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BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

to fight in the Great War. His autobiography (which was first published in 1938) is partly the story of the disillusionment of England in the 1920s, and partly a description of the friends of Isherwood's youth, among whom young W. H. Auden and Stephen Spender appear in slight disguise. But it is mainly the story of the development of a promising novelist. In 1938 Christopher Isherwood was the great hope of English fiction. *Lions and Shadows* does not explain why he failed to mature completely, but it does show clearly the influence of André Gide on the author of *Mr. Norris Changes Trains*—as much in the author's pose of introspective, cynical failure, as in the fact that this is also, in part, the story of a young man writing a book called *Lions and Shadows*. —P.J.W.

TRAVEL AND POLITICS

BEYOND THE HIGH HIMALAYAS. by William O. Douglas; Victor Gollancz. English price, 16s.

THE author, a judge of the Supreme Court of U.S.A., and a personage in the Democratic Party, provides a travel tale with a strong political flavour, and some political wisdom including the discovery "how easy it would be for warm-hearted, tolerant, understanding America to become the revolutionary force of the world. All we would need do would be to restate our articles of faith in Asian terms and... (become) obsessed with winning by ideas of freedom rather than by dollars and guns."

Apart from politics, there is a good story of the topography, products and trade, and of the religion and customs of the peoples of North-West India—of the lands bordering Sinkiang and

Tibet, and especially of Ladakh which politically is part of Pakistan, but ethnologically and culturally is of Tibet.

—L.J.W.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THE BURLESQUE TRADITION, by V. C. Clinton-Baddeley; Methuen; English price 18s. Invaluable for the specialist in theatrical research, but not of general appeal.

WILL JAMES'S BOOK OF COWBOY STORIES, illustrated by the author; Phoenix House; English price 10s. 6. A collection of authentic stories of cattle-ranching in the American West, by a famous old cowhand.

A GENERAL SELECTION FROM THE WORKS OF SIGMUND FREUD, edited by John Rickman; the Hogarth Press; English price 10s. 6. A new edition of an admirable collection first published in 1937. It includes an abridgement of a famous exposition of Freud's theory of the Ego and the Id.

MONUMENTS and buildings supply most of the subjects for more than 400 photographs in *The World's Greatest Wonders* (Odhams Press, through Whitcombe and Tombs; 18s. 9).

THE FINE ART OF MIXING DRINKS, by David A. Embury; Faber and Faber; English price 25s. People who mix cocktails will find here all the information they need, and much useful advice. But people who merely drink them will also be interested, especially in such chapters as "The Use and Abuse of Liquor," which are written with knowledge, wit and wisdom.

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE PARIS, by Helene MacLean; Putnam and Company; English price 8s. 6. This is no guide book, but a delightful commentary on life in the city and among the French. It has been written with knowledge, humour and great affection.

FOR CHILDREN

BIOGRAPHY AND TRAVEL

CHILDREN who like travel stories or music or both will be interested in two sets of programmes at present going the rounds of the Commercial stations. The travel stories consist of five BBC talks on subjects ranging from the Masai herdsmen of Africa to octopus hunting in the Gilbert Islands. The music series consists of 13 dramatised stories about various composers, produced by the NZBS. Some children will have heard the features before in the Broadcasts to Schools. Many more will want to hear them.

The BBC series starts off with *Everyday Life in Aden*, a talk about the British port which commands the southern entrance of the Red Sea. Situated in the tilted crater of an extinct volcano, Aden is familiar to many travellers as a port of call and as one of the hottest places on earth. *The Sea Dyaks of Sarawak* deals with one of the many peoples who inhabit the British Crown colony in north-east Borneo. It is these people who have given Borneo its association with head-hunting. The tall race of warriors and herdsmen who for centuries have pastured cattle on the plateaux of Kenya and Tanganyika are the subject of the third talk, *With the Masai in East Africa*. The final two talks centre round the Pacific Islands. One, on octopus hunting in the Gilberts, is by Arthur Grimble, whose *Tales from the Pacific*

Islands was mentioned in last week's *Listener*. The other deals largely with the great platforms and monoliths on Easter Island, sculptures which have never yet been satisfactorily explained.

In the musical series there are two programmes each about Haydn, Mozart and Schubert, and single ones about Purcell, J. S. Bach, Handel, Beethoven, Chopin, Brahms and Grieg. Written by Lesley Coleman, the programmes help the listener to visualise these great composers as living human beings. Handel, we find, had trouble learning English, and was very inclined to give up in disgust, with the remark that it was better to go back to music, because in music there was no English and no German. Mozart spent perhaps as much time worrying about his rent as he did on the music that won him fame. And Beethoven is reputed to have invited some guests to dinner, but having forgotten the invitation was found at dinner-time playing the piano in his shirt-tails.

The five BBC programmes are at present being broadcast from 2ZB at 5.30 p.m. on Sundays. They are scheduled to begin from 3ZB on September 9, from 4ZB on December 27, and from 1ZB and 2ZA in March next year. The NZBS series, *They Wrote the Music*, is playing from 4ZB at 5.30 p.m. on Sundays. It begins from 2ZA on October 11, 1ZB on November 1, 2ZB on December 6, and 3ZB on December 31.

N.Z. LISTENER, AUGUST 7, 1953.