

BOOK RECORD

FOOLED BY FOOLS, CRAZED BY LUNATICS

HAS there been written around the plight of the Jewish exile from Germany a more powerful and compelling story than Hans Habe's "Three Over the Frontier"? I doubt it. Nor do I wonder that it has the recommendation of the Book Society.

It is brilliantly executed, and, making no attempt at heroics, is yet heroic throughout. It has adventure, it has the hard philosophy of the persecuted, it has much that is harrowing and it has free licence in its dealings with the love-life of some of its characters upon whom desperation, brutality and the deprivation of citizenship have left their mark in the disintegration of moral, spiritual and all other values.

But above all, it paints a shattering picture of the utter futility, the utter hopelessness that confronts most victims of that vicious decree—exile. O little word, embracing so much sorrow, so much terror, so much tragedy, so much—in the case of these Jews—that cries aloud for vengeance!

For A Passport

AT the risk of their marked lives, three refugees cross the German-Czechoslovak frontier in 1933. Nora Geldern,

September Changed His Life, Says Tennis Star

IT is comforting to reflect during these militant times that some important people believe that straight thinking is as important as straight shooting.

Attesting to this is a booklet called "Moral Rearmament—the Battle for Peace," edited by tennis star H. W. ("Bunny") Austin. He says that the crisis of last September was a turning point in his life. He read a letter in the Press in which Lord Baldwin and other national leaders asserted that "the real need of the day is moral and spiritual rearmament."

He immediately threw himself into the task of getting rid of his own weaknesses, so that he could in turn help others to get rid of theirs. As a practical gesture toward the latter objective, he collected in booklet form letters that appeared in the Press and statements supporting the philosophy that "the battle for peace must be fought in the heart of the individual."

These letters and statements are by rulers, statesmen, churchmen, leading professional, business and sportsmen, and editorial writers, in various parts of the world. Dr. Frank N. D. Buchman, leader of the Oxford Group Movement, gave consent to the term "moral rearmament" during an address delivered four months before the crisis.

Mr. Austin's booklet will be useful if its appeal does not remain dormant between its pages. In any case, the little publication should not be regarded cheaply simply because it is modestly marked "6d."—A.R.M.

"Moral Rearmament—the Battle for Peace." Edited by "Bunny" Austin. Heinemann. Our copy from the publisher.

Stirring Prophecy In Drama Of Jewish Refugees' Pitiful Plight

"But they knew that . . . a day would come when they would travel back to Germany—those hundreds of thousands, to whom the land belonged, would stream back to join the millions who, for their sake, too, had borne the yolk of slavery. Then the exultant song of labour would burst forth; the Te Deum of liberation would ring out from a thousand throats; the dead would arise to announce that the dawn had come. . . .

"Hundreds of thousands had been driven out whom no bond could keep together. . . . But one day they would recognise that a common task had been laid upon them all. . . . One day all those who had left Germany would come together and gather up the German soil they had brought with them (on the soles of their shoes); and a power would arise before the astounded world—a power so great and so mighty that the resistance of the false Caesars would collapse and vanish; for earth draws earth, and the profaned soil of Germany would thankfully receive the fresh and fruitful strength of kindred earth returning. . . . Terrible would be that awakening for the great ones of that dreadful domination! One day the world would realise that it had been fooled by fools, crazed by lunatics, and driven unawares to the very edge of the abyss. There would be a terrible and bloody mustering of forces and the world would burn the idols that itself had carried. . . . For the last time force would crash into force—that the world might know peace at last."—Extract from Hans Habe's "Three Over the Frontier," reviewed here to-day.

beautiful, degenerate, but essentially brave young Jewess; Dr. Heinz Kiesler, wealthy industrialist, whom bitter Fate dogs to the end, and Richard Sergius, Communist engineer who, with Nora, brings a grim

and all-pervading. People spoke in whispers even when they were alone. . . .

Comes the awfulness of the Jewish boycott; after it the exiles, tossed about in the cross-currents of international intrigue and uncertainty. Later, more glimpses of the chaos "back home." . . . "Have you seen the photographs in the papers? . . . Victory on the battlefield at the Kreuzberg Library. . . . Our heroic infantry succeeded in storming 62 bookcases. . . . The enemy had to leave behind him on the battlefield no fewer than 800

volumes of Erich Maria Remarque—isn't that a splendid victory? . . ."

