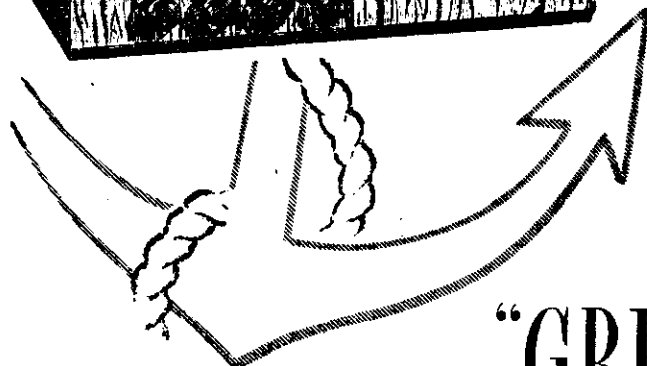
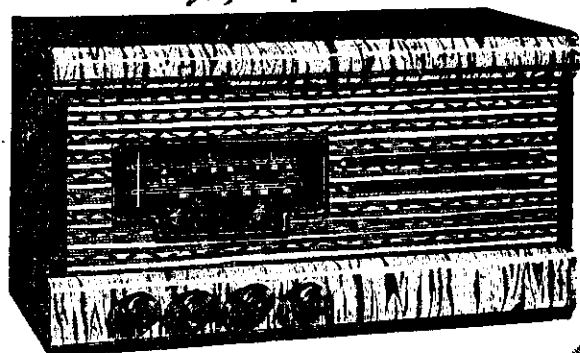



Courtenay

1811



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BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

means to an end. It is an institution. The abuse of power is no longer a roundabout approach, since for a few people power itself has become the only objective."

—PIC

AWAY FROM IT ALL

WE SHARED AN ISLAND, by Guy Morrison; Phoenix House. English price, 10/6.

BEFORE a man takes wife and young family to live on a small tropical island "isolated by eight miles of sea from the world's madness and cruelty, its laws and inhibitions, its falsities and fatuous bustling," he should assure himself, first, of a safe title so that he can shut the door securely against the said abstractions; second, that he can cast off with his clothes other civilised habits such as bacon and tobacco. He should also consult a climatologist. But if he only wants to write a book let him go right ahead without such absurd precautions. If he can write as simply and gaily and humorously of his experiences as the amiable Guy Morrison has done, the rest of us can thoroughly enjoy the adventure without suffering the discomforts and aggravations; and we shall enjoy it the more if there are such pleasing illustrations as Alan Jessett has provided in this case.

—L.J.W.

THE UNKNOWN WORLD

EAST OF HOME, by Santha Rama Rau; Victor Gollancz. English price, 16/.

SANTHA RAU belongs to one of the ruling families of Congress India. In this light and graceful book she describes her postwar visits to Japan (where her father was Indian Ambassador), and her strange journey with two Americans, a girl journalist and a male student of the theatre, to China, Indo-China, Siam and finally Bali—where they spent many months. The book is a tantalising mixture of the superficial and the profound. Although they went into the interior specially to see Rewi Alley's work at Sandan, the account of this could hardly be more scanty and perfunctory. On the other hand, Santha is continually illustrating with vivid insight and charming humour the attitudes of intelligent orientals to the west. Asia is united in its disillusionment with the conceited European, and the Japanese, even in defeat, are the heroes of rising Asian nationalism. But the descriptions of dance and drama in all these countries and of domestic manners are its main, and very considerable, virtues.

—David Hall

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

JAMES BONE'S *London Perambulator* was first published in 1925, and the edition now brought out by Jonathan Cape (English price 10/6) is the eighth—sufficient evidence of the value placed upon the book by people who like to be taken on a tour of the great city by a man who combines information, anecdote and reflection in an easy, perambulatory style.

THE story of a great composer's boyhood is told by Sybil Deucher in *The Young Brahms* (Faber and Faber, English price 10/6). Sentimental liberties may have been taken with the facts; but the story moves briskly. Large type, copious illustration, and reproductions of several of Brahms's earlier compositions help to make this an attractive and useful book for children.