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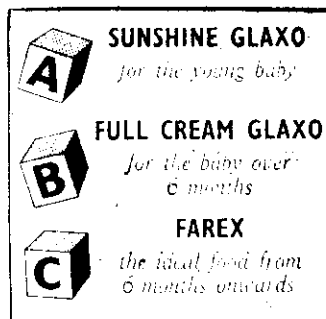
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BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

eyes of a captive English journalist, the author shows the gradual fading away of power, the slow weakening, and the steady approach of a nemesis which had been catching up with the bandit ever since he led his first raiding party out of the hills. Although this is only a second novel, the author shows considerable maturity in his handling of sustained suspense.

With the aid of a few light—almost skittish—touches, William Cooper has made his story of *The Struggles of Albert Woods* the story of the struggles of Everyman. Who has not imagined some mystery about his birth? Who has not been exceedingly secretive about his humble beginnings during his youth, and outrageously proud of them (provided that he has been successful enough) during his old age? Albert Woods is no exception. His progress from a bunsen burner in a Polytechnic school to a Fellowship in the Royal Society is marked with all the disconcerting ups and downs which Fate reserves for the mediocre who are determined to disprove their mediocrity. Albert Woods is, in fact, the Little Man.

The Burnaby Experiments, by Stephen Gilbert, is a queer tangle of scientific spiritualism, psychology and pantheism. The story starts convincingly enough, and it is undoubtedly well written, but its conclusion is weak. The contrast between the adolescent Marcus and the elderly Mr. Burnaby is sympathetically drawn, but the Jekyll and Hyde confusion of character at the end of the book is, even on the story's own premisses, impossible.

—PIC

CENTRAL ASIA

TIRICH MIR, THE NORWEGIAN HIMALAYA EXPEDITION, by Arne Naess and others, translated by Solvi and Richard Bateson; Hodder and Stoughton. English price, 21/-.

THE first ascent of Tirich Mir, 25,264 feet, by Norwegian mountaineers was an exciting enterprise. Their preparations, journeys through Pakistan to Chitral and beyond, reconnaissance in 1949, sturdy pioneering up the South Barum glacier, success in 1950 and conclusions are vividly and modestly described in an effective translation. Though the book loses continuity by not having one author throughout, it gains in variety and in specialist information from contributions by expedition members who emerge as young men of sense and courage. The general tenor of the narrative is even and conventional, with an occasional dash of exuberance. New Zealand climbers will admire the technical ability of the Norwegians and find interest in their use of snow caves at high altitudes. There are many practical hints for future expeditions. The book has good photographs and sketch maps, but no index.

—John Pascoe

UNITED NATIONS

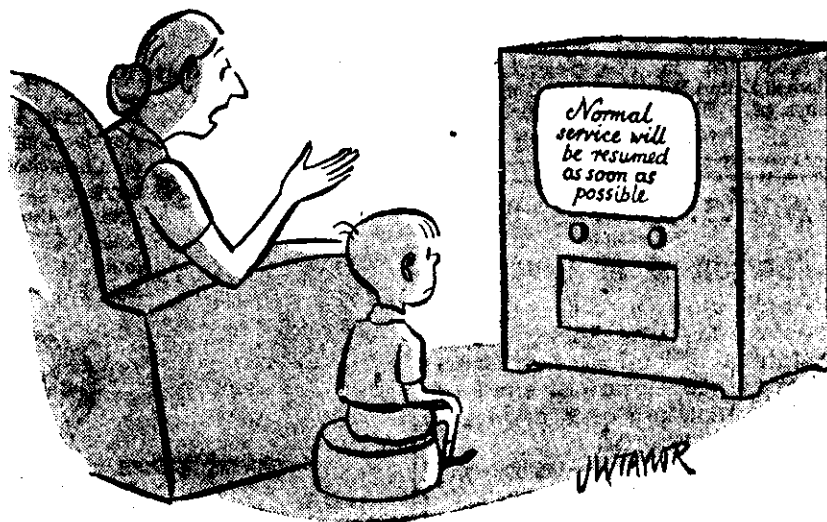
YEARBOOK OF THE UNITED NATIONS, 1951, published by the Department of Public Information, United Nations, New York, and available from United Nations Association of New Zealand, G.P.O. Box 1011, Wellington, N.Z. price, £4.10.-.

A WORK of this magnitude—1030 large pages, printed in double columns—cannot be expected to come out quickly enough to supply last-minute or very recent information. The new volume, fifth of the series, describes in detail the work of United Nations in 1951, though it also covers the sixth session of the General Assembly, which adjourned on February 5, 1952. Much of the material has therefore been dwarfed in popular interest by the more difficult session during which the Secretary-General, Mr. Trygve Lie, announced his resignation. But the value of the reports remains undisturbed for students and historians. And the book as a whole is immensely valuable for reference. In addition to reporting the activities of UN in 1951, it glances at the history of the organisation, describes its structure and the functions of its major organs, and gives full attention to the work of the specialised agencies. A comprehensive index completes the Yearbook's usefulness. Large though this volume may seem, it gives wonderfully condensed treatment to activities which elsewhere are spread through innumerable reports. Only those who have discovered for themselves the documents which pour out from United Nations and its agencies will fully understand and value the achievement.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

CHILD ADOPTION IN THE MODERN WORLD, by Margaret Kornitzer; Putnam, English price 16/-.

A comprehensive handbook for prospective adopters, welfare workers and others, including a chapter on the position in Australia and New Zealand.



"See—you can't enjoy it if you won't learn to read"

(C) Punch

N.Z. LISTENER, MAY 8, 1953.