

How to Plan a Wonderful Holiday in BRITAIN



Arrange to be There Between September and May
When There's So Much to See and Do!

EXCITING EVENTS THAT TAKE PLACE BETWEEN SEPTEMBER AND MAY

In Autumn

The Edinburgh International Festival of Music and Drama; The Royal Braemar Gathering; The Shakespeare Season of Plays at Stratford-upon-Avon; The Motor Show; The Lord Mayors Show; The State Opening of Parliament.

... Winter

Peak Season for Theatre and Concerts; Christmas and New Year Celebrations; Many Sporting Events including International Rugby and Soccer Matches and Steeple-chasing.

... Spring

The Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race; The Grand National; The Pittlochry Drama Festival; The Ulster Tourist Trophy Motor Race; The Chelsea Flower Show; The Royal Windsor Horse Show.

Ask any friend who knows — what is the best time of year to visit Britain? He'll say "You must be there between September and May." So much happens in Britain during this eventful period. Thrilling pageantry... famous sporting occasions... brilliant festivals of music and theatre — you'll find them all crowding Britain's Calendar in Autumn, Winter, Spring. For the holiday of a lifetime, let your friendly Travel Agent help you to plan to be in Britain between September and May. Or apply for further information to:

SHAW SAVILL & ALBION CO. LTD,
NEW ZEALAND SHIPPING CO. LTD,
ORIENT STEAM NAVIGATION CO. LTD,
THE BRITISH TRAVEL ASSOCIATION

Representative: Amos Thompson, 1 Woodhall Rd, Epsom, Auckland.

BOOKS

Gentlemen With Swords

GALLANT GENTLEMEN, a Portrait of the British Officer, 1600-1956, by E. S. Turner; Michael Joseph, English price 18/-.

(Reviewed by R. M. Burdon)

THE transition of the British officer from an amateur whose main qualifications were good birth and courage into a professional well versed in technical knowledge is the subject of this fascinating study. The process of evolution might have been more rapid had not Cromwell's military dictatorship imbued the English people with a dislike of standing armies and professional soldiers that was to last for more than two centuries. After the Restoration the purchase of commissions became an accepted institution that remained in existence until 1871. Gallant gentlemen, prepared to buy their rank, might be neglectful of their duties, but at least they were in every respect unlike Cromwell's Major-Generals, and probably more reliable than men whose commissions had been gained through favouritism. Beau Brummel was given a cornetcy in the 10th Light Dragoons by the Prince of Wales, but resigned when his regiment was ordered, not to some unhealthy station abroad, but merely to Manchester!

Although there was no purchase in the Navy, many a ship of war in Restoration days was commanded by some fine gentleman, ignorant of seamanship, who owed his position to influence at court. In the words of Macaulay, "the seamen were not gentlemen and the gentlemen were not seamen." But as time went on they borrowed each other's attri-

butes until at length the naval officer came to fulfil both social and technical requirements.

Duelling cost both services many valuable lives. The practice persisted long after it had begun to be officially discouraged, and what else could be expected when men of the highest rank continued to subscribe to the idea that wounded honour could only be satisfied by an exchange of pistol shots? In 1789, the Duke of York accepted the challenge of a subordinate officer. In 1829 the Duke of Wellington, at that time Prime Minister, fought a duel with the Earl of Winchelsea.

Army reforms were the work of two "Liberal lawyers," Lords Cardwell and Haldane. The first abolished purchase; the second created a General Staff and a Territorial Force. The huge demand for additional officers created by World War I was supplied by the wholesale and indiscriminate granting of commissions. In World War II this lack of system no longer obtained, and to the astonishment of Colonel Blimp psychologists were called upon to assist War Office Boards in the task of selecting officers. How would "the Duke" have described such goings on? And what would he have said about the granting of commissions to women, even though the Army Act required them to observe the code of an officer and a gentleman!

The British officer in all his (or her) variable forms has been the executive agent for conducting Britain's armed conflict at home and abroad. He has passed through many phases which throw light on his country's social progress. His story has been told here with wit and erudition by an author whose happy capacity for combining historical fact with entertaining anecdote make *Gallant Gentlemen* a very easy book to read.

A GREAT ACTRESS

RACHEL, by Joanna Richardson; Reinhardt, N.Z. price 21/-.

ASKED to name the greatest French actress, I would have until recently said Sarah Bernhardt. Now that I have read this book, I cannot doubt that it is another Jewess, Rachel. She was born in 1821, to itinerant pedlars, and died, all too typically for the times, of consumption, at the age of 37. Her story is a microcosm of 19th century life, with all its dreams, longings and defeats, raised to their highest eminence. As a child, she sang in the streets, was noticed, trained, and in her early twenties was the leading actress in Europe. She had no formal education, and to the end of her life was uneasy about French syntax, and never learned to speak it elegantly. Her private life was a glittering pageant. This Jewish gutter child numbered among her lovers three members of the House of Napoleon; Count Walewski, son of Napoleon, and Marie Walewska, to whom Rachel bore a son; Prince Napoleon, son of the Emperor's nephew; and Louis Napoleon, first President of France, later Emperor Napoleon III.

Rachel was inordinately ambitious, implacable to rivals, ruthless to managers, but she loved her family, who sponged on her all her life, and she received from many people a devoted homage which was as much a tribute to her personality as to her art and fame. Queen Victoria, to whom Rachel in some photographs and paintings bears a striking resemblance, though with physique, be it said, the resemblance



WELLINGTON

What would he have said about granting commissions to women?

Bag of 8
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