

BOOKS

(continued from page 13)

the hallucinated—the forerunner of Kafka and Rilke. The stories collected here substantiate this view. There is "The Deed of Entail" (translated by the editor), a tale of a ghost-haunted castle which might have been directly inspired by Horace Walpole's *Castle of Otranto*, written 50 years earlier; "The Golden Pot" (in Carlyle's translation), the story of an artist who rejects ordinary society for a private world of salamanders and snake women; the gruesome "Story of Krespel" and his violin; and "The Sandman," which includes the puppet figure Coppelius of ballet fame. Hoffmann was in some ways a better craftsman than Poe. His backgrounds are always detailed and authentic, which gives his horrors greater impact. His emanations of evil are overpowering, and sometimes evil triumphs, as it does in "The Sandman." The illustrations by the 17th Century French artist Gavarni are extremely apt.

—P.J.W.

THE BIBLE

THE READER'S BIBLE: Oxford University Press; Cambridge University Press; Eyre and Spottiswoode. English price, 30/-

THE SHORTER OXFORD BIBLE, abridged and edited by G. W. Briggs, G. B. Caird and N. Micklem; Geoffrey Cumberlege; Oxford University Press. English price, 7/6.

THE English Bible has sometimes been printed in modern format, but always in abridgements, in new translations, or in sets of several volumes. A demand has long existed for the Authorised Version in a form which could be more attractive than the standard editions to lay readers. This book has now been published. It contains the full text of the Authorised Version and the Apocrypha, the original introduction, an historical note on the text, and a series of explanatory prefaces, printed at the beginning of every section.

The inclusion of the Apocrypha will be welcomed by readers who believe that its wisdom, poetry and historical interest entitle it to a place in the Canon. Admittedly, this has made the new addition too large for casual reading: the book will need to be opened on a table or be otherwise supported. Further, the size of the volume has obliged the printers to use a wide line so that relief from the traditional double-column may be weakened a little, for the eye becomes tired if it is asked to travel too far across a page. But if gain and loss had to be weighed the preference was rightly given to clear and generous type, printed on good paper; and no difficulty will be felt in the many sections where the books are set out as poetry. *The Reader's Bible* reaches the highest standards of editing and printing. It is in every way a noble achievement.

The Shorter Oxford Bible is complementary to the "Reader's" edition. It is an abridgement which reveals the full development of the sacred writings. Passages are included from the Apocrypha, and there are short introductions. The book is just the right weight for reading in bed.

—H.

MR. KRASINSKY

KNAVE TAKES QUEEN, by Peter Cheyney; Faber and Faber. English price, 9/6.

MR. KRASINSKY, the odd little man who turns up in all the stories in this collection, is apparently intended to personify the imagination. The device is an essential part of one of the stories; but in the remaining ten it is

superfluous, intrusive and monotonous. Peter Cheyney's love stories are often flavoured with crime. Beneath their superficial toughness, however, they are as wistful and sentimental as the day-dreams of an adolescent, and equally as implausible.

TREASURE HUNT

PLUNDER OF THE SUN, by David Dodge; Michael Joseph. English price, 8/6.

AL COLBY, an unattached American who offers himself for dangerous employment, is hired by a Chilean antique dealer to smuggle a small parcel into Peru. He is presently embroiled in a search for one of the lost treasure dumps of the Incas, and he receives many bruises and is much misunderstood by a dark-eyed beauty before he defeats the opposition. David Dodge handles a fantastic theme so ably that few readers will realise until afterwards how much strain has been placed upon their credulity.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

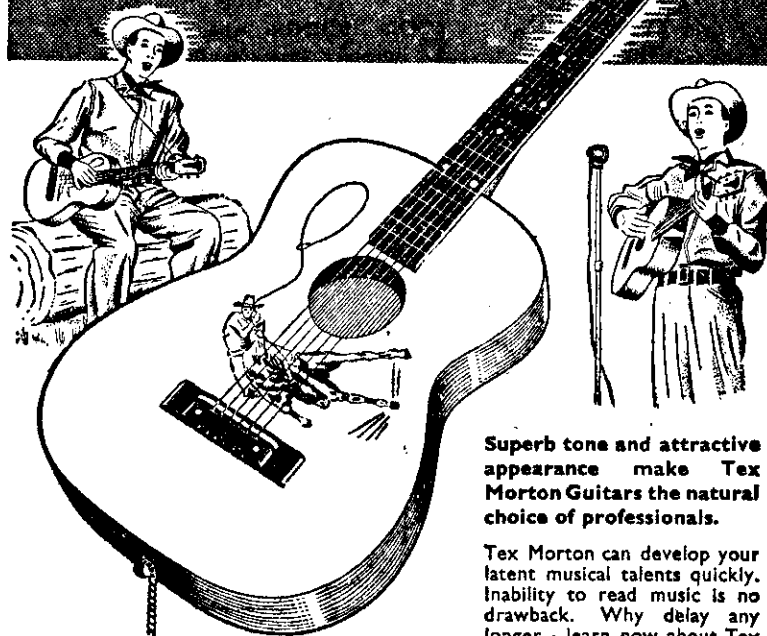
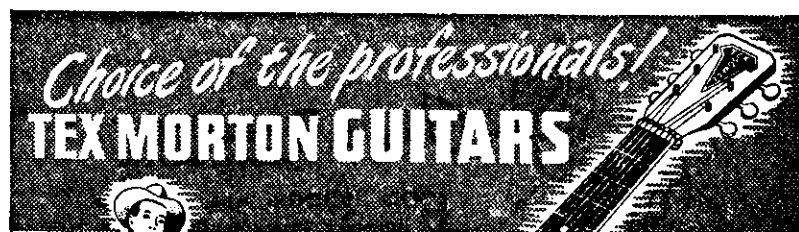
SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY ENGLISH LITERATURE, by C. V. Wedgwood (Geoffrey Cumberlege; Oxford University Press), is an admirable example of scholarship narrowed into concise writing. It is a recent addition to the Home University Library of Modern Knowledge.

ATOMS AND ATOMIC ENERGY, by R. W. Hallows (Chapman and Hall, English price 10/6), is described as "a simple explanation." There are numerous diagrams and the subject is brought a little closer than usual to the common reader, though it can never be made easy.

READERS will meet Alcoholics Anonymous, people suffering from inferiority complexes, and plain worriers in *Personal Peace and Power*, by Gordon Powell (Oxford University Press, Melbourne; Australian price 9/6). The book is written by a clergyman who has studied psychology and who has applied its methods, apparently with much success, to problems of mind and personal behaviour.



THE Rev. Donald McKenzie, who is to review "The Only Way," by Dr. Alexander Loveday, in the ZB Book Review session on August 19. Other books for review the same evening are: "Long the Imperial Way," by Hanama Tasaki (Harry J. Benda); "Freedom and Culture," compiled by Unesco (Dr. W. B. Sutch); and "The Four Pillars of Wisdom," by Sheldon Dudley (W. J. Scott)



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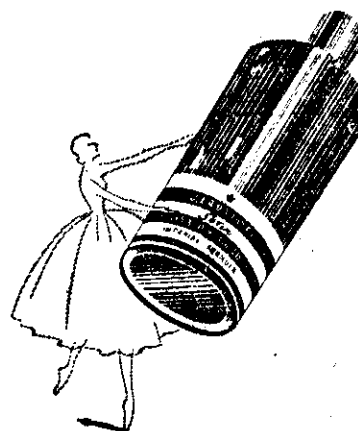


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