An Exile's Cry

YOU pity Dr. Kiesler, speaking for all exiles, when, in explaining his presence to London detectives questioning him as an "undesirable immigrant," he says:

"I came here, gentlemen, for a mean and shabby reason that may seem to you infamous and criminal. I wanted to live, gentlemen; I wanted to breathe, gentlemen, as you do. I wanted to walk through streets and squares; I wanted to awake in

Might Come Next Year

H. G. Wells & N.Z.

A LITTLE surprised at the warmth of his reception and the size of his audiences was aged H. G. Wells, who has just concluded a series of lectures in Melbourne and Sydney.

According to D. D. O'Connor, of Auckland, who managed the Australian tour, Wells has suggested that he might return next year for a lecture tour of New Zealand.

story to an inspiring finish with a prayer that the birth of their first-born might herald the coming of peace and justice for the future.

There is a fourth leading character, Vernon McCallum, an Englishman, who is immersed in the affairs of the exiles, especially after an extraordinary transaction in which he "buys" Nora when Kiesler, whose mistress she is for a period, "sells" her to him in order that she might possess that invaluable piece of paper—a British passport.

"Blank, Benumbed Days"

"Three Over the Frontier" contains pointed descriptions of life in Berlin. . . . "When Nora woke in the morning and opened her eyes she could barely see the sky for a vast swastika flag. . . . And so began all those last blank, benumbed days. Life was barely endurable in Berlin. . . . It was something in the air—something palpable



A book we can anticipate with special interest on this side of the world is Aletta Lewis's "They Call Them Savages." It is an account of the English author's life in American Samoa, where she lived as one of the natives and was made Chief Virgin of the tribe. Miss Lewis, who is pictured above, had a temporary job at the Sydney Art School before four Australians, interested in her work as an artist, raised the money for her Samoan adventure.

the morning, lie down to rest when evening came, and take a hand in mine when I felt lonely; I wanted to kiss a woman, as you do, and to know that I was allowed to live. . . . Yes, that is what I wanted, gentlemen, although I am an emigrant—'mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa!'"

Excitement and misery, action and inspiration blend in this arresting record of a mad country's human discards. Personally, I was drawn irresistibly into the story from the start and held in its grip until I had reached the last line. Which will be more easily understood if you read again the striking example of the author's prose-power which is quoted, in all its prophetic intensity, at the beginning of this review.—A.R.M.

"Three Over the Frontier." Hans Habe, translated from the German by Eric Sutton. Harparr. Our copy from the publisher.

Colour Prints And Book-Plates

COLLECTORS of book-plates and Japanese colour-prints regard Mr. F. Neville Barnett as an old and valued friend. This noted authority lives and produces his beautiful books in Sydney, but his influence extends well beyond Australia and New Zealand. His many delightful publications, with their extremely lucid narratives and numerous examples of his subjects, have delighted and fascinated enthusiasts and, I am sure, considerably increased the ranks of collectors. He has recently produced a perfectly printed brochure, replete with book-plates, Japanese prints and reproductions of his numerous works, which provides a very useful account of the books on book-plates and prints he has published since 1930. His last important achievement is "Hiroshige" (1938), which follows "Colour Prints of Hiroshige," published in 1937. One expert has described "Hiroshige" as being "exquisite in every tiny detail" and "Newspaper News" (Sydney) greets it as "one of the loveliest books yet done in Australia."—A.R.M.

Once It Would Have Been A "Pretty Book"

"Travelling on the hard road I grumbled because I had no shoes—till I met a man who had no feet."

MRS. MATTHEW ARNOLD takes the theme of her novel, "I Had No Shoes" from this old Chinese philosophy, and brings us again into the lives of her Heathcote family, or pleasant collection of well-bred people whose loves and religious preoccupations form the interest in the story.

Kenneth loves Susan, and Susan becomes a nun, Christopher loves Betty but imagines that Betty loves Kenneth. Everything is satisfactorily straightened out for everyone but Kenneth, but one is left with the impression that if he is the "man who had no feet," he had a good many compensating comforts and luxuries that few of the rank and file enjoy.

Light fiction that a few years ago might have been described as "a pretty book."—M.M.

"I Had No Shoes." Mrs. Matthew Arnold. Hutchinsons. Our copy from the publisher.