

remote but still potent past. It is this shock that emerges again and again from C. W. Ceram's *Gods, Graves and Scholars*, published in Germany in 1949 and now translated into English. Ceram discusses separately, and very vividly, the history of archaeological research into the Hellenic culture, Egypt, the Sumerian lands, and Middle America. The emphasis is put frankly on the picturesque incident and personality. Thus Ceram does not discuss the Incas, although almost as much is known of them as of the Mayas, because "there is neither a Stephens nor a Thompson among the archaeologists who worked in the Andes." And when we read of Thompson descending in his diving-suit into the Mayan Well of Sacrifice at Chichen-itza (permanently injuring his hearing in the process) we do not feel inclined to cavil at Ceram's canons of selection. This is not to say that the book does not cope with situations of considerable complexity. One of these (and one of the most stimulating chapters of the book) arises from the nature of the finds that Schliemann made by taking Homer literally.

Ceram seems to me to have succeeded admirably in his stated intention of achieving for archaeology the dramatic presentation given by Paul De Kruif to medical science, that of "leading the reader by the hand along the same road that the scientists themselves have traversed from the moment truth was first glimpsed until the goal was gained."

—Hubert Witheford

SCIENCE AND THE LITTLE MAN

THE NET, by John Pudney; Michael Joseph. English price, 12/6. *THE SPOLETTA STORY*, by James Dillon White; Heinemann. English price, 12/6. *THE STRUGGLES OF ALBERT WOODS*, by William Cooper; Jonathan Cape. English price, 12/6. *THE BURNABY EXPERIMENTS*, by Stephen Gilbert; Faber and Faber. English price, 15/-.

GENERALLY speaking, novels about science are more interesting than novels about scientists. Science, after all, represents Discovery with a capital D; scientists are only dull people with heads full of mathematics. It's pleasant, therefore, to find a book like *The Net* which reverses things. Here, the lives of scientists working under the strain of modern secret research are absorbingly dealt with. We are shown, not the fabulous results of research and experiment, but their effects on the minds and lives of those whose task it is to bring them about. In these effects John Pudney finds the roots of pride, love and treachery.

Pride, love and treachery figure largely, too, in *The Spoletta Story*, James Dillon White's account of the last days of a Sicilian bandit. Through the

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