

graphy, has written an impassioned and documented defence of Casement as a public figure and a man. Noyes has a second motive of clearing himself of the accusation of being a party to the campaign of denigration. He is convinced that these diaries are not Casement's, and that Casement was not a pervert. He lays great stress on Casement's love of Ireland and the effect of his Congo and Putumayo experiences on his political views. When Casement went to Ireland from Germany, he says, it was to try to prevent the Easter rebellion. Noyes is very critical of the prosecution and of the use made of the diaries.

There is much argument about these diaries. Some well-informed persons do not agree with Noyes. MacColl, though critical, is sure Casement was a pervert. An Ulster M.P. regards the documents as genuine, but wants them thrown open. As late as last year in the Commons, for reasons stated, the Government again refused examination, but said a time might come. When? Casement has been dead for over 40 years. Surely in justice to his memory and that of Ministers and officials whose conduct has been so seriously impugned, the argument should be resolved.

—A.M.

IMPRESSIONS OF PARIS

THE SILENT TRAVELLER IN PARIS, by Chiang Yee; Methuen and Co., English price 30/-; *PARIS A LA MODE*, by Celia Bertin; Victor Gollancz, English price 21/-.

MR CHIANG is a shrewd and interested observer and he has the same sympathy and liking for Europeans that so many Europeans have for Chinese. It is a pleasure to read his impressions of Paris written without any sly digs. If there is something he doesn't like, Chiang Yee says so, but on the whole his writing is descriptive and factual, not critical. We learn a lot about Paris from his book, something about Parisians and various snippets of history. Naturally the author writes about what specially interests him and this gives the book a unique flavour. He notices the solitary policeman who seems to be reciting something to the moon; likens the fishermen on the quays to herons, and is astonished to find others as mad as himself when he climbs to the top of Notre Dame in a snow storm. He finds traces of Chinese influence everywhere, and with charming inconsequence will write that he has no idea what Henry IV thought about so and so, but that he knows a story about an Emperor of the T'ang dynasty—and tells it. Mr Chiang's many ink and brush drawings are amusing and finely done, the coloured plates have an odd sugary quality I find distasteful, but the pleasure he took in doing the paintings somehow redeems them.

Paris à la Mode is a detailed examination of the city's chief industry—*haut couture* fashion. It is an interesting subject. Sumptuous clothes and all

the proper accessories are designed and meticulously created on a very big scale in Paris. They are worn by models chosen from all over Europe for their beauty and elegance; and each creation is named and considered as a work of art requiring the co-operation of a host of people—designer, mannequin, women in the workrooms, saleswomen (*vendeuses*) in the salons—all highly skilled. The exquisite model garments go out to almost every country in the world, but are worn by only a handful of rich women before the patterns are finally put, in a somewhat modified form, into mass production. This is France's biggest export trade, and this book seems to suggest that there are bad times for it ahead. Fewer and fewer women can afford to dress in these exquisite clothes and those who do are usually nothing like the beautiful young women they were designed for.

—Margaret Garland

MORAL REARMAMENT

ENIGMA—A STUDY IN MORAL REARMAMENT, by Sir Arnold Lunnon; Longmans, Green and Co. Ltd., English price 16/-.

SIR ARNOLD LUNNON, a Roman Catholic, spent a total of six months at Caux, the "little, well-ordered city" which is the Swiss headquarters and training-centre of Moral Rearmament, trying to assess the value of the movement. He ends a little wearily, seeing a structure of lath and plaster through which anyone with a knowledge of the history of the Church could poke innumerable holes, yet unable to refute the obvious sincerity of the MRA's and near-miraculous results of their "guidance."

Naïve optimism, an all-embracing inclusiveness in their sweep—not only Protestants and Catholics, but Moslems and other non-Christians are welcomed—a refusal to accept any creed yet an implied committal to Christ, an uncritical reliance on "guidance" and "sharing," seem to be balanced by a genuine humility, an active evangelistic power, and an array of successes in overcoming industrial strife and personal conflict.

Writing particularly for his own Church, Sir Arnold emphasises that the movement has brought many people back to the Catholic Church, but there is no case recorded of a Catholic becoming a Protestant under its influence.

The book leaves the impression that its author is trying to make amends for an earlier, extravagant, attack on the movement, but it could be that he is now leaning over backwards in an attempt to be fair.

—G.D.

A KING'S EXECUTION

THE DAY THEY KILLED THE KING, by Hugh Ross Williamson; Frederick Muller Ltd., New Zealand price 16/-.

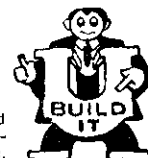
THIS is a vivid, even macabre book, dealing in detail with the judicial murder of a king. Its first impact is that of a moving personal rehabilitation of Charles. When all was irretrievably lost, and when he faced the relentless conviction of the army (and of Cromwell in particular), that peace could only be achieved by his death, the best was drawn out from his tortuous personality. His courage, dignity and tact, his tenacious loyalty and personal charm are impressive, and it is easy to understand why for personal reasons, apart from the forces of tradition, it became exceed-

(continued on next page)

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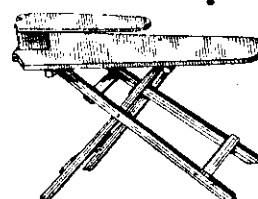


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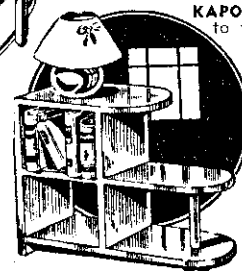


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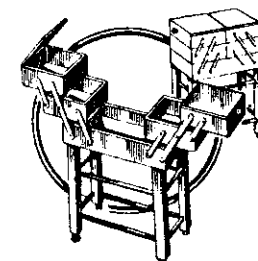
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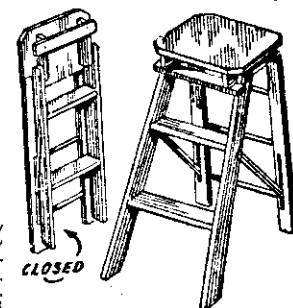
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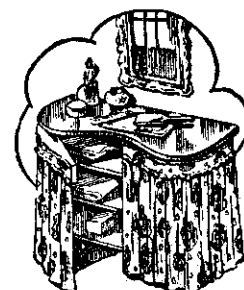
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*'THE Government in gay Paree
Has toppled once again, I see,
And like a newly-wedded bride
Had scarcely got into its stride
When with a nonchalant sang froid—
"Nous avons changé tout cela."*

*Though Cabinets may come and go
And suffer l'ordre du sabot,
No wonder many a Frenchman waxes
Irate at paying out his taxes,
If each ex-leader of the nation
Retires on superannuation.*

—R.G.P.

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