



## BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

to leave Paraguay, and the natives are left to the mercies, notoriously untender, of the Spanish traders. Whether the play be viewed as an indictment of Jesuit principles, or whether it expresses the central problem of life in societies, how far to organise and at what point social welfare becomes morally eroding, the reader, or viewer, must himself judge. With an all-male cast, it should make an ideal sixth-form production.

*One Bright Day*, by Sigmund Miller, is an American play about business

ethics. Its last scene, where the president of a large corporation confronts his stockholders with the news that their drug *Trakone*, marketed in millions, has proved to be noxious and must be withdrawn, has been compared with similar scenes in Galsworthy. This is rating it too high, but the piece is lively, never stuffy, and should prove attractive to repertory groups.

The pageant play is *Anne Boleyn*, by Peter Albery. This tragic and enigmatic Queen has fascinated men ever since her death. She is the goose-girl of the old stories and rhymes, the deceitful usurper. Mr Albery sees her simply, as a wilful beauty whose head was easily turned. Somewhat too gussy for schools, it would make a good show piece for our more prosperous societies. *The House by the Lake* is unmitigated tosh, and I can find nothing to say about it at all.

—Bruce Mason

### BRASS AND BIG DRUMS

*THIS IS OUR WORLD*, by Louis Fischer; Jonathan Cape, English price 35/.

"ONE must not listen only to the brass and big drums," writes Mr Fischer when explaining the method of investigation he pursues in the course of repeated visits to country after country. This maxim, however, is not always strictly adhered to. Mr Fischer does spend considerable time listening to "the brass and big drums," and they, apparently, spend no little time listening to him. Throughout *This is Our World* the same kind of scene recurs with a consistency that becomes mildly irritating. Mr Fischer asks some leading statesman a pointed question. The statesman, with whom in most cases Mr Fischer has long been personally acquainted, replies. Then comes Mr Fischer's rejoinder, followed by a lecture on the relevant nation. Most of the historical and political essays, to which the foregoing process has been a prelude, suffer from an attempt to cram too much information into too small a space, and as a result the impression produced is one of rather naive oversimplification. "Mr Roosevelt's wartime Russian policy was partly, perhaps largely, shaped by a stubborn fear that Stalin would flip-flop again, as he had in August, 1939, and sign a separate peace with the Nazis." Statements of this kind might more suitably be included in a primer entitled "Foreign Affairs for Beginners."

There is, however, another side to the picture. Mr Fischer is free from national prejudice and can take the same impartial view when writing either about his own or another country. The awakening of Asia is a subject on which he has shrewd and thoughtful observations to make. A few of his character sketches, notably that of Jawaharlal Nehru, are of a high order; but his essays on world politics are, in my opinion, far less effective than his reporting. He spent four weeks in Berlin during the abortive rising of 1953 in East Germany, and his account of that tragic affair stands out among the brilliant patches that make *This is Our World* a book very well worth reading.

—R. M. Burdon

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*BADEN-POWELL*, by E. E. Reynolds; Oxford University Press, English price 18/-. A completely revised edition of the official biography published in 1942.

*THE QUEEN'S COURTS*, by Peter Archer; Penguin Books, N.Z. price 4/6. This study of the legal system of England and Wales includes also some interesting comparisons with the United States, France and the Soviet Union.



SHEETS · TOWELS · PILLOWCASES · BEDSPREADS

LASTING QUALITY IN THE HOME: that's what every woman wants, particularly when it's the linen.



Wise mothers advise their daughters to equip their own homes with Osman sheets, towels, pillowcases and bed-

spreads. Osman has been famous for the quality of its linen goods for over 100 years—that's how good they are! Wise women know that buying Osman always works out cheaper in the long run. Call in at your shop and see Osman's quality linens; handle them and you'll feel the quality immediately.

**You can feel the quality of OSMAN**

Trade enquiries to: C. A. Welch, Dixon Buildings, 64, Dixon Street, Wellington. P.O. Box 1251.

BARLOW & JONES LIMITED, MANCHESTER, ENGLAND.

O.I.