

## BOOKS (Cont'd.)

parish clergyman, and a young girl caught between love and safety are the main ingredients in Grace Allen's solid but unexhilarating story of the New England upper classes.

The third American novel, *Invisible Man*, is Ralph Ellison's powerful and defiant exacerbation of the Negro problem, scene Harlem. Some coloured writers have got to think of themselves as human beings first, Negroes second. Mr. Ellison is not one of them. But he is a connoisseur of rare states of mind.

Yes, all these are novels—good novels even—but please don't ask me to certify their pedigrees.

—David Hall

### ROUND TRIP

*DOCTOR AT SEA*, by Richard Gordon; Michael Joseph. English price, 10 6.

MANY who enjoyed Richard Gordon's *Doctor in the House*, which described his student days, will have been eagerly awaiting his promised *Doctor at Sea*. This book tells of the amusing adventures of the author, now fully qualified but lacking clinical experience, when he signed on for a round trip in a cargo ship.

An introductory note says "the Lotus and her crew are as fictitious as the Flying Dutchman, and her insubstantial company." Dr. Gordon's penetrating descriptions of his characters make it difficult to believe that Lotus and her crew exist only in his imagination. The

amusement extracted by the author from the daily life at sea, and the accuracy of impressions achieved with economy of words, combine to make *Doctor at Sea* a must for everyone who likes humorous writing.

—B.C.

### WEEKEND CRIME

*ASSIZE PAGEANT*, by W. Lloyd Woodland; Harrap. English price, 10 6. *IN THE TRACKS OF CRIME*, edited by Henry T. F. Rhodes; Turnstile. English price, 13 6.

THE first of these two books offers the memoirs and records of an official shorthand writer in the criminal courts (Hampshire Assizes). The numerous readers of crime and detection histories will find this one better than most. Confident opinions are expressed on controversial problems and technical matters, but they won't spoil anyone's enjoyment. The factual part is done with care.

In the *Tracks of Crime* justly claims for itself that it is a weekend book for the amateur criminologist. It contains articles from a number of sources on crime detection and penology, including an extract from the evidence before the Lynskey Tribunal. It is an adequate popular survey of the subjects, more for entertainment than study.

—F. J. Foot

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*PSYCHOLOGY*, by William McDougall; Home University Library; Oxford University Press; English price,

## MATURE JANE AUSTEN

WHEN the dramatisation of Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park* was broadcast by the BBC last year the radio critic of *The Scotsman* said: "Though scarcely a rabid Janeite myself, I own that the domestic flurries and matrimonial scurreries of this particular work, with its tinge of acidity, came over most rewardingly. . . ." Now to be heard from National stations of the NZBS as a nine-part serial, *Mansfield Park* was the first novel of Jane Austen's maturity. *Pride and Prejudice*, *Northanger Abbey* and *Sense and Sensibility*, in which she gave her sense of fun full play, were written before she was 25. She was in her thirties when she began her second

trio with *Mansfield Park*. "For the first time," wrote Frank Swinnerton (when he introduced this serial in the *Radio Times*). "she took a heroine who lacked confidence in herself. . . . For the first time she allowed her heroine residence in a great house. For the first time, also, she had intricately considered the structure of her work. *Mansfield Park* is thus less amusing, less spontaneously merry than its predecessors, and more complex. Whereas the comic characters of the earlier books have been openly ridiculous, Mrs. Norris is profoundly shown with all-comprehending irony. No wonder Mr. Maugham regards *Mansfield Park* as Jane Austen's masterpiece!"

This radio version of *Mansfield Park* is in the hands of two women. Thea Holme, who adapted it and acts as narrator, also broadcast in her own version of *Northanger Abbey*; and Mary Hope Allen, who produced it, will be remembered as producer also of the BBC version of *Pride and Prejudice*. The players include Charles Cameron, Lydia Sherwood, Gladys Young and Peggy Bryan.

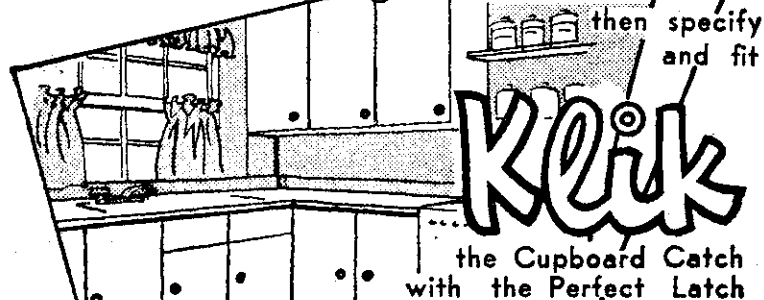
*Mansfield Park* will start from 3YC at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 1 (repeating from 3YA the following Sunday), and from 2XN at 8.15 p.m. on Sunday, July 5. Later it will be heard from other National stations.

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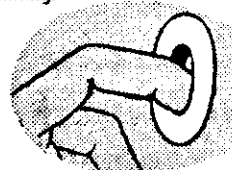
*LIFE WITH THE LYONS*, the autobiography of Bebe Daniels and Ben Lyon; Odhams Press, N.Z. price 20/-. A gossip story of show people, illustrated with photographs which go back to the silent films.

*POINTS* No. 15, edited by Sinbad Vail; 7, Rue Bernard-Palissy, Paris 6e, France; 3/-. This bi-lingual quarterly, sub-titled "The Magazine of Young Writers," contains some very lively stories, poems and reviews.

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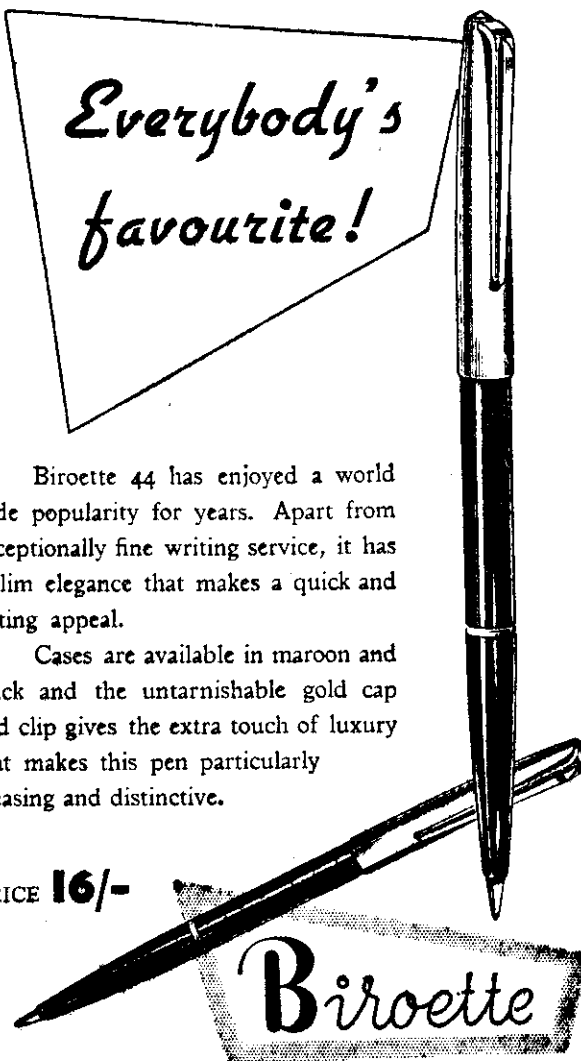
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