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BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

enemies, in this polished selection from his stories of England, Morocco and Spain, the South American and Mexican yarns, and extracts from the histories of the Spanish Conquistadores.

—P.J.W.

CRISIS ECONOMY

THE BRITISH ECONOMY, 1945-1950. edited by G. D. N. Worswick and P. H. Ady; Oxford University Press. English price, 35/-.

THOSE who study economic change know that during the Second World War Great Britain paid out £4,000,000,000 more than she earned. This was financed by selling foreign investments, incurring foreign debts and diminishing the gold reserves. After the war Great Britain found she had lost markets and lost income, and owed thousands of millions of pounds to other countries. Since then, every two years, there has been an economic crisis.

But what has been happening inside Great Britain? This book of over 500 pages is an attempt by Oxford teaching and research economists to guide the student to the answers. The chapters are divided into six groups dealing with national income, the structure of the British economy at the end of the war, economic development and policies, the social services, industrial organisation and policies, and Britain and overseas. In addition, there is an extended bibliography covering, first, essential reading under each heading and, secondly, wider and more specialised reading. Thus, if one wants to study intra-European payments, resale price maintenance, G.A.T.T., commodity agreements, trade unions, direct controls, nationalisation, the location of industry, subsidies and incentives, and much more—then here is a ready-made bibliography. If one wants only a general

picture of the raw materials, here are some of the basic facts and statistics with an explanation of what they may mean.

—W.B.S.

THE DICTATOR

THE LIFE AND DEATH OF STALIN, by Louis Fischer; Jonathan Cape. English price, 16/-.

IN fairness to readers it must be explained that this book arrived two days before the announcement of Stalin's death. Its last chapter, from which part of the title is taken, is mostly speculation on what would happen in the Kremlin when Stalin's rule was ended. The greater part of the book is an account of the dictator's life and work. Mr. Fischer was in Russia for 14 years and is an experienced journalist. It is impossible to judge how carefully he has treated the facts, and his attitude is by no means detached. But he has an eye for dramatic detail; he has personal knowledge of the earlier part of the story; and he claims to have had access to new material. He is also very readable.

FISH AND PAN

PROSPECTING FOR GOLD, by W. F. Heinz, and *FISHING IN THE SOUTHERN LAKES*, by Adair McMaster (N.Z. Holiday Guides Nos. 6 and 7); Pegasus Press, 3/6 each.

THEY are so admirably suited to their purpose that it is easy to be enthusiastic about these little booklets. Covers are bright, type is clear, photographs and diagrams admirably complement the text, and the decorations (some of them Mervyn Taylor woodcuts) are a delightful "extra." Both writers are knowledgeable enthusiasts. Listeners will remember Mr. Heinz's talks on fossicking, and Mr. McMaster, in singing the praises of South Island fishing, performs a service long overdue. Proof-reading has occasionally been careless, but even with that blemish these pocket guides are worthwhile. Number Seven might, with profit, be sent overseas in quantity.

Religion

PROBLEMS OF BELIEF

SOME of the problems that worry sincere doubters in religion will be discussed by a psychiatrist and priests of different denominations in a series of three programmes from 4YC entitled *Problems of Religious Belief*. The programmes will be chaired by Philip Nevill, grand-nephew of the former Bishop of Dunedin, and the psychiatrist, who will appear in each discussion, is Dr. Geoffrey Blake Palmer. The other speakers are the Rev. Fr. L. T. McArdle, O.D., who is in charge of the construction of the Dominican university students' hall of residence in North Dunedin, the Rev. Fr. F. W. B. Perkins, O.G.S., warden of Selwyn College, and the Rev. J. G. Matheson, minister of Knox Presbyterian Church.

The first programme, to be heard at 8.0 p.m. on Saturday, June 13, from 4YC, will discuss the problem of "Sin and Punishment." The speakers will attempt to answer the question, Is man really morally responsible for his actions, and if not, how can we reconcile the punishment we are told he will receive for sin with the idea of an all-powerful and all-loving God? Fr. Mc-

Ardle and Fr. Perkins will discuss this question with Dr. Blake Palmer.

The second programme, to be heard on the following Saturday, will discuss "The Problem of Suffering." This is perhaps the most common stumbling block to religious belief. The question will be, Why does an all-powerful and loving God allow the pain and suffering there is in the world? Mr. Matheson and Fr. McArdle will discuss this with Dr. Blake Palmer.

The third programme discusses "Inequality of Native Endowment." The apparent randomness of creation is the point at issue here. Why does God create people with physical and mental handicaps while making others geniuses? The speakers, beside Dr. Blake Palmer, will be Mr. Matheson and, Fr. Perkins.

Another programme on the problem of belief soon to be broadcast is called *Belief in God*, in which a rationalist argues with a minister of religion. The speakers are Professor G. E. Hughes, Professor of Philosophy at Victoria University College and a priest of the Church of England, and John Bowden, J.P., of Sydney, a well-known Australian rationalist. The chairman is A. K. Turner, Q.C., of Auckland. The programme is the first of a planned series called *Argument*, which has been designed to bring together widely-differing opinions on questions of ultimate personal thinking. The broadcast date of *Belief in God* will be announced later.

N.Z. LISTENER, JUNE 5, 1953.