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national income figures have enabled Hicks to write more fully on this subject.

One of the advantages of the social accounting approach to economics is that the student can break off his studies after reading and digesting this work and still know something valuable about the subject.

—W.B.S.

#### THE SEARCHING SCHOLAR

ONLY THE SILENT HEAR, by Kenneth Walker: Jonathan Cape. English price, 12.6.

DROBABLY the dedication of this book gives the prospective reader as good an indication of its aims and scope as anything could. It reads: "To those men and women who, despite all professional discouragement continue to seek a philosophy of life this book is dedicated with the author's respect."

In the first chapter the author pictures a scholar wandering through time, asking of the philosophers of the day those ageless questions about the origin of the universe. Was it accident or design? What is man's place in the scheme of things? From time to time throughout the book this imaginary student appears and provides a foil for a series of discussions on the universe and the origin of life on the earth. Both the scientific and the religious view are given, and not only the ideas of the Western religion, but also those of Hinduism, Buddhism and Mohammedanism.

The reader will not find here a readymade philosophy which will provide the elusive answer to his problems, if such a thing exists, but he will find much to stimulate his thought and to persuade him to continue his search. —B.C.

#### EATING IN PARIS

PARIS CUISINE, by Jumes Beard and Alexander Watt: MacGibbon and Kee. English price, 15 -.

HIS book is said to have two purposes: to act as a guide to 60 of the 8000 restaurants in Paris, and to introduce readers to their Spécialités de la Maison, For readers in these remoter parts, however, its main function may be to excite in the travelled a nostalgia for Paris, and to arouse in the stay-athomes an unavailing activity of gastric juices. Once these difficulties have been overcome the book is excellent reading. The 'descriptions of the restaurants and their chefs and other high-ranking personages are full of interest, and the recipes which follow them are among the noblest of their kind. There is even, on the end-papers, a map of Paris with figures to indicate the location of the restaurants. All that is needed is to be in Paris with large numbers of thousandfranc notes: the rest is easy.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

BACK TO MANDALAY, by Lowell Thomas; Shakespeare Head, Australian price 17/6. A popular account, in the Thomas manner, of the exploits in Burma of General Orde Wingate.

BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, edited by A. Haddow; Oxford, at the Clarendon Press. English price 35/-. Papers read at a conference convened by the Institute of Biology and the Atomic Scientists' Association. The treatment throughout is technical.

## Variety from Manchester

ONE of the highlights of the BBC's North Region for something like five years, Ronnie Taylor's fast-moving show Variety Fanfare is soon to be broadcast in New Zealand. The show was born in February, 1948, and ran for 34 weeks in the North of England Service before being taken up on a nation-wide basis by the Light Programme. It is recorded every week at Manchester's Hulme Hippodrome.

Variety Fanlare features many well-known performers, but also gives an opportunity to scores of little-known artists, especially those from the north of England. Among the famous are Frankie Howerd, with his particular brand of flustered craziness; "Two-Ton" Tessie O'Shea, the ukulele-playing singer of stage and films; Rawicz and Landauer, whose names are synonymous with finished technique on two pianos; Barbara Leigh, the Australian soprano, whose name will be familiar to followers of the Much-Binding series; Charlie Chester, the comedian who led a somewhat crazy gang in Stand Easy, a BBC show broadcast by NZBS stations about three years ago; and Tony Fayne and David Evans, whose impressions of sports commentators like John Arlott are uncannily lifelike.

Among the personalities Ronnie Taylor has introduced to the microphone are Morecambe and Wise, a Lancashire pair who will be heard in the opening programme, and Ken Frith, whose "magic pianos" act will be heard in the fourth programme. Listeners will hear Ken playing three pianos simultaneously, striking an average of just under 5000 notes in any one minute. He does it by accompanying two recordings of himself which are synchronised and played back to him over headphones. For every minute he is on the air Ken spends something like three hours in the recording studio. He is the perfect answer to anyone who still thinks show people don't work like navvies for their rich returns. He is not the only unorthodox musician in Variety Fantare, however. There are the Welshmen Albert and Les Ward, who go in for such embellishments as a motor horn and a scrubbing board, and Jimmy Leach and his Organolians, whose equipment ranges from an electronic organ to a double bass and an electric

Variety Fanfare will be broadcast from all ZB stations and 2ZA on Sunday evenings at 7.15 p.m., beginning October 11. The programmes, which are of 30 minutes' duration, are also being broadcast by National stations.



Tessie O'Shed



Frankie Howerd



Barbara Leigh



Charlie Chaster
. BBC photos