

BOOKS

(continued from page 13)

than anyone else on the field, or off it. He is closest to the batsman, with whom he can most easily exchange pleasantries, and is behind the flight of every ball that is bowled. Godfrey Evans, of Kent and England, is a very good wicketkeeper. Sir Donald Bradman recalls here that on his first visit to Australia, when Evans was second "keeper," over a thousand runs were scored against the English bowling before he allowed his first bye. Evans is also a useful bat, but above all he is a "character"—a player of extraordinary energy and endurance, and unquenchable spirits, the sort of chap who pleases the crowd and enlivens a side. The story of his cricketing life, told here, begins with a schoolmaster's warning, "You cannot expect to make a living out of cricket," and takes him to test cricket in England, Australia, South Africa, the West Indies and New Zealand. That the book has no literary pretensions will matter little to the cricket lover, for it is packed with experience, and is human and lively. There is valuable advice about the wicketkeeper's job.

Passion for cricket is rare among Scots. They are too serious-minded, too much occupied with that prospect of the road to England which Dr. Johnson noted. Genius, however, is unpredictable. Like countless English "rabbits," J. M. Barrie loved the game, and being what he was, he turned it to whimsicality. Sir Donald Bradman, who writes a foreword to this volume also, recalls Barrie's joke about his own bowling, that after delivering the ball he would go and sit on the ground at mid-off and wait for it to reach the other end, "which it sometimes did." This little book of forty small pages, hitherto privately printed, tells of matches played over fifty years ago in the famous village of Broadway, between sides of writers and artists collected by Barrie, and teams of artists arranged by Madame de Navarro, better known as the American actress Mary Anderson. Among

Three Ballets

AN edition of the BBC programme *Ring Up the Curtain* to be heard from 2YC next week will have a special interest for lovers of the ballet. The music, in which Robert Irving conducts the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, is taken from three famous ballets in the Sadler's Wells repertoire, and each is introduced by the ballerina whose name is most closely associated with it—Margot Fonteyn, the prima ballerina of Sadler's Wells, Moira Shearer, and Beryl Grey. Margot Fonteyn's memories of *The Sleeping Beauty* to Tchaikovsky's music are associated with great occasions both for Sadler's Wells and for herself. The first time she danced on the Covent Garden stage was in the gala performance of this ballet before the President of the French Republic in 1939. She remembers, too, how *The Sleeping Beauty* thrilled audiences at the re-opening of Covent Garden after the war, and on a night in October, 1949, when Sadler's Wells gave its first performance in New York and set the newspapers raving over the return of the great days of the ballet. Moira Shearer introduces excerpts from *Cinderella*, Frederick Ashton's ballet to music by Prokofiev, and the orchestra



return to Tchaikovsky for the final part of the programme in which Beryl Grey recalls her experience of dancing the dual role of Odette and Odile in *Swan Lake*. This BBC ballet programme will be broadcast by 2YC at 9.0 p.m. on Friday, August 24.

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One with all burning names
Born of the flames.*

*OR bankrupt, bare to winter,
Beauty worn to the bone,
And in that cold calamity
Announcing a heart's insolvency.*

*OR, erect in summer, beaded with birds,
You are lover, proud with sun,
Rapt above the crawling fates that put
The shadows at your foot.*

—J. R. Hervey

others, Barrie enlisted Conan Doyle, three Punch men—Owen Seaman, Bernard Partridge, and E. T. Reed—the novelist A. E. W. Mason, and one writer-county-player, Hesketh Pritchard. The humour seems forced and thin at this distance of time, but the personalities and setting of the game give the dainty volume a special interest. It is a collector's piece.

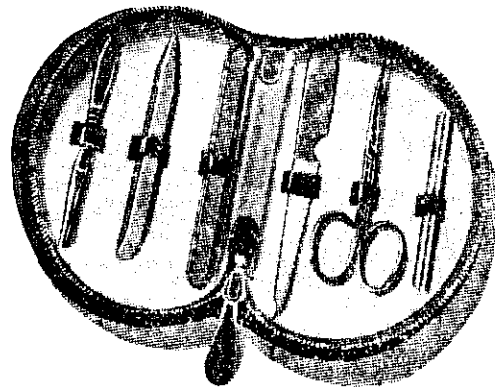
—A.M.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

R. W. HALLOWS, who specialises in simple explanations, has uncovered another scientific mystery in *Radar* (Chapman and Hall, English price 10/6). This is a second edition.

LONELY PASSAGE, by Loula Grace Erdman (Hodder and Stoughton, English price 9/6), is a tense little story of family life which should be of interest mainly to women.

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