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BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

Kent's intelligence officer from the C.O.'s command post in the centre of the battle. He tells it well, with a soldier's directness and economy of phrase, and he knows the country and his British and Indian infantry so well that one readily forgives the occasional banal thought. The author claims the novelist's privilege of invention to fill gaps in the story caused by lack of records and death in action, but most of it is only too true.

—W.A.G.

VEGETABLES, ETC.

THE COMPLETE VEGETABLE GROWER, by W. E. Shewell-Cooper; Faber and Faber, English price 21/-; **THE PRACTICAL HOME GARDENER**, by T. R. N. Lothian, illustrated; Lothian Publishing Co. Pty., Australian price 95/-.

FROM the point of view of this particular home gardener the more practical book of these two is Mr. Shewell-Cooper's—not merely because

of the more practical price. He lists dozens of vegetables with charts about sowing, germination, maturity, manures, etc., giving hum-drum hints about the common hoe or the common cabbage just as fairly as he recommends salsify with a sentence that Samuel Pepys could have written or watercress by explaining the difficulty of finding small plants in a greengrocer's bundle. At the price, and allowing for the additional mental effort of adding or subtracting six months to the time-charts, this is a good investment for anyone who seriously intends to keep the whole family in vegetables all the year round. Mr. Shewell-Cooper is the Principal of the Horticultural Training Centre, Thaxted, and in his preface he laments the impossibility of getting thirty years' day-to-day experience of gardening and useful ideas about it into a book—but he has managed it very successfully, and I am sure that many gardeners in New Zealand will be encouraged to be adventurous about lettuces, for instance,

and certainly about different and sweeter kinds of green peas, by following his advice and demanding new and different seeds from other countries.

Then there is the huge book of Mr. Lothian's—pages and pages of charts of dry-area planting, and suitable annuals for sandy soils, etc., charts to show spray mixtures, manures and times to apply; charts on seed germination; charts of winter-flowering shrubs, annuals, trees, rock plants, etc. Dozens of charts for the chart-minded; and pages of lists and a very full vegetable planting guide. For anyone with 95/- to spare and a winter full of leisured evenings this book would make a good present to be given at the end of an autumn. The illustrations—photographs and drawings by the author, are painstaking and copious, ranging from one showing how to sow seeds between finger and thumb, and the various depths to plant bulbs, to instructions for building cold frames, dry-stone walls, rock-gardens, garden seats, and so on.

—J.

LOVE AND ADVENTURE

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT, by Naomi Royde Smith; Robert Hale, English price 10/6. **CLOWN OF THE GODS**, by Agatha Young; Robert Hale, English price 12/6. **THE LAST RUN SOUTH**, by Robin Hiscock; Longmans, English price 12/6.

NOVELISTS really should have more sense of responsibility. Before reading these three books I believed in love at first sight, in the right of the artist to be unconfined by the normal moralistic canon, and in adventure being its own reward. Now I just believe the one about adventure.

In *Love at First Sight* Naomi Royde Smith has forsaken the art of the novel for the art of the novelette, thus providing an answer to those who wonder where we shall find a successor to Ruby M. Ayres. The business of covering the love affairs and backgrounds of three separate generations in 191 pages seems to have denied Miss Royde Smith the leisure to display her usual literary gifts of grace, wit and subtlety.

Agatha Young, author of *Clown of the Gods*, has been unwise, I felt, in allowing the fictional career of her hero, Giovanni Cenci, to bear too close a resemblance to that of Nijinsky. The parallelism is taunting rather than haunting, and we readers feel somehow justified in denying to Cenci (the cad!) the sympathy and understanding we would not withhold from the real Nijinsky. However, bal'etomanes will be prepared to swallow Cenci for the sake of those plentiful helpings of nourishing background material.

The Last Run South is the best of the bunch, an exciting yarn of adventure and intrigue in a revolution-primed Central American port. Young author Robin Hiscock seems to set full steam ahead to become Britain's B. Traven.

—M.B.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

LIBERTY IN AUSTRALIA, edited by John Wilkes for the Australian Institute of Political Science; Angus and Robertson, Australian price 16/-. Essays by different hands on aspects of freedom.

THE WAY OF DELIVERANCE, by Shinsho Hanayama; Victor Gollancz, English price 16/-. A Buddhist-chaplain who spent three years with condemned Japanese war criminals describes their preparation for death.

THE SOVIET UNION AFTER STALIN, by Hélène and Pierre Lazareff; Ochéms Press, through Whitcombe and Tombs, English price 16/-. Impressions of a six-week tour by two French journalists, one of whom speaks Russian.

N.Z. LISTENER, AUGUST 17, 1956.

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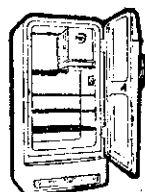


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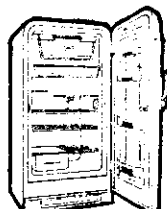
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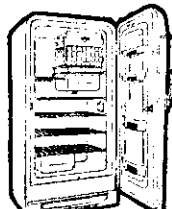
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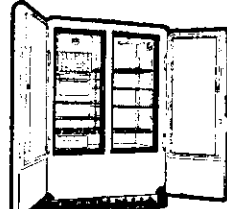
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