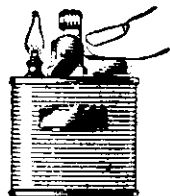




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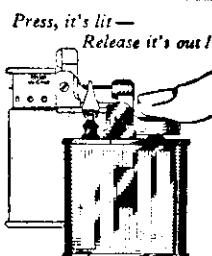
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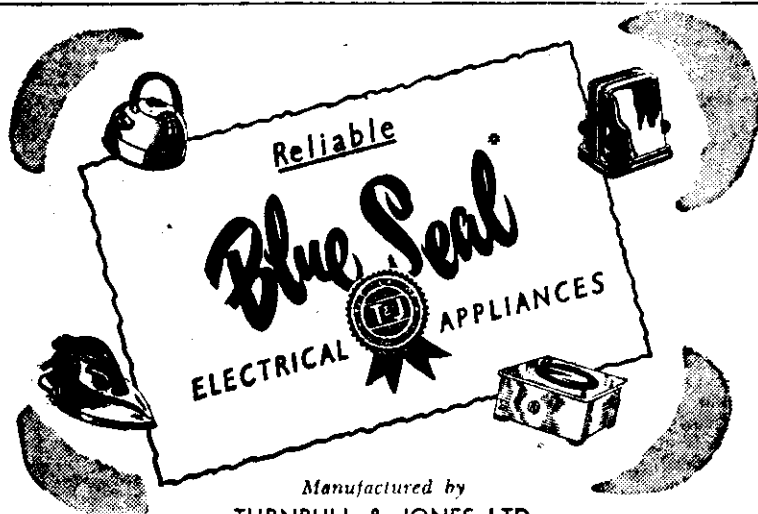
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I.A.S.

## BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

over 40 years ago smoothed the path to the welfare state.

The book is well-compressed, restrained and readable.

—W. B. Sutch

### PLOTS AND HAZARDS

**JUDGMENT ON DELTCHIEV**, by Eric Ambler; Hodder and Stoughton. English price, 10/6. **MR. BLESSINGTON'S PLOT**, by John Sherwood; Hodder and Stoughton. English price, 9/6. **NOW OR NEVER**, by Manning Coles; Hodder and Stoughton. English price, 9/6. **A ROUGH SHOOT**, by Geoffrey Household; Michael Joseph. English price, 8/6. **THE RED TASSEL**, by David Dodge; Michael Joseph. English price, 9/6.

IT is instructive to compare the first three of these thrillers. The John Sherwood and Eric Ambler are concerned with plot and counter-plot in satellite States behind the Iron Curtain; the Manning Coles with a Nazi plot in Germany. Sherwood and Coles tell of secret service, and though Eric Ambler's Englishman goes to a Communist country to report a treason trial objectively, he gets drawn into conspiracy. The difference is in approach and treatment. There is an element of humour and even gaiety in *Now or Never* (not the best Manning Coles, but that is not a condemnation), and *Mr. Blessington's Plot*. Tommy Hambledon's unofficial London assistants are in good comic form. Mr. Blessington, outwardly the conventional English civil servant complete with umbrella, but most effective with hand and brain when trouble comes, is a foil to the closely packed hazards of the story. In each story is a love romance. Eric Ambler includes no such reliefs in his picture of Communist terror. There is no romance, no extraneous humour, no suggestion that contact with evil may be a lark. For this reason his book is much the most telling of the three.

The Dorset man who is caught up in a coil of trouble because, while out

shooting, he accidentally kills a supposed black-market poacher, may be a descendant of the fugitive in *The Thirty-nine Steps*. His flight from the gang he has flushed is about as hectic as anything of the kind; the reader may get lost in the maze. *A Rough Shoot* is a competently written story, with an authentic flavour of the countryside, but despite the warning "It cannot happen here," I suggest that, as a subject, fascist plotting in England is being overdone.

*The Red Tassel* took me to my high est altitude (geographical) in fiction—17,000 feet at a Bolivian mine. It is agreeable travelling in entirely new country with a beautiful and lively American woman who is to see her property for the first time, and a knowledgeable stranger she has engaged at La Paz as detective and adviser. There is attempted murder on the way, and strange happenings at the mine, but I found the local conditions—the landscape, the effects of the atmosphere, the transport llamas, the Indians, and the Catholic priest, at least as interesting as the plot.

—A.M.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*THE LOVERS*, by Robert Payne; William Heinemann; Australian price, 10/6. A further volume in a series of Chinese novels devoted to the lives of three children.

*THREE NOVELS*, by Frances Parkinson Keyes; Odhams Press, through Whitcombe and Tombs; N.Z. price, 13/3. The best-selling novel reprinted here are *The Old Grey Homestead*, *Queen Anne's Lace* and *The Career of David Noble*.

THE morning "Health in the Home" programme, heard from the YA and YZ stations, will be broadcast at 9.4 a.m. on April 15 instead of 9.30, as usual.

## Chamber Music Recitals

FOUR concert artists from Australia who will tour New Zealand during April and May to give chamber music recitals under the auspices of the New Zealand Federation of Chamber Music Societies, will be heard by radio audiences in nine chamber music broadcasts. Jiri Tancibudek (oboe) will be accompanied by his pianist wife, Vera, while the violinist Adam Kriegel will have with him Daniel Koletz, recently accompanist to Ricardo Odnoposoff. Mrs. Tancibudek will also play in trio recitals. The first relay broadcast to be heard in New Zealand will be the first half of the concert given by Tancibudek and Kriegel in Auckland, and this will be heard from 1YC on Thursday, April 17, at 8.0 p.m.

Kriegel and the Tancibudeks will be heard in trio, duo and solo performances from the following stations: 1YC, April 17; 2XG, April 22; 2YC, April 26; 3YC, April 28; 3XC, April 30; 4YC, May 4 (studio); 2YC, May 8 or 9 (relay or studio); 1XH, May 17; and 1YC, May 20.

### Red Cloak and Dagger

*UNDER THE RED ROBE*, a cloak-and-dagger story of 17th Century France, has been read by a great number of people since Stanley J. Weyman

wrote it more than 50 years ago. It's still being read today, and, in fact, is probably the one novel by which many people know the author. The France of *Under the Red Robe* is the France of Cardinal Richelieu, that "grey eminence" before whom even the King quailed. When the story was dramatised as a six-part serial by the BBC last year a New Zealander, Peter Bathurst, had the part of Gils de Berault, the hero of the story, and Richelieu, who sends him on a treacherous mission, was played by Robert Farquharson. The novel was adapted for broadcasting by David Stringer and production was by Ayton Whitaker. *Under the Red Robe* is already being heard from 3YA at 9.30 p.m. on Mondays, and it will start from 1YA at 8.28 p.m. this Saturday, April 12, and from 2YD at 9.30 p.m. on Sunday, April 13.

### Clean Platters

ONE member of our party set himself to train three young Eskimos as domestic servants. By waiting upon them at table himself for several days he taught them that curious rite," said J. M. Scott, in a BBC talk, "As the Eskimo Sees Us." "But he could not persuade them to wash dirty plates. At last he threatened the worst fate of all—that they would be sent away—if the plates were not clean at the next meal. They were clean, all right. The Eskimos gave them to the dogs to lick."

N.Z. LISTENER, APRIL 10, 1952.