

made a detailed study of the culture of the Manus people of New Guinea in 1928-29, particularly in reference to the way children grow into a culture until it is part of themselves, and a number of books resulted from the work. The Manus were subjected to one of the most massive exposures to the culture of another people which they could experience when their islands formed a base for the United States armed forces in the war, and a million men passed through it. They saw a culture which had so mastered the material that human life and health became the all-important thing on which no expenditure of time and money was too great for either white or black man, for the equipment and care of American Negro soldiers impressed the Manus perhaps more than anything else.



Margaret Mead

The awareness of the outside world so changed this New Guinea people that while Margaret Mead left them twenty-five years ago they beat the death drums for one going into the unknown; when she returned she was able to discuss with them the committee work of the United Nations on native affairs and be completely understood. And this, with the very men she had known as children twenty-five years before.

She describes the change in their attitudes both of mind and of organisation with that detailed attention which distinguishes the true anthropologist, and with many a shrewd side observation from a lifetime of work. In particular she assesses the place of the "cargo cult" which swept like a wave of religious hysteria over the area, in which all goods were destroyed in readiness for mysterious ships full of modern treasures which were to arrive from over the water. She has something (but not enough) to say of the native leader Paliu who unified the Manus and adjacent tribes into a new cultural pattern, and what was virtually a new religion.

It is impossible to read this book superficially; it is packed with important and fascinating detail which demands one's closest attention.

—D. W. McKenzie

MEN IN THE AIR

VAPOUR TRAILS, by Mike Lithgow; Allan Wingate, N.Z. price 13/6. *BORN TO FLY* by Georges Blond; Souvenir Press, English price 16/-. *ACROSS THE HIGH FRONTIER*, by W. R. Lundgren; Victor Gollancz, English price 16/6.

THESE three books are about pilots, the first about test pilots, the second about air "aces" of air forces engaged in the last war, and the third devoted to one man—the first to exceed the speed of sound.

On first glance *Vapour Trails* would be taken for another book by the famous Supermarine test pilot. In fact, although Mike Lithgow's name appears as author, he states in his foreword that he invited a different test pilot to write each chapter. Lithgow has collected examples of three different generations of test pilot, those who learned to fly in the very beginning, those of the interwar years, and the products of the test

pilots' University at Boscombe Down. While his mounts have changed out of all recognition, the test pilot's job is the same as it always has been—putting into practice someone else's theories. From their writings it is interesting to note the very different personalities attracted to this somewhat exacting job.

Born to Fly gives potted biographies of some of the top-scoring fighter pilots of eight different countries. Probably the outstanding feature of Georges Blond's book is the striking similarity in the behaviour pattern of fighter pilots the world over.

In *Across the High Frontier*, W. R. Lundgren tells of all the preparatory work which led up to that historic flight in October 1947 when, for the first time an aircraft exceeded the speed of sound. This is a similar story to that told in *The Lonely Sky*, which dealt with the Douglas Skyrocket. These high-speed projects were being developed around the same time; but the Bell project, which was taken over by the United States Air Force, was so far ahead that it fell to Charles E. Yeager's lot to reach supersonic flight first. When Bridgeman came to test the Douglas Skyrocket he had the knowledge that supersonic flight was possible. Before Yeager's famous flight many people believed that supersonic flight would inevitably produce stresses of disintegrating magnitude. In the event the pilot was unaware until the readings were analysed after landing that he had achieved supersonic speed. This may make it sound a fairly routine job, but the details given in *Across the High Frontier* leave the reader in no doubt as to the hazardous nature of high speed projects. It is a truly magnificent story, but for my own taste rather spoiled by the let's-pretend-you're-the-pilot style used by this author.

—B.C.

WOMEN OF THE WORLD

ENCHANTING BELLAMY, by Cyril Hughes Hartmann; Heinemann, English price 15/-. *THIS IS YOUR HOME*, a Portrait of Mary Kingsley, by Kathleen Wallace; Heinemann, English price 16/-. *ENCHANTING BELLAMY* is required

reading for anybody interested in 18th century England. It mirrors the period with as racy and sure a touch as Boswell. George Anne Bellamy was the natural daughter of James O'Hara, Lord Tyrwley, a brave Irish soldier who fortified Gibraltar at his own expense, was wounded in action as often as Lord Freyberg, became a Field Marshal, and was Ambassador at Lisbon and St. Petersburg. He publicly acknowledged George Anne to be one of his numerous natural children and treated her with generosity. Her beauty and talent led her to high success on the stage, and her adventures, her misadventures, her doings in the raffish theatreland of her day (where she acted with Garrick and Quin) and her close aristocratic and political connections and, alas, her acquaintance also with moneylenders and with debtors' prisons, provide material

(continued on next page)

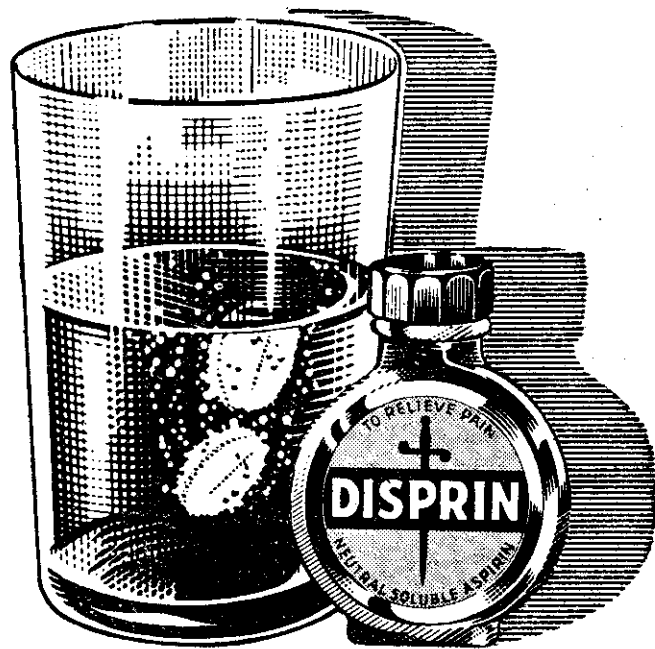
Parking Metres

SONGS OF THE ORIENT

*SHIP me somewhere close to Suez,
To the lands of the boiling oil,
Where the fellahin moan in a mournful tone
As they slog at their daily toil,
Where the nomads wheeze in minor keys
Out under the desert moon,
And those who paid for the pipeline
No longer call the tune.*

—R.G.P.

HEADACHES... PAINS...



Because it *dissolves*.

DISPRIN

REGD.

stops pain *quickly!*

DS.9

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