

which appeal most strongly to his personal interest. Mr. Gardner has chosen to devote most of his space, wisely, I think, to the Amuri's settlement by pioneer graziers rather than become unduly involved in the inevitably pedestrian chronicles of the growth of small townships or the progress of small farm settlement.

The first or pastoral phase of colonisation was perhaps less important than the second, but for much the greater period covered by this history the Amuri's progress was bound up inseparably with the fortunes of its runholders, many of whom became embroiled in local politics, either from choice or the necessity for safeguarding their own interests. The boundaries of adjacent runs, the security or insecurity of tenures, the eradication of scab and the allocation of finance for roading, were all questions of vital importance to their welfare. Their station records and personal correspondence, relating not only to public affairs but also to matters more intimate and domestic, have provided the author with copious documentary sources.

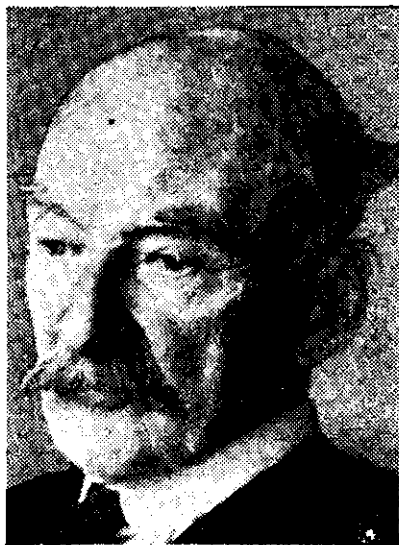
A stranger to the Amuri, ignorant of its geography, will have grounds for complaint that the maps reproduced in this book leave something to be desired; otherwise the illustrations are both profuse and well chosen. Mr. Gardner suffers from an addiction to footnotes, many of which might easily have been incorporated in the text, but apart from this small objection he has written a book which must rank very high among local histories.

—R. M. Burdon

CHIPS FROM A WORKSHOP

THOMAS HARDY'S NOTEBOOKS, by Evelyn Hardy: the Hogarth Press, English price 10 6.

THIS is more or less a verbatim printing of three notebooks kept by Hardy. Any reader expecting the kind of illumination cast by the Notebooks of Henry James or the Journal of Katherine Mansfield is due for disappointment. The value of the entries in the Hardy notebooks varies, and one can suggest little excuse for printing much that is in this volume. The brief diary entries (one complete entry is "August; To Bath and back by car"), and the extracts Hardy copied from periodicals are of trifling to zero significance. About half of the volume—the notes on possible plots and the comments on his own works and on the critical reception they received—opens up all too brief glimpses of the writer in the workshop.



THOMAS HARDY
All too brief glimpses

BOOK SHOP

IN "Book Shop" on Wednesday, September 12, Allen Curnow will discuss the Book of the Month, "Dylan Thomas in America," by John Malcolm Brinnin. A second opinion on the book will be given by Eleanor Bolster.

The material even when important is, however, very scrappy. There was enough in the notebooks to make a first-rate article in a critical journal. Padded out into a book it raises hopes that are unfulfilled.

—I.A.G.

VARIOUS LOVERS

THE PARADISE GARDEN, by Michael Swan: Hamish Hamilton, English price 10 6. GABRIELLE, by Christine Bruckner: Robert Hale, English price 10 6. NO MAN SINGS, by Alexander Krislov: Longmans, English price 13 6. YOUR DAUGHTER IRIS, by Jerome Weidman: Jonathan Cape, English price 15.

THIS is an odd assortment of novels.

Mr. Swan writes of the awful problem of a frigid Englishwoman who marries an Anglo-Italian. The half-Italian relieves his frustration with a blowzy American, the unhappy Englishwoman commits suicide, thus bringing a mediocre book to an end.

Gabrielle is Christine Bruckner's first novel. It concerns a respectable German business man who accidentally kills a young woman and feels impelled to become her executor. He is strongly attracted to her personality by his contact with her possessions, and the mystery surrounding them, and he sets out to discover the story of her life. In doing so he falls in love with her. It is a clever idea, and well developed; but there is a quality which suggests rather heavy going which, however, may be an imperfection of the translation. After all, "bust-supporter" for "brassiere" does not help.

Most of us recall that Sappho sang in the Isles of Greece, but if we are honest, we must say that we know little indeed about her life and her poetry. Alexander Krislov has compounded the few facts and many legends into a credible life story, aided by a capable imagination. One is reminded of Robert Graves, and by comparison Mr. Krislov does not fare too badly. He writes well, and deals with the hazardous subject of Sappho's sexual inversion with skill, managing to preserve the usual idea that Sappho's loves were not impure, although abnormal.

Your Daughter Iris is an amusing account of the experiences of the Brooklyn-bred wife of an American doctor during a stay in England. The plot, which hinges on a matter of temporary infidelity and amorous intrigue, is unashamedly improbable; but the humour of various situations and Iris's comments (her letters to "Ma" tell the story) on the English scene are worth reading. "Tunbridge Wells," she writes, "is a sort of bush-league White Sulphur Springs."

—Edmond Malone

BOOKS FOR EVERYBODY

THE CHANCE TO READ: Public Libraries in the World Today, by Lionel R. McColvin: Phoenix House, through Whitcombe and Tombs, English price 35.

A DISTINGUISHED librarian here examines, largely from first-hand knowledge, public library systems in the United Kingdom, United States, European and Iron Curtain countries, and some under-developed territories. His thesis is bluntly that mankind must choose between destructiveness and construction, that "growth, freedom, democracy" will best be encouraged

(continued on next page)

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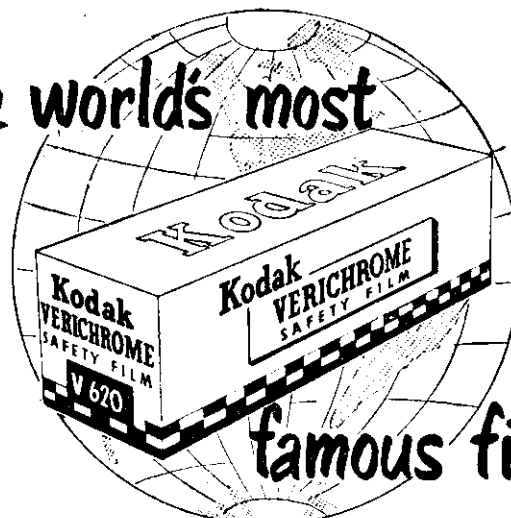
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