

cesses now being developed for the direct extraction of human food materials from, for example, grass.

—L.J.W.

INTERNATIONAL SET

AND DELILAH. by Neil Paterson; Hodder and Stoughton. English price, 10 6.

ARGO. by George Theotokas, translated from the Greek by E. M. Brooke and A. Tsatsopoulos; Methuen. English price, 12 6.

THE DOG STAR. by Donald Windham; Hart-Davis. English price, 12 6.

APHRA BEHN. by Emily Hahn; Jonathan Cape. English price, 12 6.

THESE four books were written by a Scot, a Greek and two Americans. *And Delilah* is the third book from a Scottish novelist whose first novel was selected by Somerset Maugham as the book of the year 1949. The new collection of short stories is dedicated to Maugham. Like the world they describe, these nine tales of prize-ring, circus, theatre and bull-ring provide professional entertainment. They are like the stories one used to read in the old *Strand*, stories of plot and sharply-drawn character. Such work may not sound the depths of *New Writing* fiction, but, oh, the bright surface!

Argo describes life in Athens University between the two wars. It is half family chronicle, half political novel, Galsworthy plus Koestler in Greek draperies. *The Dog Star* also has Greek affiliations. Donald Windham attempts to give tone to his story of an American delinquent by some fancy references to the legend of Actaeon. Actually, his hero Blackie is a first cousin to Grahame Green's Pinkie, but less impressive. There is a latter-day sentimentality about vice which makes Victorian sentimentality about virtue seem almost healthy.

Emily Hahn in *Aphra Behn* is not the same cheerfully astringent Emily who writes in the *New Yorker*. Just as English writers in U.S. papers and magazines come down a peg or two when writing for the Americans, so too apparently Americans living in England modify their style when addressing the native Briton.

—D.N.W.

GERMAN DIPLOMAT

MEMOIRS OF ERNST VON WEIZÄCKER. Victor Gollancz. English price, 16.

AFTER serving in the German navy for nearly 20 years, during which time he fought through World War I and took part in the Battle of Jutland, Ernst von Weizäcker transferred to the German Foreign Office, of which he became head in 1938—soon after von Ribbentrop succeeded Baron von Neurath as Foreign Minister. Already disgusted with the Nazi regime, more especially by Hitler's massacre of Roehm's party in June, 1934, Weizäcker was horrified to hear Ribbentrop explain his policy, and still more horrified at the character of the man himself. "It seemed to me," he writes, "that instead of me, my brother, the Professor of Internal Medicine and Nervous Diseases at Heidelberg, should be attached to the Minister."

In spite of profound misgivings, however, he felt compelled by duty to remain at his post. A lunatic like Ribbentrop, who in any case could not last long, needed someone to check the extravagance of his folly whenever possible. So Weizäcker stayed on at the

Foreign Office until 1943 (when he went as German Ambassador to the Vatican), and made various unsuccessful attempts to preserve peace. In 1938 he sent secret warning to Chamberlain that Hitler really meant business of the most disastrous kind, and at the same time he encouraged Sir Nevile Henderson to make it clear beyond all doubt to the Nazi leaders that Britain would really fight if necessary. In 1940 he advised Sumner Welles, behind his own chief's back, to start a peace move with Hitler, using Mussolini as mediator.

These clandestine activities went undiscovered, but Weizäcker claims to have openly opposed Ribbentrop on several occasions—most notably as regards his views on war with Russia in 1941. I use the word "claims" advisedly, because it is difficult to understand how Weizäcker kept his position if he really did oppose Hitler and Ribbentrop as persistently as he maintains. Naturally enough, he is anxious to clear himself of the stigma attaching to one who worked with Nazis. The intention pervades his pages, but the case he presents has weaknesses that are not easily ignored. As an exposure of what took place on the other side of the hill this book is of great interest and importance; as an essay in self-justification I find it not altogether convincing.

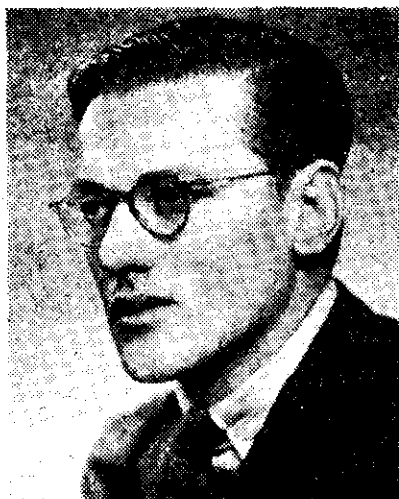
—R. M. Burdon

BRILLIANT DU MAURIERS

IT'S ONLY THE SISTER. by Angela Du Maurier; Peter Davies. English price, 12 6.

TO be closely connected with the great is a responsibility, says Angela du Maurier in her autobiography, and she herself was too timid to compete, for mediocrity was unknown among the du Mauriers. As a child she was indulged, and she continued to indulge herself as she grew up. It is pleasant to read of those gay and gallant Twenties when girls made the most of their newly won

(continued on next page)



Spencer Digby photograph

ZB BOOK REVIEW for March 30 promises a wide variety in subject-matter. Jim Henderson (above) will be reviewing "School for Love," by Olivia Manning, and "Adam and Eve in America," by Luigi Olivero; "Edwardian Scrapbook," by John Gore, is to be discussed by Alan Mulgan; Oliver Duff will review "Great Farmers," by James A. Scott Watson and May Elliott Hobbs; and O. A. Gillespie will review R. O. Hennings's "African Morning."



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