

participating in what the author calls "the greatest maritime struggle in the annals of naval warfare," and without some description of overall strategy the significance of the part our few ships played would have been lost in a too domestic foreground. Thus, when we see our ships we often see them against the backdrop of a hundred others, both friend and enemy; and events and movements are dovetailed to give the dynamic of a world at war.

It has been said that the Battle of the Plate marked the end of conventional naval warfare, and some prophets even say that battles of the new era—such as Leyte Gulf—will not occur again. This could well be true. Yet whatever the future brings New Zealand in the way of a modified navy, Mr Waters's history of the R.N.Z.N. should go far in helping to build that complex of sentiment and imagination we call tradition.

—R.A.K.

ANIMALS ON THE MOVE

ANIMAL NAVIGATION, by J. D. Carthy; Allen and Unwin, English price 18s.

THIS is a fascinating survey of the few facts known and the many mysteries still unsolved in the field of animal navigation. Dr

Carthy, a research worker in animal behaviour, writes for the man in the street, but not for the man who has given no thought to these problems and done no reading about them. He is popular but he is difficult, and I should not like to suggest that I have grasped everything he says about echolocation or found my way easily through some of his diagrams. Here I think I will have the company of more than a few other readers; but no reader who gets as far as that chapter will fail to go on. By animals Dr Carthy means insects, birds, mammals, and fish, and he suspects, I think, though he is careful not to say, that the more we discover about navigation in all these fields the more clearly we will see that it is not necessary to postulate other faculties and senses than those we know about already.

Difficult problems, of course, intrude, some apparently insoluble if we rule out inborn faculties. How, for example, do migrating butterflies find their way home again when those that return are not the wanderers that set out, but hatchlings from their eggs? How do eels find their way from the spawning grounds on which their parents died thousands of feet below the surface of the sea to the creeks and rivers thousands of miles away from which their parents put to sea? Dr Carthy rejects the idea that these, or any other animals, have "a sense of direction," as he denies, or finds it unnecessary to believe, that some men have a "bump of locality." There is, he thinks, no reason ultimately why all animal navigation should not be explained in terms of "sensitivity to sources of stimuli familiar to man." The first step is to give up thinking of the senses of animals as roughly equivalent to our own. The second is to avoid the temptation of wandering into the realm of fantasy.

—O.D.

PROUD RULER OF THE JEWS

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF HEROD THE GREAT, by Stewart Perowne; Hodder and Stoughton, English price 21s.

Herod then with fear was filled,
"A Prince," he said, "In Jewry!"
All the little boys he killed
At Bethlehem in his fury.

THAT is about all that remains as common knowledge of one who was probably the greatest ruler of Judaea and Palestine between King Solomon and the present day. Stewart Perowne has performed a worthwhile task in rescuing this Arabian-born king of the Jews from the obliterating sands of Christian abhorrence. Herod's supreme fault, in Perowne's view, was that he lived ten years too long. In his dotage he developed a loathsome disease, and under its influence peopled his palace with fancied intrigues, providing an opportunity for his real enemies, particularly among the women of his own royal household. Fear and his own suffering were the cause of his atrocities, of which the Massacre of the Innocents was only one instance.

Herod was a foreigner, and a friend of Rome. All his life he had to beware of offending the Jews, and it was the Jewish nationalists who, at the end, brought him near to destruction. Son of Antipater, the Nabatean (Arab) ruler whose ability at "negotiating" made him the first ruler of Judaea under Roman control, Herod was himself an astute diplomat, if a loyal supporter of his patrons.

His private wealth, subsidised by an expanding economy in a growing kingdom, made it possible, by outbidding his rivals, to persuade successive Roman Emperors to support his policies. He had no scruples about diverting his allegiance from the defeated Mark Antony to his victorious rival Octavian. He became successively the intimate friend of both, and later of Agrippa. He had only one foreign policy—to please Rome.

Perowne displays a masterly grip of the political struggles of the time, but he is no less successful in describing the domestic affairs of the Judaeian king, particularly his successive marital alliances. A significant part of the book deals with the building activity of Herod, who is described as "the most passionate builder of antiquity" with the possible exception of the Emperor Hadrian. The crown of Herod's labours was the erection of the Temple in Jerusalem, where later Christ preached, and where a few years later still Jewish nationalism met its doom in the complete destruction of the city.

A chronological table and maps add to the value of the book.

—G.D.

THE PERSONAL VIEW

IN TIME OF TROUBLE, by Claud Cockburn; Rupert Hart-Davis, English price 21s. *SWEET AND SOUR*, by John O'Hara; Cresset Press, English price 12/6.

READERS of English journals such as *The New Statesman* won't need to be told who Claud Cockburn is. Part biography, part history, his articles recall the recent past as entertainingly as anything of the kind that is being written, and they have the authority, too, that only a man who sat in a ringside seat could give them. *In Time of Trouble* is Mr Cockburn's autobiography and once

(continued on next page)

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