugham by his first name. Having established himself as a Cockney wit, as a slum dweller, and one who makes very small profits

from sales of old books, and to whom most minor luxuries are great treats, he is, of course, condemned to remain so.

—F. J. Foot

## THE FIRST ATOM BOMB

HIROSHIMA DIARY, by Michihiko Hachiya, translated and edited by Warner Wells; Victor Gollancz, English price 16.

THE sub-title—The Journal of a Japanese Physician, August 6-September 30, 1945—describes the book. The author was Director of the Hiroshima Communications Hospital which served the employees of the postal, telegraph and telephone services of the area. Trained in the scientific method, he writes a simple and straightforward account of what he saw happen to Hiroshima and its people when the first atom bomb was released over the city, and in the following few weeks. Though grievously wounded himself, Dr. Hachiya was able to keep case histories of hundreds of casualties that came under his care, material which I should think is among the most valuable of its kind available.

But the diary is much more than a record of destruction and horror. We get to know not only the good and gentle doctor himself, but a procession of vividly drawn characters for whom we come to feel a sense of joy at their recovery or sorrow at their death. The last paragraph of the translator's Foreword seems worth quoting: "All of us will be repaid beyond measure if this diary helps to refresh our memories, stimulate our imagination, and temper our thinking about war, and especially the horror of atomic war."

—L.J.W.

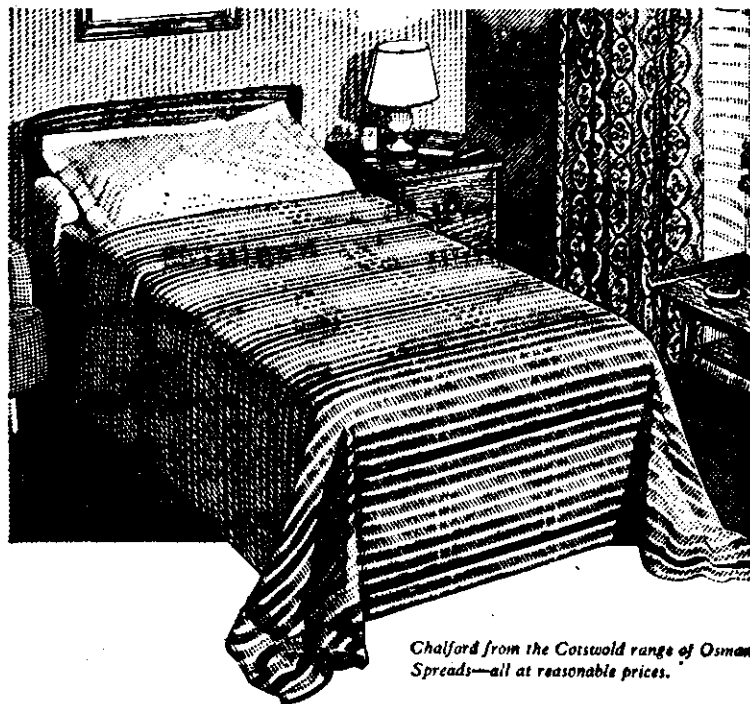
## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

LITTLE CABBAGES, by George Mikes; Allan Wingate, 8/6. Another of those light-hearted books about the French which are really more revealing about the English.

CALL TO GREATNESS, by Adlai E. Stevenson; Rupert Hart-Davis, English price 9/6. Reflections by a far-sighted man on what he saw and discussed on his travels throughout "the permitted world."

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## Clues Across

- Variation of tin spire characteristic of early times (8).
- Brought low by a bad sea (6).
- Are you sent into them by pure arts? (8).
- Members lost their heads in the fire even though it was already going out (6).
- They keep the guys tight in camp (8)
- Sumptuous meal served by the Caliph's favourite wife as the guests arrive (5).
- The casual thanks expressed in a letter to the Greeks (5).
- This seemingly rowdy poet appears uncertain whether to assent or refuse, so he does both (5).
- Here you find us at the back of the artist's workroom, busily applying ourselves to our lessons (8).
- The Heavenly Twins (6).
- Mid-day is the time for a diet? No, no! (8).
- The final part of an ascending scale (6).
- Conciliated by means of an early parliament in a roofed shelter (8).

## Clues Down

- This robber has apparently substituted a rat for the four and twenty blackbirds! (6).
- The mischievous child is above concord, with no risk of injury (8).
- Initially, the Member of Parliament in genuine surroundings comes before the backward little saint and makes a noise like an elephant (8).
- Relieves pain in the course of a rare disease some African natives suffer from (5).
- Ramble about to find a child's plaything (6).
- These gems consist largely of fruit (6).
- You might pick one up in any Prague street if you were giving a party (5).
- Go and put in the fan first if you want a Spanish dance (8).
- Simon had to be upset before he could reprove thus (8).
- No acce? Yes, immense quantities of them, but still you're at sea (6).
- First fifty one, then eleven, surrounded by the royal cypher. Naturally it's a sovereign remedy (6).
- Climb to the end (6).
- Performs in a pleasing soprano (5).

No. 792 (Constructed by R.W.H.)

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