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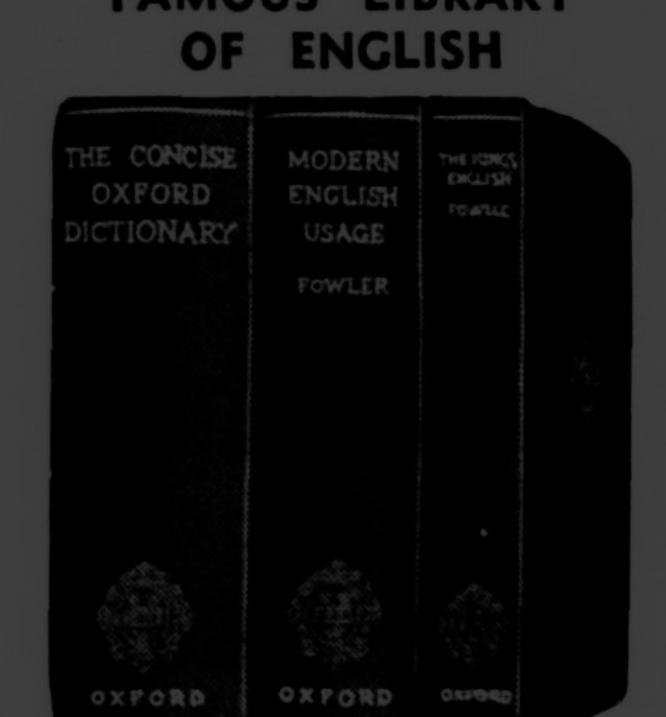
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In Plain Clothes. By Harold Brust.

Guarding Mussolini

(Stanley Paul. 18s. Signor Mussolini's recent visit to German demonstrated the elaborate precaution taken to prevent attacks on him. Thos precautions are never relaxed in his own country, and in "IN PLAIN CLOTHES" M Harold Brust, late of Scotland Yard, tel

of some of the methods employed. Italian police, he says, apart from attend ing to such duties as examining the foc supplied to the Duce, carefully inspect al his correspondence, and particularly parcels which might explode by the mere cutting of the string.

vehicle it is rigidly inspected, for on one occasion a bomb was found affixed to hi motor-car. More than 300 plain cloth "shadows" look after him, in addition to many Fascist and military guards.

During his short journey from his hor to his office the route is closely guarded

complete set. Strongly bound in Blue When he is scheduled to make a pub appearance the police inspect all lam law to bar access to the roofs of the dwellings. All along the kerbs the dra its are covered with a fine mesh to pre

When Signor Mussolini is making a pub lly erected tower. Once a would-FREE APPROVAL FORM attacker was discovered at a window with

rifle that was fitted with a telescopic sight Mr. Brust recalls that in his early day at Scotland Yard Mussolini lived in Lond and used to frequent little cafés of Shaftesbury-avenue, where he drank bla coffee and read Italian newspapers. "T Italian police had an unfriendly eye on hi hen." he remarks: "and now the Italia olice risk death to shield him."

A New Study of John Knox:

By Sir John Squire

Termites and Hermits

John Knox. By Lord Eustace Percy. (Hodder and Stoughton. 20s.) Man and the Termite. By Herbert Noyes. (Peter Davies. 8s 6d.) Pilgrims Were They All. By Dorothy (Faber. 12s 6d.) Down The River. By H. E. Bates. With 84 wood engravings by Agnes Miller (Gollancz. 10s 6d.)

EN in all ages of change, turmoil and the conflict of ideas much resemble each other. There are usually two extreme camps each thinking themselves right, and only preaching toleration when they are in the minority; and a middle lot who "ingeminate Very odd, no doubt, but it would be a poor peace" and are, at crises, taken little world without its legends; and this is notice of and frequently lose their heads. evidently the view of Lady Brooke, whose

Lord Eustace Percy, with academic, relish for them is immense. diplomatic and political careers behind him, has been drawn to the career A Country Lover of John Knox, not because there is need for a new "life." or because he has original material (he is sketchy, in-

lessons for ours. children of the other party to a struggle Jefferies. had not been killed. He left his stamp He lets out at the "blood-sports" on Scotland, where he was largely instrumental in turning the Church into the Kirk; he had a good deal in common with certain figures in contemporary life who think you can "make men moral by Act of Parliament"—morality differing according to what their own views are, and the spirit of the Gospels being overlooked.

