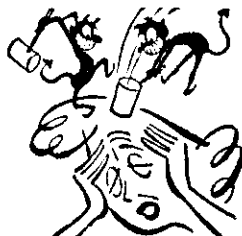




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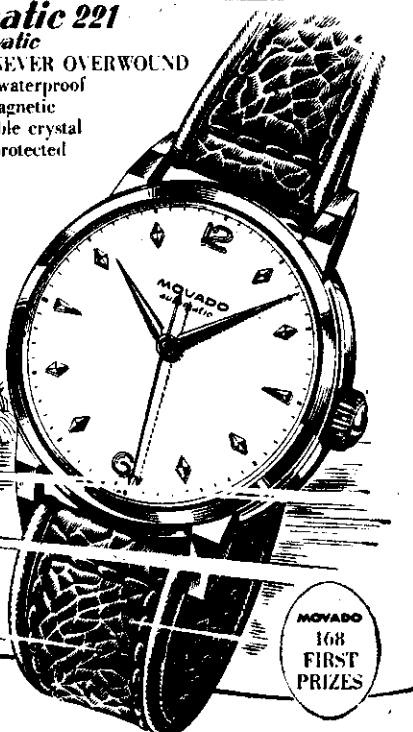
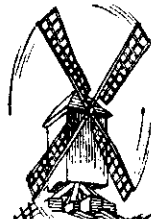
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Books

LOOKING AT RUSSIA

RUSSIA BY DAYLIGHT, by Edward Crankshaw; Michael Joseph. English price, 15/-.

(Reviewed by W. B. Sutch)

EDWARD CRANKSHAW is one of the few people who write about the Soviet Union with some knowledge of this complex subject. Readers of the *New Statesman and Nation*, the *Observer* and the *BBC Listener* will recall his articles on the U.S.S.R. and will know him as one of a diminishing minority—he has the Western liberal mind with high moral principles.

Because of these principles he sets out to examine what it is about the Soviet Union that should affront those who are conducting the cold war. He easily decides it is not the peoples of the U.S.S.R., and it is not communism as such—to him it is the policy of the rulers of the Soviet Union that is obnoxious—and to confuse a "conflict with the Kremlin and a general conflict with what is called Communism is to bring us into grave danger." The reason for this, he says, is that a crusade against Communism "all too easily degenerates into a crusade against all those movements, however narrow and misguided, which work in the end for the destruction of the worst abuses of a society by no means perfect." He denounces the "Kestlers and the Burnhams, the frustrated totalitarians," who fundamentally are anti-humanity. He also disagrees with those who say that the Soviet system, for the humane liberal, would be "no worse than the American system." He sees some possibilities for good in the U.S.A., though he is sharply critical of American foreign political and trade policy; but in the Soviet system he sees destruction of his Western values, and therefore, if he has to choose, he is reluctantly with the U.S.A.

The body of the book consists of examples of his thesis that the Government of the U.S.S.R. would destroy the liberal tradition he would fight for. He says there is no analogy between Stalin and Hitler and that "Stalin has none of Hitler's compulsion to go to war; indeed, the compulsion is all the other way . . ."; but he prefers to buy an umbrella when there are clouds about. He knows that the statement that armaments lead inevitably to war "is likely to be true," but it is not the arms that lead to war, but "the feeling behind them . . . the hatred and the fear." And so, being armed, our job is not to hate and not to fear. In fact, he says that with fear, but without a war, the Western liberal tradition could indeed be conquered by transforming our own society imperceptibly into an apparatus of totalitarianism so that no one dare criticise "for fear of damaging national unity, the unity of the grave; a system in which the bully and the corrupt may not be denounced or the underdog uplifted because nobody will dare risk being called a Red."

THE CRADLE ROCKS

CRADLE OF THE CLOUDS, by Sudhin N. Ghose; Michael Joseph. English price, 15/-.

IT is a slight shock to be reminded that Indian civilisation, with its traditions so much more ancient and potent than our own, is today even more eclectic. It is true that the Moslem, the

rationalist, and the Christian join with the Hindu and the pagan when there is a real crisis and a traditional mechanism to deal with it has to be set in motion. The rains delay coming to this corner of India and the only way to bring them is to enact the ploughing ceremony, in which young Ghose plays a leading part. Throughout the book the tug-of-war between old and new goes on, in society and in the blossoming intelligence of the narrator.

This autobiography is a delightful comedy, full of shrewd observation of character and a gentle unobtrusive humour. What we might call, crudely, "spiritual values," are still important in India, and they engross even young Ghose, an Indian beginning to undergo the painful process of Europeanisation. In spite of its sophistication (which here and there grates a little), few books allow us such a direct insight into the Indian mind. This makes even such delicious drawings as those of Shrinati Arnakali Carlile, which illustrate it, a distracting intrusion. —David Hall

SOUTHLAND PARABLES

SATURDAY MORNINGS, by "Ichthus" (the Very Rev. C. J. Tocker); the Southland Times Company; Invercargill: 8/-.

FOR many years an article under the general heading, "Religion and Life," has been a Saturday feature in the *Southland Times*. The author, who for some time remained hidden behind a pen-name which allowed him to create for himself the fictitious character of an amiable and meditative farmer, is now revealed as the Very Rev. C. J. Tocker, Minister of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Invercargill, and Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand, 1948-49. A selection of his



CHRISTOPHER FRY, the subject of Derek Stanford's "Christopher Fry: An Appreciation," which will be reviewed by Professor S. Musgrove in the *ZB Book Review* session on January 13. "Albert Schweitzer," by Joseph Gollomb, will be reviewed by Bryan O'Brien in the same session; and other books for discussion are: "The Prospect Before Us," by John Dos Passos (Dr. W. B. Sutch); "The Masters," by C. P. Snow, and "Colonel Julian and Other Stories," by H. E. Bates (Frank Sargeson)

N.Z. LISTENER, JANUARY 4, 1952.