

Kelly's book is based on Wilson's translation, many pages of which are reproduced word for word without any acknowledgment either to McNab or Wilson. The volume is merely listed amongst the authorities. In effect, therefore, Mr. Kelly's original contribution to this interesting volume is limited to a close topographical study of the scene and identification of the features named, and the acquisition from the French Archives (through the medium of M. Armand Gazel, Minister Plenipotentiary in New Zealand) of hitherto unavailable documents and charts.

—G.H.S.

PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES

THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, by J. E. Meade; Oxford University Press. English price, 30/-.

PROFESSOR MEADE, of the University of London, one of the best British economists, was formerly Director of the Economic Section of the Cabinet Secretariat; it is probably this experience that has led him to write on the theory of economic policy. This, his first of a series, deals not with specific United Kingdom problems, but rather with the contribution that theory can make in the choice of principles for balance of payments policies. Inevitably, therefore, it deals with full employment and the balance of payments (a subject very important indeed for us in New Zealand); the effect of inflationary or deflationary policies on the balance; exchange depreciation and exchange control; discrimination between hard and soft currencies; and multilateralism and bilateralism.

If this book had been published 25 years ago it would have been epoch-making; now that it deals with concepts and policies known to us all, it can only be a bulwark, a welcome one for all that, against those who insist that economic life should be left to the hidden hand. The author himself favours measures rather than controls—to wit, avoidance of domestic inflations and de-

flations, variable exchange rates and adjustment of trade to alterations in price relationships.

—W. B. Sutch

MEN ON MARS

THE SILVER LOCUSTS, by Ray Bradbury; Rupert Hart Davis. English price, 12/6.

THE SILVER LOCUSTS purports to give a series of vignettes of events occurring in the years following 1999 A.D., when travel begins from the earth to Mars. The "silver locusts" are the gleaming rockets that bring disaster and the inhabitants of earth to the Martians. There is some superficial resemblance between Mr. Bradbury's work and the fantasies of C. S. Lewis, but Mr. Bradbury, though anxious to point a moral, seems less restrictively pious than Mr. Lewis. He enters with immense gusto into the details of his weirdnesses and shows a very rich visual imagination. The central theme of the reaction of the visitors from earth to the remnants of the immensely old and sophisticated Martian civilisation is worked out energetically and economically. "The next afternoon Parkhill did some target practice in one of the dead cities, shooting out the crystal windows and blowing the tops off the fragile towers. The captain caught Parkhill and knocked his teeth out."

The *New Statesman and Nation* found *The Silver Locusts* very bad and expressed dismay that it had been praised by Christopher Isherwood. The present reviewer takes his humble stand behind Mr. Isherwood in this matter.

—Hubert Witheford

STUDIES IN REALISM

MORNING STAR, by J. L. Hodson; Victor Gollancz. English price, 12/6.

THE FLOWER IN THE GUTTER, by Ion Braby; Michael Joseph. English price, 12/6.

THE SLOW TRAIN HOME, by Dorothy Cowlin; Jonathan Cape. English price, 12/6.

COME AGAIN, by Sarah Campion; Peter Davies. English price, 9/6.

MR. HODSON and Mr. Braby, in their different ways, have written a pair of admirable realistic novels, which set together shock and startle by the contrast they form. Mr. Hodson's story is of a newspaper in the north of England and the fight of its editor, a 19th Century Liberal at heart, to save it from absorption into a combine. The issue is the preservation of individuality. The colour and character of Lancashire makes enjoyable reading, but somehow seems to belong to a past age. Mr. Braby has taken his theme from Berlin under the Russian occupation, starting in the last days of German resistance and continuing into the early occupation period. The issue is survival. The dreary, hopeless monotony, punctuated with bursts of panic or violence, is perfectly recaptured; the book is almost unbearably dreary to read, but it is a superb piece of work.

Dorothy Cowlin's story, also of Northern England, is slighter but good work all the same. Her picture of the hero's reintegration is too external to be convincing, but the background and other

(continued on next page)

NURSING STAFF

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PAT LAWLOR, who will have two books to review in the May 11 session of ZB Book Review—"A Single Lady and Other Stories," by Mary Lavin, and "The Lagoon and Other Stories," by Janet Frame. Other books to be discussed the same evening will be: "Speak Memory," by Vladimir Nabokov (Kenneth Melvin); "Moulin Rouge," by Pierre la Mure, and "The Second Face," by Marcel Aymé (Anton Vogt); "Hangsamen," by Shirley Jackson, and "Say No To Death," by Dymphna Cusack (Marie Bullock)