

SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE

THE RIME OF THE ANCIENT MARINER

In production now for March publication is a deluxe edition of Coleridge's famous poem; the text being hand-set throughout for printing on a fine hand-made paper. Leo Bensemann will furnish the frontispiece & other embellishments for this book which will rank with the best we have produced. Since the prospectus (there are a few copies left) was issued last month, orders for this limited edition have steadily mounted. Immediate subscription is therefore necessary to make sure of a copy. 44 pp demy 4to £3-3-0

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BOOKS

International Trade

THE COMMERCE OF NATIONS, by J. B. Condliffe; Allen and Unwin. English price, 36/-

(Reviewed by W. B. Sutch)

THIS is a book on international commerce meant for the bookshelf of the reader of *Fortune*. It has 844 pages. The dust-cover to the contrary, it does not trace "the long and fascinating story of the ebb and flow of world trade"; nor does it present "in skilful summary the important contributions to economic thought."

The book is a series of chapters with such headings as "The Fight for Free Trade," "The International Gold Standard," "The Case for Freer Trade." It mentions a few of the contributors to economic theory and adds a little of their personal history, but it omits to include the quite important contributions to international trade theory of such writers of J. A. Hobson and V. I. Lenin; while in the field of economic thought the contribution of Veblen is scarcely mentioned and the theory of value not even examined.

There is no discussion of the role of slavery in the development of international commerce (though slaves are included as a trade item); no mention of colonies as a function of the expansion of world trade, of feudalism, or of the economics of the Crusades. To come to the present day, there is no discussion of UNRRA or Marshall Aid in their relation to the maintenance of international trade, or of the real economic problems of Western Europe, or of the sterling area, or of under-developed countries; and finally, there is no discussion of one of the fundamental concepts of international commerce—the terms of trade.

One of the more curious omissions is the part played by the United Kingdom in the development of international trade and of capitalism itself. Great Britain is, of course, mentioned as is Germany, but the dynamic element in trade development is quite lacking. Where there is any economic analysis, it is not very satisfactory, as, for example, in the treatment of Wakefield's theories, while the references to Keynes are much more biographical than analytic. The book is, of course, meant to be elementary, but because of these and other omissions (for example, the incomplete bibliographies in *The Colonial Reformers* and *Planning and Freedom*) it is not a good introduction for the intending student or the open-minded layman.

SLOW TRAVEL

THE INLAND WATERWAYS OF ENGLAND, by L. T. C. Rolt; Allen and Unwin. English price, 21/-

VAGABOND PILGRIMAGE, by Frederick Cowles; Robert Hale. English price, 12/6.

ENGLISH RIBBON, by Jack Hilton; Jonathan Cape. English price, 12/6.

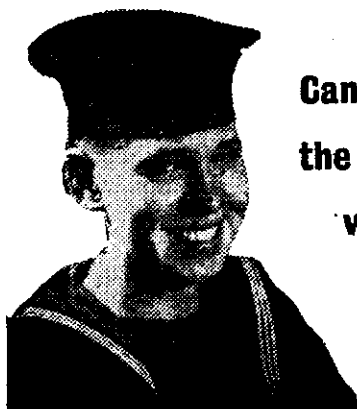
THESE three books have one thing in common in addition to their common subject of travel in England—all three authors went by the slowest rather than the quickest means from place to place. The first threaded his way, amphibian-fashion, by canals and locks and bridges; the second went about by push cycle, motor-cycle, bus, and on foot; and the third pushed a handcart loaded with a tent and necessary equipment. Mr. Rolt writes a complete history of the waterways, their upkeep, their

importance economically to the various industrial centres they serve, and the various changes that have come to them. He describes the gypsy family life of the boatmen, the customs and centuries-old patterns, picturesque and strange; explains the advantages and disadvantages of using horses to draw the boats—horses and mules are still used on some canals, also donkeys which are always referred to as "animals" for some unexplained reason—and gives a great deal of information about canals now in disrepair and about the tonnage and economic importance of those still in use. This is a half-technical and half-popular book of great interest.

Mr. Cowles was told by a stranger in an air-raid shelter one night that English writers all wrote dull guide-books full of places and dates, and forgot to make a buddy of the reader. So after the war was over Mr. Cowles set out to walk and cycle and bus about England to write about his travels with a buddy in mind. His book is surely as chatty as his air-raid adviser wanted it to be, and yet I, for one reader, don't find myself a buddy. He travels with gypsies, talks with all manner of workers and holiday-makers, visits museums and churches, goes into forests, gets lost, sees circuses—in fact, his book is crammed with pleasantness and with first-rate photographs; I only wish it had been a little less intentionally chatty.

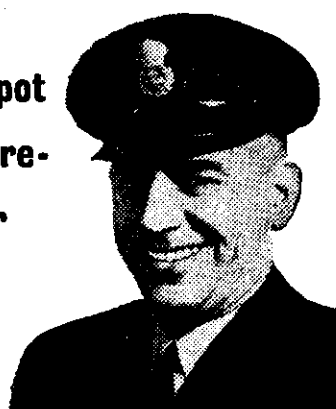
In the beginning I felt a little the same about *English Ribbon*—wasn't Jack Hilton being too deliberately the worker with the pen? His descriptions of mill-workers and the multitudinous factory works of the cities he visited were so much more detailed than his descriptions of anything else. But gradually I was won over. Mr. Hilton and his wife Mary, pushing their hand-cart up stiff hills and along valleys, calling

(continued on next page)



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DOROTHY EDEN, who will review two recent publications—"The Passionate Pastoral," by Jack Lindsay, and "The Lute Player," by Norah Lofts, in the ZB Book Review session on March 2. Other books and reviewers will be: "Subterranean Climbers," by Pierre Chevalier (Dr. N. E. Odell); "River of the Sun," by James Ramsey Ullman (Ronald Walker); and "The Story of the Growth of Nursing," by Agnes Pavey (Miss F. J. Cameron)

N.Z. LISTENER, FEBRUARY 22, 1952.