He lets out at the "blood-sports" by again, however. This time it is mostly otter hunting, against which his invective is passionate; as he describes it it certainly does not attract me. But his detestation of pheasant-shooting (and I never can see why people who are not vegetarians should think it worse to shoot pheasants than to mean the property of the Gospels being overlooked. spirit of the Gospels being overlooked.

ing much light on the perpetual quarrels of bird itself, whom he describes as an men, with their theories, prejudices and "alien." It is no more alien than beer convictions of rectitude and inspiration and less so than greengages. It is ridicu-But I can't like John Knox, and there, for lous to use a word, which may properly be one fallible mortal, is an end on it.

Insect Organisation

of ants and bees attracted the chief atten- quiet waterway and wild-fowl. tion of those who found in the marvels of insect organisation lessons and warnings for mankind; more recently the tendency has been to Go to the Termite. are these creatures (not ants, but collaterals of the cockroach) of whom little was known 50 years ago except that they Jeffreys of the Bloody Assizes. By built "ant-hills" anything up to 40ft high and were extremely destructive to the furniture of sahibs in India; and now they are among the principal wonders of Dominion Governments.

escalators:

hour .- A motley mass of humanity moving form his own conclusions. uniformity in the component parts, these and covered tunnels to their work.

of the human swarms to themselves. It is is clear-cut and vigorous.

But his book, like the others, does open one more window to the endless knowledge which awaits our devout pursuit. These insects are blind: but efficient in agriculture, architecture and birth control. When their huge queens are threatened they can Jeffreys while pleading for him. The Lord carry them out of danger; they have telepathies as much beyond our knowledge as absented himself from the Western Circuit are the ways of migrant birds and eels. This is a fanciful book, but it does remind us of how little we know for all that we have learnt.

Driven to Asceticism

but the whole swarming religious life of an Jeffreys did. age in which, Christianity having become Mr. Schofield, however, has not official, some were fighting over the estab- attempted to whitewash Jeffreys or to lishment of dogma and others, reacting colour him. He has cleared away much against what they thought the compromise of the odium heaped on a peculiarly between religion and the world, were tragic figure, has produced a book of hisdriven in multitudes to asceticism, seclu- torical importance and a corrective to the sion or pilgrimage. Her chapter-headings popular conception of Jeffreys-a concepare "The Ascetics: Antony and Others," tion generally ignorant of the fact that "The Pilgrim: Etheria," "The Heretic: before he died at the age of 41 he had been Pelagius," "The Saint: Gregory of Nazi- Common Serjeant and Recorder of London, anzus," and she wears a learning reminis- Chief Justice of Chester, Lord Chief Justice cent of Gibbon with an ease which recalls of England, Lord High Chancellor, as well Anatole France.

ties; the description of the career of Pela- Realm. gius and his controversy with Augustine is a brilliant account of an event of great historical importance. She does not neglect any little gems she may find on the way, as, for example, that the Welsh maintained and that he was educated at Cambridge. But the main story of his "heresy" is well and powerfully told. "Very insufficient attention," she says, "has been given of late to the first British author, the heretic Pelasong in "The Four Men," which began

Pelagius lived in Kardanoel

And taught a doctrine there That whether you went to heaven or hell It was your own affair.

which succinctly indicates his defence free will "as against fatalism and strict causality and their theological embodiment, the doctrine of original sin, with all its implications." Typically British, Lady Brooke finds him, and consequently very all day except in answer to questions," and annoying to foreigners.

As for the hermits and such, the reader must go to the book for the strangest collection of eccentricities and prodigies. The authoress's tone in introducing the populations of Nitria and the Thebaid is as! detached as though she really were watching odd insects. The urbanity of her manner may be indicated by a sentence

or two:

Albans were so determined to be unhin-dered in their devotions that they complained to the bishop about the disturbing noises made by the local, very numerous.

BOOKS of the DAY

Like all the best saints, Macarius was on good terms with the beasts; he was kind even with the insect world, though it was not kind to him. Once, having slain a mosquito which bit him, he was so overcome with remorse that he retired to Scete. a place well known to this day for its voracious insects which can pierce even, the skin of a pig, and gave himself up to the mosquitoes. They bit him so cruelly from head to foot that when he returned he could be recognised only by his voice.

Mr. Bates and Miss Parker collaborated last year in "Through the Woods," one of deed, about the most "dramatic" parts of the prettiest books one could wish to see. Knox's furious career), but because Knox, The engravings were universally and in an age of violent conflict, was the vehi- rightly admired; they were in the true cle of violent convictions, and the age has Mr. Bates's prose, except for a slight bitterness when shooting was mentioned. The He had, we are assured, his "quietist" new book is just as beautiful; Miss Parker is side. The man who subscribed a document as successful with water as with woodland, "John Knox with deliberate mind, to his and Mr. Bates writes of riparian scenes God" had certainly an arrogant side. The with the passion of a country-lover who man who pronounced those dreadful is also a born essayist, who commands a diatribes against Mary Queen of Scots had vivid and vigorous prose-style, and whom the self-righteousness of the Old Testament time may develop into a hedgerow naturaheroes who were genuinely angry if the list fit to be compared with Richard

wring the necks of poultry) leads him to i This is a subtle and scholarly book throw- something like a dislike of the gorgeous applied to the grey squirrel or the muskrat, of a bird which has flourished here in a wild state probably since the time of the Romans. However, this is a very pretty In the Lubbock age the communal lives book, full of a feeling for mill and weir,

A Notorious Judge

Seymour Schofield. (Thornton Butterworth. 15s.)

