

"a form of political suicide," and concentrated on the quest of power as a press lord. Worst of at every turn in his long feud with Baldwin, he also failed signally to mould public opinion in the direction of his ideals. "I run the paper (*Daily Express*) purely for the purpose of making propaganda," he confessed, and it was probably due to a general perception of this fact that his propaganda was largely ineffectual. As Minister of Aircraft Production in World War II he worked wonders, and for a while there were rumours that he might succeed Churchill as Prime Minister, but his temperament was difficult and volatile, his judgment, when regarded in the light of after-knowledge, highly unreliable.

BOOK SHOP

IN the Book Shop session on Wednesday, November 14, L. V. Bryant, of Pukekohe, will review "The Age of Mountaineering," by James Ramsay Ullman; "The Ascent of Rum Doodle," by W. E. Bowman; and "The Mountain Panorama," by Max Robertson. Frances Fancourt, of Palmerston North, will review a Gollancz anthology, "From Darkness to Light," A. J. Danks, of Christchurch, will consider "The Great Economist," by Robert L. Heilbroner. Donald McKenzie, of Wellington, will discuss three books, "Hue and Cry," by Patrick Pringle; "The Piltown Hoax," by J. S. Weiner; and "Counterfeit," by Sonia Cole.

The vapidity inseparable from most success stories is altogether absent from Mr. Driberg's portrait of this tempestuous figure. The tale winds through political intrigues and affairs of high national importance, throwing beams of light here and there on the human impulses that exerted a "backstairs" influence on events. One wonders, while reading this book, whether its statements and implications will be unchallenged by Lord Beaverbrook, or whether he will remain true to his own candidly confessed profession of principle—"I always dispute the umpire's decision."

—R. M. Burdon

WHOLESOME FARE

FIVE OF A KIND, by Roland Gant; Jonathan Cape, English price 15/-. *FRIENDS AT COURT*, by Henry Cecil; Michael Joseph, English price 12/6. *THE SECOND MAN*, by Edward Grierson; Chatto and Windus, English price 13/6. *THE CITY BOY*, by Herman Wouk; Jonathan Cape, English price 15/-.
ROLAND GANT'S Five of a Kind

has the merit of a neat construction, but that is by no means its only merit. A French, a German, an English, an American and a Russian soldier are brought together by an incident at a German prison camp near the end of the war. The American hopes to keep in touch, stage a ten-years-after reunion. The breakdown of this intention is described with remorseless gusto—a parable, of course, but told with the art to make it palatable.

Friends at Court exhibits barristers in forensic wrangles or going to the races with those indispensable stage-managers, their clerks; all is presented with lightness and wit. The apparent intention is to characterise a profession rather than individuals. There is a thin love interest and an even thinner trickle of plot.

Edward Grierson also takes us inside the lives of barristers. A woman advocate is engaged in a controversial murder trial and finds womanly intuition almost as good as evidence—to which it eventually leads—but only just in time. This is a slower-moving, sedate relative of the detective romance.

The City Boy is a novel about an eleven-year-old growing up in New York, perhaps thirty years ago. It is all good fun, especially the high jinks at Camp Manitou. (That peculiar product of rampacious private enterprise, the summer camp, is really taken to bits here.) Boys, girls and their elders are presented with a serene cynicism that helps make this good-humoured book attractive.

All four of these novels have, in a way, a moral. They are uncommon in

Parking Metres

SOMETHING TO LOOK BACKWARD TO

*THE time of dipping into pockets
For crackers, sparklers, bombs and rockets
For Roman Candles, Catherine Wheels,
And sundry junior street appeals
Conducted all without the aid
Of badges for the ones who've paid—
The Glorious Fifth, it would appear,
Is finished for another year.*

*Reports and bangs at last have ceased
To rend the air. This year at least
The revelries of which I speak
Are over early in the week.
So light the fire and settle by it—
After tonight is peace and quiet.
I think there's quite a lot to say
For Mondayising Guy Fawke's Day.* —R.G.P.

modern fiction in not confronting the old-fashioned with problems of "morality."

—David Hall

A WOMAN OF CHARACTER

THE WHIRINAKI VALLEY, by Nancy Ellison; Paul's Book Arcade, 12/6.

MRS. ELLISON is impelled to write her story by sheer financial necessity—the need to help her husband to get together enough capital to qualify for a farm under the ex-servicemen's rehabilitation scheme. Their misfortune is our gain: we have this artless and unadorned bit of autobiography.

Country girl of more than average ability, boarding pupil of Epsom Girls' (continued on next page)



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