

BOOKS (Cont'd.)

(continued from previous page)

tion to both reader and subject by permitting Lawrence, as often as possible, to speak for himself." He claims in a foreword to offer "information, interpretation, and evaluation"; but how the second of these functions can be fulfilled without relegating Lawrence's view of Lawrence to the background, or the third fulfilled at all by one who holds that "Lawrence . . . has little resemblance to any other author," is not clear. One would have thought that evaluation involved comparison and therefore characteristics in common with other authors. In short, the book suffers from the specialist's fallacy, the idea that it is enough to know everything about something; both Dr. Moore's commentary on the works and his style show regrettable signs of insufficient acquaintance with the best of English literature.

What his book does contain, however, is a fuller account than any yet given of Lawrence's youth, in particular of his school-teaching years, and a very complete analytical commentary on all his publications. This commentary, in spite of occasional banalities and lapses of taste, is a useful introduction for those who have not read enough Lawrence to get an over-all impression of his achievement. The most illuminative of Dr. Moore's biographical discoveries is an

estimate of him by his supervisor at the teachers' college at Nottingham: in it the brilliant young man, "well-read, scholarly and refined . . . fastidious in taste . . . emphatically a teacher of upper classes . . . (tending) to teach the best pupils exclusively," suddenly comes to life as he does not in Dr. Moore's more laboured prose. The transition from the typical young artist to the sex-obsessed prophet of doom unfortunately remains comparatively obscure, owing to Dr. Moore's exterior treatment of his subject.

—D. M. Anderson

ACTOR'S DAUGHTER

DRESS REHEARSAL, by Monica Stirling; Victor Gollancz. English price, 10. 6.

THE blurb on the jacket is misleading. I started off thinking this was to be a novel about high life behind the proscenium arch. Instead, I found myself in an English—very English—school for young ladies.

I have become faintly allergic to troubled childhoods and introspective adolescences, but was agreeably taken with Monica Stirling's heroine, Jocelyn is young at the time of the Abdication, she goes to one of Mosley's meetings, she adores the early Marlene Dietrich, she hears the first rumblings of Hitler's anti-semitism. She is revealed in quick strokes as at once sensitive and hard-boiled. Daughter of professional actors, she brings a continental background into a world of stewed prunes, giggles, quiet

talks, and deportment. The result is easy reading, enjoyable and often very funny.

—Isobel Andrews

WAR AT SEA

BUSINESS IN GREAT WATERS, *The War History of the P. and O., 1939-1945*, by George F. Kerr; Faber and Faber. English price, 12/6.

FOR close on 100 years the P. and O.

Line has served Britain in time of war or the threat of it, beginning with the China Wars and followed by the rebellion in Ceylon, the Crimea, the Russian scare, South Africa and World War I. Thus when on August 24, 1939, the directors received a telegram from the Admiralty, "Your vessel Rawalpindi is hereby requisitioned for Government service," it was familiar routine. This well-illustrated volume tells the story of the part played by the company's ships in World War II as troopers, armed merchant cruisers and freighters, of the loss by enemy action of the lives of 123 officers and men in the company's service, and of 19 of the fleet of 36 ships. It is a valuable addition to the records of the war at sea.

—D.K.M.

AMONG THE TURKS

TURKISH CROSSROADS, by Bernard Newman; Robert Hale. English price, 18/-.

TURKEY's needs include roads, machinery and technicians; but her greatest need is twenty years' peace, which nobody can guarantee. The Turks will discuss matters of opinion, but they stand firm on questions of principle and their stand is not based on ignorance of

FIVE books are to be discussed in the ZB Book Review session on Sunday evening, May 18. They are: "Merry Hall," by Beverley Nichols (reviewer, Lillian Scott); "The Amazing Thames," by John Grainger (W. H. Graham); "Mission With Mountbatten," by Alan Campbell Johnson (J. J. Saunders); "Men of Other Planets," by Kenneth Heuer, and "Exploration of Space," by A. C. Clarke (K. Walter Roth).

the dangers facing them. In this stand, says Mr. Newman, the Turk will be a worthy partner with the democracies of the West. The author takes his readers from Istanbul and the modern concrete of Ankara to the mountains of Erzerum and Smyrna, and gives up-to-date impressions of the country, serious and surprising.

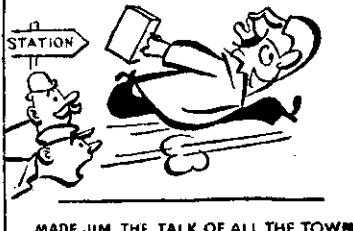
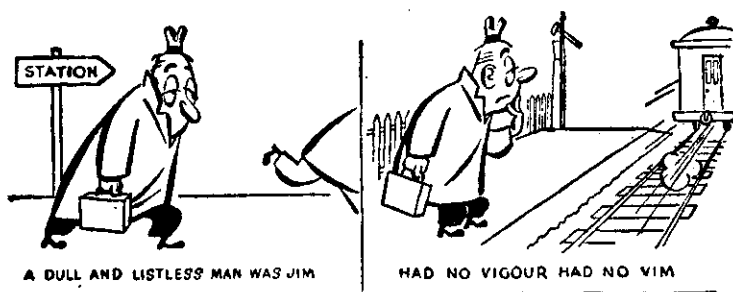
—E.R.B.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

PLASTICS, by H. R. Fleck; Temple Press; English price, 40/-. The third edition of a standard work on the plastics industry.

THE BIBLE IN PICTURES, edited by the Rev. Ralph Kirby; Odhams Press, through Whitcombe and Tombs; N.Z. price, 15/9.

FOR lovers of Dickens, *The Old Curiosity Shop* and *Martin Chuzzlewit* (Geoffrey Cumberlege, Oxford University Press, English prices, 10/6 and 12/6 respectively) have been re-issued with plates remade from the original drawings of the first editions.



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