



KWAME NKUMAH
From gaol to leadership

Minister of a virtually independent Gold Coast and, to the astonishment of some, practised collaboration with Britain and unblushingly adopted economic policies hitherto mercilessly denounced.

It is a dramatic story. The author is an African professional journalist who writes with gusto and is untroubled by underlying problems, even those to which an answer might now be tentatively hazarded. Running through is the eternal problem of the relation between ends and means. More topically there is the undefined relationship between this new parliamentary democracy and the traditional chiefs of the territory. There is the political problem of whether dictatorial agitation will in the end become democratic and there is the economic problem of whether the Gold Coast, governed locally, can apply enough of European technology to remain alive in a competitive world. Mr. Timothy's book throws light only very incidentally on such matters. It is a human document without pretence of balanced assessment.

—F. L. W. Wood

AMONG THE TUAREG

THE LAND OF VEILED MEN. by Peter Fuchs; Weidenfeld and Nicholson, English price 18/-.

PETER FUCHS is a young German ethnologist who went with two companions to stay for six months in the Hoggar district of the Sahara to study the Tuareg tribe. His book is not a diary of the expedition with all the usual details of difficulties and discomforts; it is a collection of individual studies of the tribesmen, their habits and ways. Each chapter is virtually independent, so that the book can be picked up and put down at will. I found the putting down anything but easy. The translation by Bice Fawcett is so smooth and competent that one is conscious of a jolt on reading phrases like—"we Germans."

Anyone who has read *Tefedest* will be doubly interested to compare the impressions of this German party with those of the French author.

—B.C.

OPERA FOR THE PEOPLE

VERDI: THE MAN AND HIS MUSIC, by Carlo Gatti, translated from the Italian by Elisabeth Abbott; Victor Gollancz, English price 21/-.

THE chapter headings of Carlo Gatti's biography of Verdi are almost all the titles of his operas. And that is as it should be, for opera, its composition and its production, was the life of Giuseppe Verdi. From the first performance of *Oberto* in 1839, when the composer was twenty-six, to his masterpiece *Falstaff*, given at Milan 54 years later, Verdi lived feverishly from one opera to another. There were brief respites for a string quartet, the Requiem and a few other odds and ends of music, but these were eddies in the main stream that took along with it even Verdi's private life. Twelve operas in seven years and sometimes several in a year represents an astonishing output. Obviously this was no ivory tower, art for art's sake approach to music. This was Verdi's profession. To make a success of it, he not only brought to the composition of every work the full battery of his musicianship, but he kept his finger firmly on the pulse of the Italian public. He wrote in a special sense for the people, an Italian citizen for his compatriots.

Tumultuous acclaim, equally vehement criticism, intrigues, quarrels, a passionate enthusiasm anticipating every new opera—to the New Zealander for whom opera is no more than an exciting episode, once or twice in a decade, Verdi's world is an almost incredible one.

Gatti's book is a biography. It makes no musical analysis of the operas. But it is so well documented that it must stand as the authoritative life of Verdi. From it emerges one of the really great musical figures of the 19th century.

—O.J.

MELANESIANS

ISLANDS OF MEN. by Colin Simpson; Angus and Robertson, Australian price 25/-.

THIS book is about Melanesia, and the title is intended to suggest not only that males are dominant there—the female is apparently of more significance in Polynesia—but also that in the various centres of population of this region of scattered islands (with New Guinea "the big frog in the Melanesian pool") there are more distinctive local differences among the peoples than there are features common to all. The volume, a "mixed grill," is in five main parts: 1, The Islands in Torres Straits; 2, the Sepik River area of New Guinea;

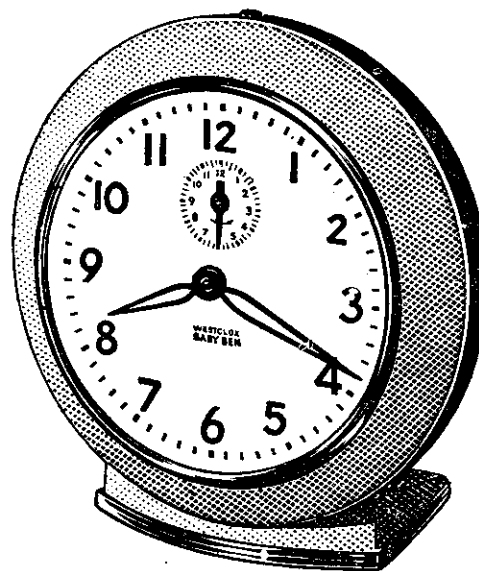
(continued on next page)



FIJIAN FIRE-WALKERS

Up to time - up to date

WESTCLOX



BABY BEN: A beautiful little alarm with its whisper-quiet tick and two-toned alarm, loud and soft. Has a dust-proof case in shining ivory finish with a gold coloured trim or black finish with chrome trim. It can be relied on like all Westclox alarm for faithful performance year after year. Available with attractive plain or fully luminous hands and numerals.

On time every time

WESTCLOX—the makers of the Big Ben alarm and many other modern clocks.

WESTCLOX LTD., STRATHLEVEN, DUMBARTON, SCOTLAND

Agents in New Zealand:

Messrs. Brown and Dureau Ltd., Wellington, Auckland, Christchurch.

G.7753



Mmm!

That little dab of fresh mixed mustard on hot or cold meat adds zest and enjoyment. Colman's mustard is essential for Salad Dressing too.

Colman's Mustard

M14.5