

ened to take a stand where it seems justified, and has appreciably added to his reputation as our foremost Rugby author. Some dubious puns, a tendency for sentence structure to become unnecessarily involved and a few obvious errors (the test scores on p. 10, for example) are minor defects in a book which will be read with keen pleasure by Rugby enthusiasts here, and no doubt with equal interest in the Union.

Many people in this country will sympathise with his conclusion to the chapter on "Controversies and Lessons." He writes: "But when the shouting and the tumult had died, with victory won and prestige enhanced, a question naggingly demanded an answer: Giving in the glories, which nobody would or could deny, and in which everyone could afford to feel ultimate satisfaction, was Rugby worth booing and hard kicking and rough play and denigration of referees and witch hunting of selectors? Surely the game could do without these things and still be a cause of rivalry, based upon the highest principles of sporting friendship, between South Africa and New Zealand."

—R. G. Wilson



RUTH PARK
"Life was tough going"

earned the hard way. Few writers have made such sacrifices in order to write. Few writers have studied their craft with such unromantic common sense.

—David Hall

KIND HEARTS

THE DRUMS GO BANG, by Ruth Park and D'Arcy Niland; Angus and Robertson, Australian price 16/-.

TWO young writers here describe their early struggles—to get published, get known, or merely to keep alive in the thick bush of untracked Sydney. The New Zealander, Ruth Park, married the Australian, D'Arcy Niland, after an acquaintance beginning as a pen-friendship promoted by two nuns who had taught them at their respective schools. Looking back from the vantage point of achievement, they can afford to make the chronicle of their upward climb suitably uproarious and exploit its abundant humour.

Even in the days when he worked on the railway, D'Arcy and Ruth spent all their spare time scribbling, posting off to editors in every State of the Commonwealth, bombarding the radio stations, too. From back country sheep runs where D'Arcy worked with a shearing gang the flow of typescripts went on. Back in Sydney they both continued their dedicated vocation, now as "whole time" free lances, Ruth's output being much curtailed by the claims of housekeeping in a slum and soon also those of motherhood. The time in Surrey Hills justified itself in the prize-winning *The Harp in the South* (written in Auckland during a visit to Ruth's family), but life in "Surrey" and in a seaside resort in winter was tough going, the conditions poor enough to jeopardise the health of the children.

The book is preoccupied with their literary fortunes. True, all sorts of quaint human beings peep in; indeed, D'Arcy's young brother shares nearly all their adventures. Like many skilfully written autobiographies, it astonishes most by what it conceals. Don't go to this book for rare psychological insights or agonising self-revelations, but rather for its modest record of determination and courage, of a success richly

ARISTOCRATS

LOUIS XV, by G. P. Gooch; Longmans, English price 25/-.

DR. GOOCH is old and wise as well as learned. He has fortified his sanity by prolonged contemplation of the 18th century, and now presents the fourth of a series of quiet, well informed, persuasive books illuminating this period. In his view there is very little to be said for Louis XV either as man or as ruler, but this is far from being a book about a worthless subject. It breathes understanding of 18th century life. Admittedly, the peasants, representing the vast majority of Frenchmen, hover in the background, though one feels that, if pressed, Dr. Gooch could write knowledgeably about them, too. In this volume, however, he is concerned with the rulers, the educated men, the leaders of Church and State on whom rested the responsibilities for political decisions. His verdict is plainly that they failed to rise to the responsibilities which the accidents of birth and fate had cast upon them.