Historians, like judges, should always be Nature, and their most remarkable impartial; yet the being so must be excolonies are even being preserved by tremely difficult when their selection of a character from history must largely be co Mr. Noyes, the latest to be fascinated, dictated by their liking for, or hatred of, makes the obvious comparison with the life that character. The stronger their feeling. of urban man. He opens above the the sharper the portrait they draw-but the end Mr. Vaszary is obviously baffled the less accurate, unless they parade every to know what to do with Anne-Claire and Piccadilly Tube Station during a crowded fact, eschew inference, and let the reader has to follow a precedent established by

down into the bowels of the earth, a lesser Mr. Schofield feels strongly, sometimes The story has its moments of Parisian one ascending. But for the lack of lets an inference run away with him, but indecorum, but the author's touch is so assembles a vast array of facts and swarms of densely packed humanity would deserves praise for a portrait conscien-Working Termites flowing through sealed tiously done and commendably fair. He is sympathetic towards Jeffreys; very It does at once strike one that neither sensibly sympathetic, and is able to back ants, bees nor termites have been recorded his argument with documentary evidence as having sat at the top of Piccadilly. and a thorough knowledge of the period. circus in order to observe the resemblance He argues as well as he writes; his writing

also inconceivable, for all our debates His summing-up of the man who, in about Man and the State, and our im- Macaulay's words, was "as mean in adverpatient comparisons of certain real states sity as insolent and inhuman in prosperity," and Utopias to ants' nests, that anybody tends throughout not only to refute this. will ever be able to say of us what Mr. but to reveal Jeffreys (who, whatever his Noves says of the "White Ant": "The faults, was a brilliant man) as a victim of Termite is incredibly unconcerned with his circumstances; a man who, commissioned own individuality"; and I rather think with four others to try 2.000 men in six that Mr. Noyes, for all his knowledge, was weeks, and in great physical pain all the mistaken in trying to convey scientific time, was unswervingly loyal to James—observation in the form of dialogues be- and that James was to blame for the sentween Termites, as it might be Archie and tences passed at the Bloody Assizes. "Sir." wrote Jeffreys in one of his letters to the

TRAGIC FIGURE

But Mr. Schofield does not acquit Chief Justice should, he says, either have that autumn or have "dragged out the proceedings until the King realised the folly of setting judges such a task, and terminated their labours with a general pardon." But it was in Jeffreys' nature, las Mr. Schofield points out elsewhere, to "Life in all diversity of form": from drive straight at the root of a matter and termites to hermits, in spite of their finish it as soon as possible; moreover, his analogous sound, is a far cry; though Lady state of health would have deterred him Brooke would probably maintain the her- from taking this course, and even if he had mits to be even more curious than the absented himself the other four judges insects. Not only hermits are her concern, would have been compelled to do what

as Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, a Privy It is not entirely a collection of curiosi- Councillor of two Kings, and a peer of the

An American Humorist

Before Signor Mussolini enters any later that Pelagius' real name was Morgan Let Your Mind Alone! By James Thurber.

(Hamish Hamilton. 7s 6d.) The new Thurber volume opens with a series of brilliant sketches on the "inspirationalists" who would have us remodel our gius." Well, one recent reference was the minds to be dynamic or streamlined, remould our personalities to the confusion of our competitors and psycho-analyse ourselves in six lessons. Thurber's humour is hardly to be defined, but at least one part of it is the dry narrative of embarrassing situations, and the literal interpretation of the "success" writers' commands therefore provide him with a wide scope. A devastating criticism is implicit. Commenting upon various "disciplines," he visualises himself; as obeying the instruction: "Say nothing

What am I to do if a genial colleague comes into my office and says, 'I think your mother is one of the nicest people I ever met' or 'I was thinking about giving you that twenty dollars you lent me'? Do I just stare at him and walk out of the room? I lose enough friends, and money, the way

Thurber drawings of wistful and pathetic Anchoresses were forbidden to keep any- humans in the grip of hostile circumstance thing but a cat, for there were some who illustrate the book, which includes also a took to farming, or held land and took generous number of those characteristic rents. But they were not all worldly, and sketches which have put Mr. Thurber in the some who lived in the woods near St. very forefront of American humorists.

