

## BOOK SHOP

SEVEN books will be reviewed in the Book Shop session on April 11. They are: "Inside," by Helen Bryan, and "Desperate Scenery," by Elliott Paul, reviewed by H. S. Walter, of Wellington; "Nothing to Report," by James Leasor, "The True Deceivers," by Hans Rosenhaupt, and "The White Sand of Shirahama," by Kenneth Lamott, reviewed by Daphne Purves, of Dunedin; and two books by Wolf Mankiewicz—"Make Me An Offer" and "A Kid for Two Farthings," reviewed by Eleanor Bolster, of Auckland.

is largely literary. They are paragraphs, pages, or chapters for a book and in due course appear there.

Mr. Groom is just an honest reporter; almost a to-Hell-with-culture reporter. Though he is not making his first acquaintance with Australia's never-nevers, he looks at everything with a glad surmise and somehow conveys the glow to his reader. For Cumberland's cold you get heat; for mud, dust; for sheep-dogs, dingoes; for miles, hundreds of miles; and for a civilisation crabbed with age a society whose culture is Adamitic. It gave me almost a shock, so completely had I surrendered to his zest and warmth, to discover when I got to the end of his story that he died without seeing it in circulation.

—O.D.

## BEFORE THE INVASION

GIANTS OF SOUTH AFRICAN RUGBY, by A. C. Parker; A. H. and A. W. Reed, 16/-.  
THE SPRINGBOOKS TALK, by Maxwell Price; A. H. and A. W. Reed, 16/-.

WITH a Springbok invasion imminent, these two books may help us to understand why South Africans have reached their present pre-eminence in Rugby. From the many revealing anec-



"BOY" LOUW

In his "best nine" forwards, three New Zealanders

notes, as well as the considered opinions expressed, it is possible to appreciate the serious and thoughtful Springbok approach to the changing techniques and problems of the game. Very impressive, too, is evidence of the infinite pains taken to master the essentials, often by solitary unremitting practice.

Parker devotes half his book to an entertaining account of the Lions' 1955 tour of the Union, the remainder dealing with eleven outstanding Springboks, including Gerhard Morkel, "Boy" Louw, Danie Craven, D. O. Williams and Phil Mostert, who all played in this country either in 1921 or 1938. Louw and Mostert select the best forwards they ever played against. In his nine, Louw

includes the New Zealanders Ron Stewart, W. E. Hazlett and R. M. McKenzie, while Mostert's six include Maurice Brownlie, Ron Stewart and E. A. Bellis.

Maxwell Price has set out to write a new kind of text book on Rugby by getting twenty Springboks to give their views on how to play the game in the particular positions in which they formerly excelled. Some of these chapters are much better than others, and it is not surprising to find Danie Craven excelling on half-back play. There is inevitably much repetition and some incompatible views that may puzzle the young player. Realising that this multiplicity of counsel may be bewildering, Maxwell Price attempts to summarise the fundamentals in the concluding chapters. The generous sprinkling of anecdotes makes this book an interesting if not altogether successful experiment in exposition.

Both books are attractively produced and have some really good action photographs.

—R. G. Wilson

## INCIDENTAL MURDERS

THE BECKONING LADY, by Margery Allingham; Chatto and Windus, English price 11/6. MURDER AMID PROOFS, by Majorie Bremner; Hodder and Stoughton, English price 10/6. THE DARBY TRIAL, by Richard Elmo Pearce; Hodder and Stoughton, English price 12/6. THE SECRET MOUNTAINS, by John Appleby; Hodder and Stoughton, English price 10/6. DISCORD IN THE AIR, by E. H. Clements; Hodder and Stoughton, English price 10/6. YOU'VE GOT IT COMING, by James Hadley Chase; Robert Hale, English price 10/6.

WHAT has happened to our trusty and well-beloved Margery Allingham, Dame of the Order of You Can't Put It Down? *The Tiger in the Smoke* was a good novel as well as a fine crime story. In *The Beckoning Lady* an excess of characters move about a charming English countryside in a half-dream. They float out of the mist and back again, perhaps not identified satisfactorily, and talk discursively about things as diverse as art and the curious ways of English taxation with couples married, divorced, or living in sin, till the reader may wonder if this is a summer school, and begins to tap his trammelled foot with impatience. This taxation business, you will be surprised to learn, is part of the plot. Yes, there are bodies. Albert Campion helps to dispel the fog. Of course, the story has merit—Margery Allingham could not be dull for long if she tried—but style, erudition, charm, and diversity of creatures do not excuse the book's lack of form.

You must have noticed that murder is much more of an intruder in some murder stories than in others. Majorie Bremner, whom we met in *Murder Most Familiar*, gives us, in *Murder Amid Proofs*, an excellent story about the staff of a London literary weekly. The picture of this kind of journalism—policy and technique, personal ambitions, preferences and vanities—will have a special appeal to readers of real journals. Majorie Bremner, an American living in London, writes for at least one. So why drag in two murders that are exceptionally revolting in their cold-bloodedness, and incredible? You may be able to tolerate these in the liveliness of the literary scene.

*The Darby Trial*, by Richard Elmo Pearce, is a tense hard-tack story of a case in San Francisco against a very clever man who has been running a religious movement as a cover for Communism. The F.B.I. is behind the young prosecuting attorney, and the Communists fight every inch, outside the court as well as inside. Communist methods and the jockeying for power within the

party is revealed, and the immense amount of official counter-work extending over half the world. The court scenes are impressive.

These last two writers are journalists. So is John Appleby, author of *The Secret Mountains*, and Miss E. H. Clements, of *Discord in the Air*, is married to one. Very few writers depend solely on their books. I would not rank *The Secret Mountains* as high as *Venice Preserve Me*, but it is an exciting tale, with a smashing surprise at the end. *Chair-lift* introduced me agreeably to Miss Clements, and I find *Discord in the Air* equally satisfactory. In an English village there is a clash between noise of aeroplane testing and local devotion to music, and when someone is murdered

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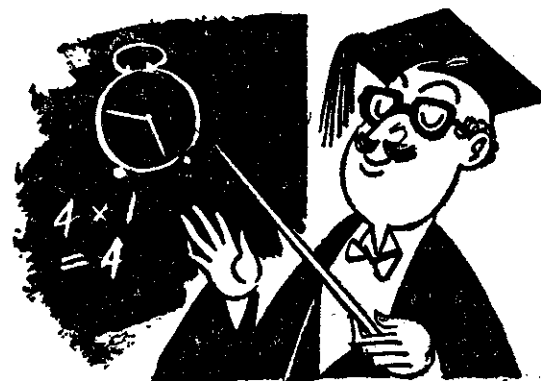
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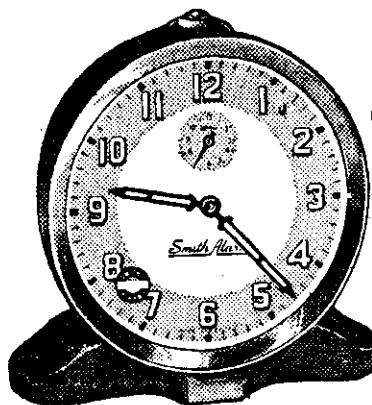
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