The old régime died away rather than was killed. The opposition was intellectual and moral, and its main challenge lay in a new view of man, a faith in human wisdom and an optimism which rejected the slackness and pessimism of the 18th century aristocracy. It was a faith not in rulers—"God who has made you king," Louis XIV had told his grandson, "will provide all the wisdom you require so long as your intentions are good"—but in the capacity of ordinary unaristocratic human beings to solve social as well as scientific problems by the use of that reason with which all men are endowed. Intelligent men probed more and more deeply into the utility of laws, customs, institutions and thrust forward a new criterion of their worth, namely, the degree to which they promoted human happiness. The

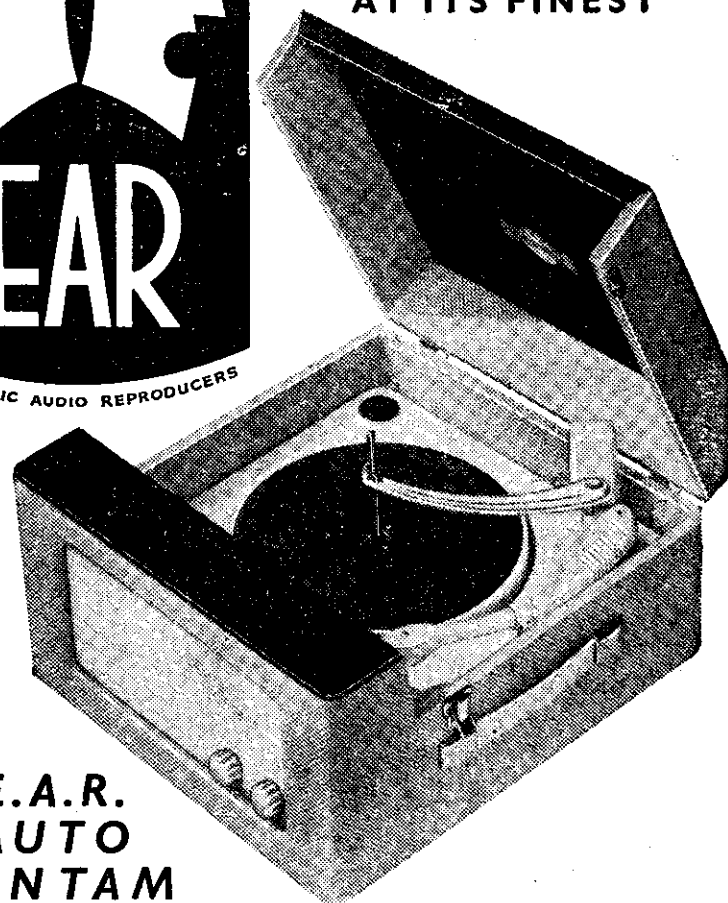
old political system failed to meet the tide of criticism. The hearts of its defenders grew faint and in the political battle the citadel was virtually undefended.

There is great scholarship and wisdom in this volume, even if there is not much that is startlingly new, either in fact or in interpretation. Its

(continued on next page)

Hi Fi

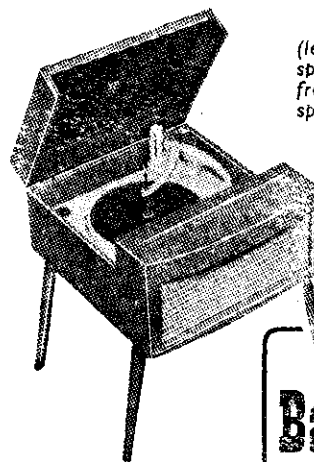
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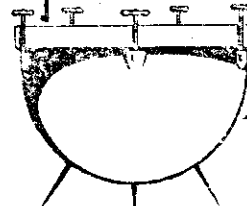
(left). E.A.R. Armchair Consolelette. Mounted on a special stand for convenient operation and listening from armchair level. Dual bass (10 x 6) and treble speakers, independent bass and treble boost controls, fully automatic mixer changer and many other outstanding features. £45-15-0.

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VIVE LA DIFFERENCE

'TWAS dusk in the Kremlin, and B. said to K.,
"I haven't been feeling too perky today.
If you find that I'm acting a little bit strange,
It's just that my doctor advises a change.
This week I'm indulging in slight deviation
And rooting for antide Stalinisation."

R.G.P.