

MR DELILAH

*TODAY we praise with heart and soul
An expert freed from price control,
Who gathers by his workmanship
A truly profitable clip.
Here's to the barber—drink his health—
The man who takes short cuts to wealth.*

—R.G.P.

extension of secondary education and a thorough overhaul of the universities. To give a picture of the magnitude of the whole problem, the methods used in tackling it, the programme envisaged, and the progress made is the purpose of this book by Humayun Kabir, who, as Secretary to the Minister of Education and Chairman of the University Grants Committee, did so much to initiate the programme.

In the primary schools a plan of basic education has been introduced based on an activity or craft for training the child in a purposive, creative and socially useful activity. Secondary education is being reconstructed in such a way that, while reaching a terminal stage at 17-plus and giving students a preparation for life, it will also fit those who pass a School Final Examination common to all parts of the country to proceed to a three-year university degree course. The plan for social education in the secondary school includes a scheme for responsible participation in internal government that strongly suggests the influence of Strachan's work at Rangiora which is widely known overseas though never fully appreciated in this country.

One hurdle for the pupil at secondary school is the need to know three languages—the mother tongue or local language, Hindi the official language of the Union, and English. The English language is recognised by the author as having rendered two great services to India—first, it has served to unify the people and develop in them a common national consciousness, and second, it has made it possible for teachers and pupils to move freely within the whole country.

The most disquieting aspect of the situation is that the author has seen fit to devote a chapter of 35 pages to Student Indiscipline. The causes are analysed at length and summarised as loss of leadership by teachers, economic difficulties, defects in the system, and general loss of idealism. The remedial measures proposed centre round improving the quality of staff, the restoration of an academic atmosphere and concurrently the elimination of political intrigue in the universities, improvement of the emoluments and social status of teachers both in the universities and in the schools, and by these and other means to revive a sense of values among students.

—L.J.W.

FANATICS

THE ASSASSINS OF AMERICAN PRESIDENTS, by Robert J. Donovan; Elek Books, English price 21/-.

THIS is a well marshalled, vividly presented account of the history of bizarre people. The motive of the Puerto Ricans in the attempt on President Truman was a patriotic demonstration for the independence of their country, but almost all the others were undoubtedly mad. Fairly typical was Charles Guiteau, who shot President Garfield on a Washington railroad platform in 1881.

Guiteau was a religious fanatic of Huguenot descent, who believed, like his father before him, that the second Coming had already occurred in the sky over Jerusalem in 70 A.D., when

the stirring events narrated by the historian Josephus were in progress. No evidence has been adduced for this view, which seems to have been first propounded by a preacher cousin of U.S. President Hayes, named Noyes. In his writings Guiteau borrowed verbatim from

Preacher Noyes, whom he had known. As to heredity, Guiteau's father believed himself immortal, an uncle died insane, two aunts were reputed mad and two cousins finished up in asylums. However, in a trial and execution which must rank as one of the more disgraceful in Anglo-Saxon legal history, Guiteau was duly convicted and hanged. As the drop fell he cried "Glory, glory, glory!" He had always claimed that no repentance was necessary, but that he would have been indeed blameworthy had he resisted the divine injunction to remove President Garfield.

—F. J. Foot

MAN'S INHUMANITY

THE TRIBE THAT LOST ITS HEAD, by Nicholas Monsarrat; Cassell and Co., English price 18/-; *BEYOND THE GATES*, by Dorothy Evelyn Smith; Robert Hale, English price 12/6; *THE TREMBLING TOWER*, by Claude Yelnick; Museum Press, English price 10/6; *ALL YOU YOUNG LADIES*, by Alan Hackney; Victor Gollancz, English price 13/6.

NICHOLAS MONSARRAT'S new novel tells of the breakdown of colonial administration on the imaginary island of Pharamaul, off the coast of Africa. The trouble starts when Dinamaula, unproclaimed chief of the Maulas, arrives home after taking a law degree at Oxford. On the returning plane he gives an interview to Tulbach Browne, correspondent of the London *Daily Thresh*. Browne, who is cynical, plausible and unscrupulous, distorts Dinamaula's views on tribal progress to the point of arrogance, and this provides the starting point for a gradual destruction of trust between the authorities and the native race. Tulbach Browne is a genius at his job—he is so good that he soon has correspondents from several other papers hastening like vultures to Pharamaul, where the situation is rapidly getting out of control.

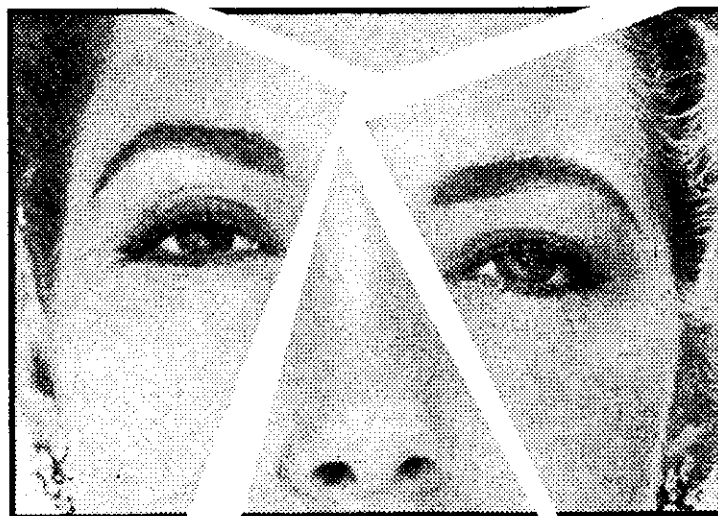
Monsarrat shows this disintegration with such skill that the reader is fascinated. His descriptions of journalists and colonial service officers have the ring of truth, so that he sweeps you along with him right into the heart of the tragedy. At this point, however, when the ritual murder cult breaks out, his hold weakens, and the turmoil in the villages and the crisis in the Scheduled Territories Office is far less convincing. Besides this weakness, Monsarrat's salacious descriptions of women, his pointless satire, especially when dealing with the idle socialites, and his log cabin descriptions of sex continually irritate. This must be judged a worthwhile novel on a serious theme, prevented from fully realising itself by flaws in Monsarrat's equipment as a novelist.

Beyond the Gates tells the story of Lydia, an unusually plain child who is found hiding in a tool shed at an orphanage which she is terrified of leaving. The author has great insight into her unthinking honesty, tenderness and courage, and has written a happy uncomplicated book—likely to appeal mostly to women—which shows Lydia becoming the mainstay of the house she was at first frightened to enter.

The best parts of science fiction novels are often the speculative ones, and in *The Trembling Tower*, first published in France, these are gripping enough. Two

(continued on next page)

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