

of this "epic narrative" is said to have "shared the life of the Polynesian island people and studied their history and culture." The print is clear and attractive, and the "decorations" decorate. All this might and could add up to a book, but it doesn't. *Singing Coral* is almost unreadable. Who is to blame for the extraordinary prose, the purple patches from Polynesia—author or translator? Such a problem in communication this: ancient Polynesia through Swedish eyes and English glasses, devious like a book on Zulus by a Japanese translated into Dutch. One simple Pig-island reviewer was at a loss.

—D.N.W.

SMOOTH AND TOUGH

THE BRIDE REGRETS, by Marjorie Carleton; Michael Joseph. English price, 9/6.

NIGHT MAN, by Allan Ullman, from the screen play by Lucille Fletcher; Victor Gollancz. English price, 9/6.

NIGHT WITHOUT SLEEP, by Elick Moll; Peter Davies. English price, 9/6.

HERE are thrillers that, though they deal with violence, have a kindly and even an urbane background, and thrillers that are tough through and through. In plot, characterisation and style, *The Bride Regrets* is an exceptionally good story of the first kind. A young woman, left alone in the world and without much experience, marries a man a good deal older than herself, and they start off on their honeymoon. Gradually it is conveyed to the reader that the husband is another Smith of brides-in-the-bath infamy, who plans to kill his wife for her money. The tension as the woman comes to suspect him, and other people are drawn into the plot, is painful, but is skilfully relieved by the wit of the writing, and the humanity of some of the other characters. Humour and sentiment lap the edges of threatened tragedy, and Marjorie Carleton moves easily from one aspect to another.

The two tough thrillers come from the screen, but the more impressive, *Night Without Sleep*, was a novelette



JOHN REID (above) will review Graham Greene's latest novel, "The End of the Affair," in the ZB Book Review session on March 9. Nevill Coghill's translation of Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales" will be discussed by Professor L. G. Pocock, and M. K. Joseph and Joan Stevens will review, respectively, "Blake's Haley," by Mor-chard Bishop, and "The Emperor Constantine," by Dorothy Sayers

first. They owe much to psychology, and use the flash-back. In *Night Man*, an ill-used affection-starved daughter sees her lover drawn to her dominating and morally worthless mother, and revenges herself by fastening the mother's death, for which she is responsible, as murder on the man. Before he goes to gaol for a long term he swears vengeance, and the tale opens when years later she fears the process has begun. If I find this book only moderately successful, it may be because the author has not evoked sufficient sympathy for the woman.

Night Without Sleep is tauter and more profound, a brilliantly planned and written study of character in decay. A once successful man who has run to seed, waking early in the morning after a night of dissipation, wonders with horror what has been happening to him since he saw his wife off the previous afternoon. The story is his reconstruction of those 12 hours or so piece by piece, interspersed with bits of past dialogue with his psycho-analyst. When the cycle of memory has been completed there comes, like a blow in the face to the reader, one of the most startling denouements I have ever encountered. This is a noteworthy example of a new approach and technique.

—A.M.

THE OLD MASTER

THE COMPLETE SHORT STORIES OF W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM, Vol. 1; Heinemann. English price, 12/6.

NEW interest may have been aroused in the short stories of W. Somerset Maugham by recent films which used some of them to good purpose. The present volume (two more are to come) includes "The Facts of Life," which, after suitable revision became a frivolous theme for *Quartet*. It also has "Rain," perhaps the best-known of all the stories. But there is much else. The dry and sharp style, the sceptical view of human relations and the wide range of scene and idea which help to make Maugham a master of fiction are all to be found in this volume. A brief and characteristic preface explains the basis of selection.

MAINLY FOR COLLECTORS

THE CAXTON PRESS, by P. A. Lawlor; the Beltane Book Bureau, Wellington; 3/6.

A KATHERINE MANSFIELD ENTHUSIAST, by P. A. Lawlor; the Beltane Book Bureau, Wellington; 3/6.

P. A. LAWLOR, most enthusiastic of bookmen, has done useful work in compiling a bibliography of the Caxton Press. In 20 years the Press has produced notable books; it has set new standards in typography; and its vision and boldness have been creative influences in New Zealand writing. Mr. Lawlor introduces his bibliography with a brief survey, filled out with some lively impressions. The last word has by no means been written on this subject, but in the meantime Mr. Lawlor has produced a guide which should be welcomed by collectors.

The literary work of Guy Morris, an authority on Katherine Mansfield, is described by Mr. Lawlor in a second pamphlet, written with obvious sincerity and affection.

COW RESCUED

APPOINTMENT WITH VENUS, by Jerrard Tickell; Hodder and Stoughton. English price, 10/6.

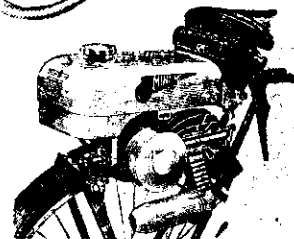
JERRARD TICKELL has shown in this novel what can be done with a good idea and straightforward treatment (continued on next page)

MINI-MOTOR

• Fits any bicycle



FIRST IN THE FIELD
AND STILL THE FIRST
NAME IN POWER UNITS



* Easy starting, dependable running, simple to control.

* 240 miles to the gallon and ample reserve power.

* Three months' guarantee and free adjustment service.

New Zealand Distributors:

C. W. F. HAMILTON & CO. LTD.

P.O. Box 709, Christchurch

AGENTS THROUGHOUT NEW ZEALAND

If there is no Mini-Motor agent in your district, write direct to the N.Z. Distributors.



Use
'Dettol'
promptly
in time of
accident

'DETTOL'

THE SAFE ANTISEPTIC

DOESN'T PAIN · DOESN'T STAIN

NON-POISONOUS

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