

archaism thereby imparted make an impression not dissimilar from that which the Ionic original must have made upon Attic readers in the twenties of the fifth century, B.C." These are sound principles. Nevertheless, they may have been adapted imperfectly, for in spite of the careful scholarship the book seems to be without the vitality and movement of the Rawlinson translation. A possible explanation is that Powell's diction is not as simple and Biblical as he wanted it to be. Even in the Preface, where he states his case in the passage quoted above, the use of "rendered" instead of "made" is an indication of what is to come. In many passages he says that somebody has "deceased," when he means that the man has died. His characters do not speak to one another: they "enter into converse." An image is not "set up" in the proper place, but is "established." Judgments are "propounded" instead of "given." A house becomes a "habitation." There is even "the same" instead of "it"—a lapse in which an archaism is cancelled by commercial usage. The excessive use of Latin derivations, oddly mixed with "howbeits" and "albeits," takes us a long way from the language of the Authorised Version. We cannot avoid using Latin words: they are in the texture of our language, and many of them are indispensable in abstract writing. But in a translation of Herodotus the preference should surely be given, where choice is possible, to Anglo-Saxon words which help to create a direct and concrete style.

—M.H.H.

JAPANESE FEMINIST

THE STUBBORN FLOWER, by Oswald Wynd; Michael Joseph. English price, 9/6.

THIS very competent novel about life in modern Japan avoids nearly all the clichés of the reporter's book and creates its atmosphere through dialogue and delicate touches instead of through slabs of local colour. The narrator, an American journalist named Prenter, tells with a crisp irony of the relations between himself, his cousin Irma, a mission teacher, George Merion, a somewhat stuffy Englishman whom Irma marries, and Setsue, a Japanese girl by whom Merion has had a child. Setsue, "the stubborn flower," determined to live an independent life, becomes a successful journalist and a champion of women's rights.

The story opens in the Yokohama earthquake of 1923 and closes in 1943.

The Orchestra

FIRST OF THE SEASON

THE NZBS Concert Section building contains a studio where the National Orchestra rehearses, and the studio windows overlook Customhouse Quay. In summer, when at least some of the windows are apt to be open, the brass doesn't have to blow up to fortissimo for the music to be heard on the street, and so Wellington people who often pass the corner of Customhouse Quay and Waring Taylor Street know how busily the National Orchestra has been rehearsing since the members re-assembled early in January. Dr. Edgar Bainton, who agreed to take over the conductorship temporarily until a permanent appointment was made, has kept the Orchestra hard at it from the time he arrived in this country on January 12.

Although the concert season proper does not begin until March, radio listeners will have an earlier chance of hear-

Though the changing political scene is suggested, the main emphasis is on the personal drama. Irma and George are conventional types, but Setsue is a credible and engaging character, presented with warm sympathy. The minor characters are especially good, notably the much-married, plain-spoken "Baroness" von Heisen. Mr. Wynd has a striking gift for recording conversations, which helps to make this a smoothly readable and convincing novel, noteworthy for its restraint and mature feeling.

—J.C.R.

RUSSIAN AGENT

HANDBOOK FOR SPIES, by Alexander Foote; Museum Press. English price, 10/6.

HERE is thorough disillusionment for readers of secret service fiction who have been led to believe that every brunette sipping a calvados in a Continental café is a dangerous spy, and every non-drinking blonde a virtuous woman in distress. According to Mr. Foote (he was in the business professionally for nine years) a spy's life is for the most part extremely dull and prosaic because he must be inconspicuous and ordinary; anything unusual is liable to attract attention and the suspected spy is well on the way to being an arrested spy, as the author discovered for himself. An Englishman who was recruited by the Russians for espionage work after taking part in the Spanish Civil War, Mr. Foote graduated to an important position as a Soviet agent in Switzerland, where most of his work was done. He makes singularly little of the exciting patches which came his way. He was even suspected by his employers of double-crossing them with the British, so that the most astonishing thing about it all is that he lived to write his story. This is undoubtedly a useful text-book for those young men and women who feel a call to set up in business as spies, but I can't help thinking that its market will be limited.

—E.R.B.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

WORKING DOGS, written and illustrated by C. Gifford Ambler; Geoffrey Cumberlege, Oxford University Press, London. English price, 5/-.

COMPANIONSHIP between dog and man is the theme of a book which, although intended for children, is likely to be taken over by the entire family. A brief letterpress tells the story from early times; but the real value of the book is in the drawings.

Grazed Knuckle

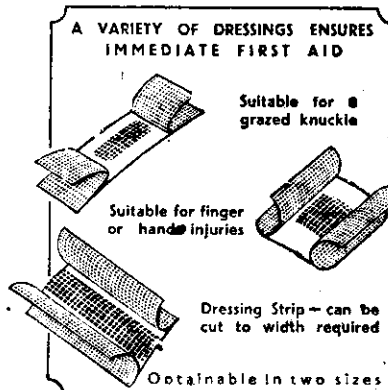
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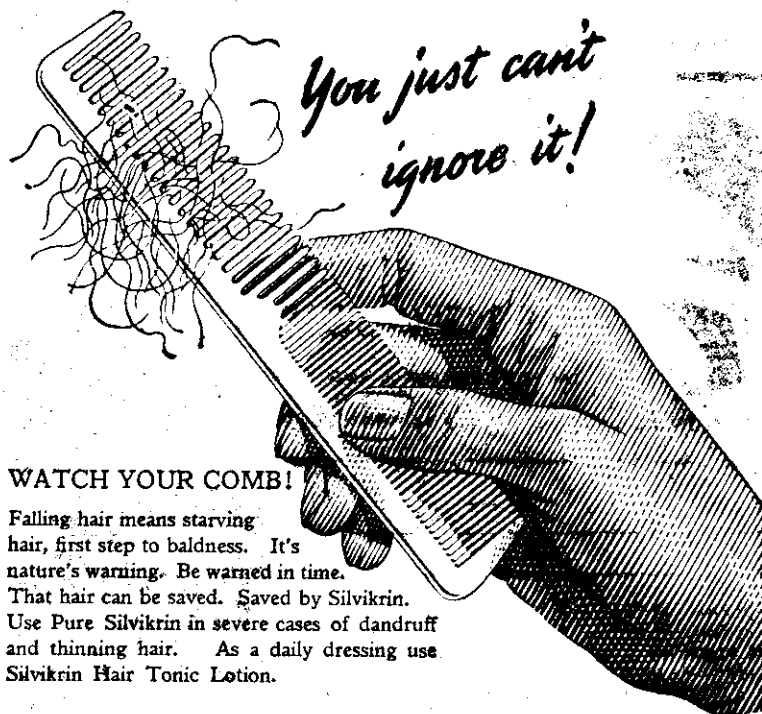
A grazed knuckle is difficult to heal and to bandage too, unless an elastic adhesive First Aid Dressing is used.

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