



FREE

in your
own home
for 10 days



volume one
of this Superb six-volume
set of Churchill's War Memoirs!

THIS FAMOUS SERIES, "The Gathering Storm", "Their Finest Hour", "The Grand Alliance", "The Hinge of Fate", "Closing the Ring", "Triumph and Tragedy", in its ordinary edition costs £9 (30s. per volume). Yet by joining WORLD BOOKS NOW you can obtain the superb six-volume members' edition, complete in every detail, for 52s.

When you enrol for six books (35s.) or twelve books (70s.) you will receive other outstanding books such as "We Die Alone" by David Howarth and "No Passing Glory" by Andrew Boyle at a fraction of the ordinary price.

Before committing yourself, however, we invite you to examine the first of the CHURCHILL VOLUMES by returning the coupon below. With this specimen volume you will also receive particulars of the future monthly books together with an Enrolment and Order Form.

If you decide to accept this great offer, just return the Form with your remittance. The remaining five CHURCHILL VOLUMES will be sent to you and your first monthly book will arrive from London in approximately ten weeks' time. Should you not proceed with the matter, your only obligation is to return "The Gathering Storm" within ten days.

YOU
SAVE
£6/12/-

THE SET
52/-
POST FREE

WORLD BOOKS

The only British Book Club publishers of the Churchill War Memoirs

Bound in cream
vellum cloth.
Maroon labels
embossed in
real gold.
The author's
signature on
the sides.
Clear plastic
dust jackets.

POST NOW! SEND NO MONEY

World Books (N.Z.) Agency, Box 209, Palmerston North. Please send me a copy of "THE GATHERING STORM" for free examination, together with full particulars of this offer. If I decide not to join WORLD BOOKS, or to do so without buying any of the Churchill Volumes, I will return "THE GATHERING STORM" to you within ten days of receiving it.

MR _____
MRS _____
MISS _____
Address _____ B.5

Bag of 8
1/3



PROTECT YOUR CLOTHES

MOTHAKS

keep away moths

Hang Mothaks in your wardrobe.
Put one in every drawer.

N.Z. Agents: J. L. LENNARD LTD., BOX 1497, WELLINGTON

Books

CONRAD'S JOURNEY

THE SEA DREAMER, a definite biography of Joseph Conrad, by Gerard Jean-Aubry, translated by Helen Sebba; George Allen and Unwin, English price 25/-.

(Reviewed by A.M.)

BRITISH readers of Joseph Conrad naturally think of him as the product of Polish and British cultures, but this man who became a great writer in an alien language was steeped in French culture as well. Poland had many ties with France. Conrad spoke French fluently from childhood, whereas when he first landed in England he knew no English. From Poland he went to France. A turn of fate might have made him a French citizen and a French novelist, though he did say in after years that if he had not written in English he would never have written at all. So this biography by a French friend (so close that Conrad willed him his personal papers) has a special interest of origin. This is Conrad's centennial year: he was born on December 3, 1857.

The late M. Gerard Jean-Aubry spent more than 20 years on this work, and it is significant that there are 17 pages of bibliography. Thirty years ago he published *Life and Letters of Joseph Conrad* in two volumes, with an introduction, and later, from these, wrote in French the volume now issued in an English translation. The main interest of the story is psychological. In the form of a literary "log" (the author uses this ship word), he follows Conrad's life from birth to death, with many illustrations from letters and some from the books. Perhaps no account of Conrad's young days is so illuminating, with its mingling of cultivated aristocratic life and Russian oppression. His father, a striking figure, suffered exile and imprisonment for his political activities. His lovable uncle became his devoted guardian. These early experiences profoundly affected Conrad's future. According to his biographer, it was not the sea, which he had never seen, that drew him away. It was the thought of open spaces, where, in contrast to his native land, there was freedom. Hugh Walpole expressed a similar opinion that, growing up under unlawful tyranny, Conrad "may well have contemplated the sea as the one unlimited monarchy of freedom."

Conrad was a capable seaman, and but for ill-health might have stayed at sea. The story of his wrestles with physical and mental ills is moving. A writer trying to mould his native tongue to his needs may be torn to pieces inside, as Dickens was. Writing in an acquired medium, Conrad was racked also by gout and malaria (the second a legacy from the Congo, his "Heart of Darkness"), and by poverty. Nor could he forget Poland. Indeed, the theory was advanced by a Polish writer, and supported by Jean-Aubry, that Conrad, to whom fidelity was the supreme virtue,

felt he had acted badly by Poland, hence the desertion-from-duty theme, or its treatment, in *Lord Jim*. The effect of all this, on top of his Slav temperament, was to give him a sombre view of life. To my mind, the book does not say enough about his love for England. It omits his formative emotion on seeing the Red Ensign for the first time, and does not mention the splendid apostrophe to England in *The Nigger of the Narcissus*.

How Conrad succeeded makes a wonderful and perhaps unequalled story. He was given some ease through a Civil List pension (amount not stated, but it seems to have been £250), and lived to see his work popular. Today he is rated as one of the giants of his time. This is a valuable source book about



JOSEPH CONRAD
Walter Tittle's etching from life, 1924

a great writer who, amid the torture of life and art, never lost touch with nobility.

THE CONTEMPORARY MOOD

NEW WORLDS FOR OLD, by Louis Johnson; Capricorn Press, 10/-.

POETS can be roughly divided into those who write too little and those who write too much, with a rarity like Pope or Yeats somewhere in the middle. If we say that most of our younger New Zealand poets belong to the second group, it at least puts them in a company honourably headed by Wordsworth.

Mr Johnson does not belong to the "too little" class, and his new volume, like its predecessors, is uneven. But if we ignore the misses, the hits are interesting, both in their subject matter and in the attitude towards it. In part, they represent the mood of the '50s—that of the young man (in "The Way We Live Now") who says—

I don't want to be a hero;
I want to be left alone,
And quietly become a zero
On the cosmic telephone.

N.Z. LISTENER, NOVEMBER 15, 1957.