

were in plentiful supply. But the monster Chichevache was thin, for her diet was only patient wives, poor cow."

—J.B.

INVESTMENT IN PEACE

PEACE CAN BE WON, by Paul Hoffman; Michael Joseph. English price, 8/6.

MR. HOFFMAN is the ex-president of the Studebaker Corporation, "politically a Republican and a keen protagonist of capitalist economy"—to quote the note on the author, who administered Marshall Aid in Europe from 1947 to 1950. As he frankly acknowledges, the book was written by members of the staff of the Economic Co-operation Administration; it is aimed at the U.S. public, or more precisely, the U.S. Congressmen, to show that foreign policy should not be confined to the military front only, but should be conducted also on the economic, political and propaganda fronts. In short chapters an outline of activities proposed for the U.S.A. is given under these three headings and an annual budget proposed as follows: Economic aid to those countries important to the security of the U.S. \$2,000,000,000; political activities, \$350,000,000; propaganda, \$300,000,000; contingencies, \$300,000,000; total, \$2,950,000,000. It seems a lot of money, but in the U.S.A. it "is around one per cent of our gross national product," and "must be regarded as one of the best-paying investments ever made by any people, any time, anywhere."

—W.B.S.

CRIME PAYS

THE MASTER FORGER, by John Godley; Home and van Thal. English price, 9/6.

THE career of Hans van Meegeren as a forger of 17th Century old masters was a hoax in the grand manner. The fact that he made some £500,000 from eight pictures "by" Vermeer or de Hooch is an indication of size more than of iniquity. He might never have been caught if he had not had the bad luck to get a picture sold to Goering (who swapped back for it a number of genuine Dutch old masters previously looted); thus after the war, to disprove the heavier charge of collaborating with the enemy, van Meegeren was obliged to confess to his forgeries—and to make a new forgery under observation for the final conversion of sceptics. It was fun to lead the experts up the garden, fun to gull collectors buying names rather than pictures; but in the end the success of this hoax strikes at the basis of the appreciation of art. Why shouldn't a pastiche give as much pleasure as the real thing? John Godley, a friend of van Meegeren's children, is perhaps oversympathetic to his subject; and he tries to play a superb comedy as ill-digested tragedy. But the story tells itself.

—David Hall

WORDS INTO PRINT

TALKING OF WORDS, by Cecil Hull; Oswald Sealey: 2/6.

IT is satisfying to find good talks being put into print, for by nature radio is evanescent. This is literally the winged word, which we can hold only in memory. For this reason it is more important that the listener, as opposed to the reader, should study words, their meaning and history, their romance, and in these days of mass emotion and organised propaganda, their power to mislead and destroy. Words can be infinitely lovely or as dangerous as T.N.T. and when they come over the air they carry the persuasiveness of the voice and their effect cannot be checked by reading back. Miss Cecil Hull, who has a national public as a broadcaster on

the subject, has put into a booklet under the title *Talking of Words* six talks she gave in 1950. In 30 pages Miss Hull covers a wide range, from the embedding of history in geography as in various place-names derived from "Caesar," descents in meaning, as in the word "tawdry," the beauty and magic of words, and the exasperations and humours of officialese English. In blend of scholarship and wit, she is in the line of instructor-entertainers like A. P. Herbert and Ivor Brown in England, and Walter Murdoch in Australia, and is worthy of the association. —A.M.

MUSIC AND PEOPLE

MUCH BESIDES MUSIC, by Thorold Waters; Georgian House, Melbourne. Australian price, 21/-.

THE author was a journalist in Australia at thirteen. He had a successful career as an operatic and oratorio singer in Great Britain, joined the Melbourne Sun 25 years ago, fathered the Sun Aria Contest, and believes he is the first man to earn a full livelihood in Australia by writing about music. These are his reminiscences, and he has known interesting people in music and politics. He is illuminating about Melba and other singers, and kindly towards everyone. But there is no sequence to his story, little discrimination, and one turns over much ground to find the potatoes. He seems to be taking a holiday from all the rules sub-editors impose, and to be thoroughly enjoying it. —D.F.T.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THE FAR LANDS, by James Norman Hall; Faber and Faber; English price, 12/6. An imaginative and dramatic story of the last and greatest voyage by the forefathers of the Tongan islanders.

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, by Elizabeth Goudge; Hodder and Stoughton; English price, 10/6. A reverent reconstruction, in narrative form, of the life of Christ.

WEST OF THE HILL, by Gladys Hasty Carroll; Robert Hale; English price, 10/6. A sentimental novel about a fisherman's daughter whose dream came true when she went off to be a farmer's wife.

NOT SINGLE SPIES, by Don Betteridge; Robert Hale; English price, 9/6. An adventure in espionage, with special reference to an old friend, the atom bomb.

STORM CENTRE, by Robert Standish; Peter Davies; English price, 10/6. A superficial story of emotional upheaval in an "eastern" setting.

THE FURIOUS EVANGELIST, by Hugh Hickling; Alvin Redman; English price, 10/6. A fanciful, though vigorously written, novel about a coup d'état in—of all places—England.

THIS, MY BROTHER, by Argye M. Briggs; Hodder and Stoughton; English price, 10/6. An American story of people who learn to accept life's difficulties.

A CHILD'S GARDEN OF CURSES, by S. J. Perelman; William Heinemann; Australian price, 16/- . A collection of three books by an American humorist.

DAVID WITHOUT JONATHAN, by M. Janet Becker; Hodder and Stoughton; English price, 9/6. A novel, gently written, about an old and rich man and the life behind him.

TURN AGAIN HOME, by Ruby Ferguson; Hodder and Stoughton; English price, 10/6. A light romance, very conversational, with a setting in Yorkshire.

Newest of all
Perfume Sprays



Contoure' SKIN FRAGRANCE
Apple Blossom - Bouquet - Carnival

Just press Contoure's exciting, new unbreakable "mist-spray" container . . . and envelop yourself in gloriously perfumed Contoure Skin Fragrance. Offered in three distinctive fragrances. 13/6.

Refills available in regular stock bottles

FROM ALL APPROVED BEAUTY BARS

Prepared in New Zealand for CONTOURE, NEW YORK, LONDON, PARIS, by Contoure (N.Z.) Ltd., 104 Victoria Street, Christchurch.




Can you spot the denture-wearer?

MOST people chose the wrong woman when asked, in a recent test, which one of these two women wears dentures. It is the younger who has dentures, but who could tell? Many men and women who wear dentures have managed to keep the fact entirely to themselves. Modern dentures, produced by new methods from new materials, have made that possible. And another factor that helps is the simple Steradent cleaning

routine; your teeth need never be out of your mouth except when you are alone in the bathroom. Steradent keeps them sparkling clean and fresh by the short immersion method—with, if you wish, an occasional overnight soaking.

Steradent

cleans and sterilises every type of denture.

Reckitt & Colman (New Zealand) Ltd., Pharmaceutical Division, Bond St., Dunedin. St. 73