

intended. Yet, while the main impression was one of objective appraisal, I felt a certain subtle "slanting" in the direction of the view that independence was coming a little too soon. Despite the claim that the Gold Coast experiment was a model for all Africa—as perhaps it is—a lingering sense remained that the BBC felt that a longer period of "creative leadership" would have been wiser—as perhaps it might have been.

—J.C.R.

Better Still

SOME time ago I noted rather warily an improvement in the quality of *Book Shop*. Since then this has become so marked that it calls for further and warmer comment. Sarah Campion has been evolving a new pattern in which some of the more important books are given far more time than used to be normal. There is also, usually, more than one opinion, and the reviews often take the form of interviews or conversations. With a careful choice of knowledgeable speakers and Miss Campion's own tact in helping things along, the tedium which might attend a long review is avoided. This new policy culminated in the two sessions devoted entirely to Father Huddleston's *Naught for Your Comfort*, when *Book Shop* brought off a scoop with the anti-Huddleston, pro-apartheid speech by the assistant-manager of the Springboks—a performance which was enlightening in more ways than Mr. de Villiers intended. This was the only time I have known a daily paper print a long report of a broadcast discussion. The following week *Book Shop* gave us Allen Curnow's remarkably frank review of Brinnin's *Dylan Thomas in America*. We can hardly expect every edition to maintain this standard, but even bread-and-butter reviewing is more palatable if it is not the only fare.

Psychology and the Arts

LISTENING to James K. Baxter is rather like listening to Dylan Thomas. Not superficially so—he doesn't, like those who merely imitate the Thomas style, draw out a string of unlikely adjectives. He insinuates into the ear a procession of lively pictures, which the ear would like to stop and delight in while the mind hurries on to see what kind of an argument they make. I find this process so seductive, and so overwhelming, that I do not usually discover any reservations I might have about his theme unless I have a later opportunity to read the script in cold print and cold blood. So I have as yet no reservations about his talk on *Psychology and the Arts*, and may never have any. I liked his insistence that for all the help a knowledge of psychology can give the artist, especially in arming him with the courage to look deeper into his own perceptions, a really great poem leaves both the psychologist and layman limping behind on crutches. This disposes of the psychologists who patronise Sophocles and Shakespeare for having seen, however crudely, things we now know to be indubitable scientific fact.

—R.D.McE.

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"Mud-Hogs" under the Thames

Soft-ground tunnel miners, popularly known as "mud-hogs", worked 50 feet below the Thames to build a 900-foot long tunnel to carry cooling water for use in operations of Shell Haven Refinery, near Southend-on-Sea, Essex. Along this 9 foot diameter tunnel, river water from the Thames is carried to a large pumphouse built 30 feet below ground level.



Working eight-hour shifts under compressed air and operating behind a tunnel "shield", the "mud-hogs" moved forward at the rate of 100 feet a month. Compressors driven by electric motors, with diesel engines as a standby, maintained the air pressure and kept the water from entering the tunnel while they were working. As the miners excavated the mud from the river-bed and brought it to the surface, they erected a cast iron lining, which was bolted together to form a tunnel in the same way as was done in the construction of London's underground railways — the outside was

Above: Miners at the tunnel shelf face.

Left: Removing spoil from the tunnel face by light railway.

Right: Looking upwards in the 18 ft. diameter shaft at landward end of tunnel.

finished by pumping cement grout behind the lining.

No special equipment was worn by this team of 25 men, but precautions were taken against the "bends", a vocational disease associated with deep-sea diving and tunnelling under compressed air conditions. Shell's resident senior medical officer saw that cases of "bends" were almost non-existent as a result of regular check-ups on all personnel going underground.

Shell is the largest refinery operator in the United Kingdom. Its four refineries together produce more than 10 million tons of essential products a year from crude petroleum brought in from overseas. These refineries are sited in different parts of the country to ensure the most efficient distribution of their products.

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