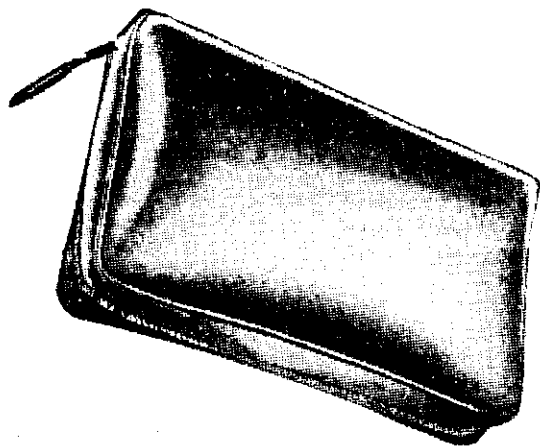


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Book Reviews

(continued from previous page)

freedom, and when money—even a little of it—would go a long way. The book sparkles with the brilliance of so many famous characters, and so many dinners and parties, and balls and theatres and operas that, like Angela, the reader becomes dazzled as for a moment he shares their glittering world.

The opening chapters of the book are smooth and sophisticated, but as Miss du Maurier becomes engrossed in her memories, time, place, and even the story become confused. Her style improves again, however, when she describes life in Britain during the Second World War. The reader is impressed by what these people can do in an emergency. Daphne du Maurier, for instance, finds that a soldier husband, three children and writing *Frenchman's Creek* keeps her fully occupied; while Angela tills the soil, helps at a children's clinic, joins the Home Guard and takes two months off to write a novel which she has "mentally stacked by." This part of the book is illustrated with well-chosen extracts from personal letters.

—E.B.

X EQUALS O

ZERO, by Robert Payne; Wingate. Price 12/6.

THIS is an examination of the philosophy—usually unavowed—of nihilism rather than of terrorism, evaluated negatively in terms of atrocities: the worse its results, the worse it is. Robert Payne conjures up a terrifying procession from Nechayer, venomous even when caged in a Tsarist prison, to the Nazis and the Stalinists. But when he comes to prescribing recipes for restoring humanity to man, he must fortify his somewhat vague proposals by putting them in capital letters. A well-intentioned, interest-

ing, occasionally naive book, in which the writer gets a little out of his depth.

—David Hall

THE SPANISH MAIN

FURTHER ENGLISH VOYAGES TO SPANISH AMERICA, by Irene A. Wright; The Hakluyt Society. Price to non-members, 30s.

MEMBERS of the Hakluyt Society in New Zealand, for whom C. R. H. Taylor, of the Alexander Turnbull Library acts as honorary secretary, will welcome its latest publication. This handsome and well-printed book contains the third series of documents from the Archives of the Indies at Seville, translated and edited for the Hakluyt Society by Irene A. Wright. It covers the years 1583 to 1594 and, like the two preceding volumes, gives the contemporary reports of high Spanish officials and others of happenings in the Caribbean Sea hitherto known only from English sources. Here are many fascinating sidelights on the campaign of Drake in 1585-6, and of the doings of Sir Richard Grenville and other seamen of those stirring Elizabethan days.

—S.D.W.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

THE TREASURY OF HUMOROUS QUOTATIONS (Phoenix House,

English price 12.6), is an English edition, by Nicolas Bentley, of the original anthology by Evan Esar. Mr. Bentley's task has been to subtract about 500 American quotations and replace them with alternatives (mostly from English sources), but the quantity of unfamiliar wit and epigram remaining is still sufficient to make this indeed a treasury for politicians, after-dinner speakers, and book-reviewers. Authors appear alphabetically (from Franklin P. Adams to Zola), and there is an exhaustive index of subject-matter.

Message of Thanks from Suva

FROM Suva, which she visited after leaving New Zealand, Miss Josephine Schain, who presided over the Pan-Pacific Women's Association Conference in Christchurch earlier this year, has sent thanks and greetings to Jessie McLennan, Supervisor of Women's Programmes for the Commercial Division of the NZBS. She had been most impressed, said Miss Schain, by the interest which had been shown in the Pan-Pacific Conference and by the relatively high percentage of women who had followed the proceedings in Christchurch with the help of radio. Of her lecture tour, made under the auspices of the NZBS, Miss Schain said that it had proved a great experience. The questions put to her by her audiences showed a wide interest in the various subjects which the Conference had discussed, and an intelligent approach to the problems of the day.



JOSEPHINE SCHAIN, who presided at the recent Pan-Pacific Women's Association Conference in Christchurch, photographed during a visit to the Poho-O-Rawiri Meeting House at Gisborne

N.Z. LISTENER, MARCH 21, 1952.