



FOR

POWDERS

CONSTIPATION.

MADE IN ENGLAND. AT ALL CHEMISTS.

## BOOKS

(continued from previous page) ather too apparent in some of the work

of the writers I am dealing with todav. Susan Ertz describes with skill and a certain gusto the invasion of a well-to-do English home by a scheming disant relative from Canada and her unattractive son. The adventuress, when her first success as a seductress is hecked, establishes a sort of reproachful and retrospective sincerity by suicide. The Undefended Gate bears

most of the stigmata of the best-seller. In No More Meadows Monica Dickens explores the difficulties of Anglo-damerican marriage with a kind of glib competence which would be more acceptable if she did not always run for cover to densely-growing thickets of domestic detail. Life at the surface level is her forte.

In The Big Chariot two Australian writers go frankly to 17th Century China for a suitable field-for their romantic cravings. This account of the fortunes of two brothers in the conflict between the Ming dynasty and the invading Manchus has its own merit, but would have benefited by a restriction of the action in time.

The emotional difficulties created by the return of a girl after six years of captivity among the aborigines in Australia one hundred years ago provide Helen Heney with a promising theme which she has treated with sincerity, but also with a certain clumsiness. And need everyone have been so rigorously highminded?

—David Hall

## FAITH AND REASON

NEAR THE BRINK, by L. P. Jacks; Allen and Unwin. English price. 12 6.

THESE "observations of a nonogenarian," by a scholar and author, once Professor of Philosophy at Oxford and well known as editor of the Hibbert Journal, merit attention: for when a man of his years, deep religious feeling, and powerful intellect turns to a consideration "of things that matter most." we may look for wisdom. Yet the first essay on "The Reciprocity of Deatn," inspired by contemplation on the deatn of his wife and companion for 56 years, is a little disappointing, or rather disconcerting: for he confesses that his reasoning leads him to one conclusion, while his faith (or the Whole Man as he prefers to call it) confirms him in another.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

PRISONER AT THE BAR, by Edgar Lustgarten: Andre Deutsch, N.Z. price 2 6. The scripts of the BBC series which reconstructed notorious murder trials.

CHINESE PAINTING, with introduction and notes by Chiang Yee, is the latest addition to the Faber Gallery of Oriental Art (English price, 12'6). The period covered is from the fourth to the 17th Century.

THE Faber Gallery has been enlarged by two titles: Douainier Rousseau, with an introduction and notes by R. H. Wilenski: and a second volume of Degas, introduced by Michael Ayrton. The publishers are Faber and Faber, and the English price for each book is 9.6. As in all the volumes of this series, the reproductions are excellent.

THE ATOM STORY, by J. G. Feinberg; Allan Wingate, N.Z. price 18/9. The history of the atom, or of man's discovery and use of it in theory and practice, is told here for lay readers. The bomb is kept in its proper place in a wider story, but the U.S. Government's official recommendations for "survival under atomic attack" are printed as an appendix.

## Diplomat's Drama

THE idea of Those in Favour came to its autho. Christopher Mayhew, at Lake Success during an unusually tedious meeting of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. A delegate from behind the "iron curtain" explaining with skill and vigour how true freedom was to be found only in communist countries. Mayhew who was attending the conference in his capacity as Britain's Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, suddenly remembered he had invited this delegate to lunch and that he had refused, pleading pressure of work. Both knew the excuse was false. and Mayhew knew, too, that the other would have accepted gladly but for a lively fear of his superiors' disapproval. The contrast between the delegate's impassioned oration on freedom and his refusal of the lunch invitation provided the germ of the plot which Mayhew used first for a television play, and later for the BBC radio play which will be heard in New Zealand shortly.

In an article on his play, Mayhew has written: "I must hasten to state that Volodarsky, the Soviet delegate in the play, bears no resemblance whatever to any of the Soviet delegates I ever met at UN, and that Winter, his British opposite number, bears no resemblance to myself. Moreover, no Soviet delegate, to the best of my knowledge, has ever been murdered by members of his own delegation in the car park at Lake Success. In the characters of Volodarsky and Winter I have tried to suggest how two opposed philosophies can affect two



CHRISTOPHER MAYHEW
"Men of conscience . . . keep going longest."\_\_\_\_\_\_

people of roughly approximate charm and talent. Those who deny God and follow man-made ideals can achieve great damage before their powers are spent. Men of conscience dissipate their energies in doubting, and are a hesitant breed; but they have their great moments, and because they can renew their powers and can learn from experience and adapt themselves, they keep going longest. So do their civilisations."

Those in Favour will be heard from 1XN, at 9.45 p.m., on Wednesday, October 14, and from other National stations during the next few months.

N.Z. LISTENER, OCTOBER 9, 1953.