New Fiction

What Constitutes A Best Seller

pti. By Gabor Vaszary. (Putnam.) he End of the Imp. By V. Krymov. (Allen and Unwin. 7s 6d.) ntonina. By Yuri Herman. (Routledge.)

onks Charity. By Sybil Fountain.

By JOHN BROPHY W. P. Ker used to slide out of the difficulty by saying, "A ballad i Patrick Spens' and 'Binnorie' and igs of that sort." Similarly, one tht say that a "best seller" is "The stant Nymph" and "Grand Hotel," so on. The critic's trouble is that he s to spot the "best seller" before eryone is reading it. He can, of course, ly safe by belauding any and every cely book that comes his way in the st general and genial terms, but if does that he does violence to the first nciple of criticism which is discrimi-

we before me a new novel about Paris.

slated into English from the Hungarian,

w, need be ashamed of enjoying it. garian who overstays a holiday in Paris. Luxembourg Gardens he meets a young 1. Anne-Claire. He is enchanted by her mances have been shaped, but the aterial is of little importance; the treatnt makes the book. And "Monpti" has altogether exceptional tenderness, all ic evoked from a succession of surprisingenious, vivid incidents. With never lse or crude touch it plays exquisite es on the comic and tragic emotions.

LAUGHTER AND TEARS his intermingling of laughter and tears device easily and often debased, but en it is achieved with certainty and sinity, the tragedy and the comedy not rely alternating but arising one from the er, it is irresistible. It is part of the tradiof English literature from Chaucer and akespeare to Mr. Wells and Mr. Priestley. s an expression of philosophy and temrament, and one in which Hungarian rature is often closely akin to the

I draw attention to it in several episodes Mr. Vaszary's story; the hero's disastrous Publishers • JARROLDS • London p from which his last five sous brings n a packet of baby food-to fend off rvation for several weeks, and the arming tale of his pet duckling and its st voyage. Monpti is a character, whole, imprehensive and unquestionable, and so Anne-Claire. Between them is generated slight but exquisite story, and if before Dickens, her death is authentically moving. cate and perceptive that few, if any,

A PHILOSOPHIC ROGUE

ne two Russian novels provide a strong trast. Each has considerable merits, I do not think it is any political bias ch makes me prefer Mr. Krymov's hed and ironic tale of emigres forced he Revolution to live in Japan, Berlin, s and London. That remarkable acter. Arseny, half a rogue and half a osopher, is followed into exile by his ha, who, however, soon dies. His ow is real, but just as real is his conto live in comfort and to find another

has gained a good deal of attraction. nds a charming girl in Serbia about to e school, and just when we expect her ten man of the world to overcome h ticism and jealousy. "THE END OF THE " is an episodic story; it will not appeal readers who flinch from irony, but thos no like it will like it very much. pecially commend the minor character, is, with his theory that man once pos sed three eyes, the third one remaining a collection of crystals in the brain-

RUSSIAN ORPHAN

Antonina" makes no use of irony. ore she finds, like any girl in a bourgeois riety, the right man at last. I was not le to understand all these characters. I ot see why, for example, a young an jealous of another should present ole, and Mr. Herman provides no anation. It seems that the Russians e not yet surrendered all their indiality to the State, and still like to assert by outbursts of freakish behaviour.

it "Antonina" may be read as a good. In the 20th century we are apt to con- not easily reconstructed: circumsta ted for smuggling. Then she marries a fearful toll of our income. dhearted old waiter, very much like. Even if there were no other value in and the conviction in every chapter of

undities, but her tale is not superficial, men, at any rate before the end of the country life as to the manor born. has a penetrating eye for oddities and 14th century, were still serfs.

and Watsonia. An immense amount of state of uncertainty, not knowing in the life and work. k, which is most attractively illustrated in the morning.

to be published by Hutchinson on Oct. 28. the latter's possession, and he was not appear small beer in comparison.

The October Selection of the CRIME-BOOK SOCIETY

MURDER of MR. MALLABEE

TORQUEMADA wrote "Miss Duke is the nearest thing Scotland has to a Thomas Hardy She could not write badly if she tried, nor could she be at a loss for an interesting situation "-Observer By the author of Crookedshaws, etc.

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The king of western writers

has written another fine yarn THE TRAIL OF GOLD Once again Coolidge has written a swift-mor story filled with action, excitement and intri-

Author of Texas Ranger, etc SKEFFINGTON

Feudal England

rival with a pair of silk stockings given Life on the English Manor, 1150-1400. By notion of possession implicit in this leg

By W. P. BARRETT

v, and as an intimate illumination of ceive of ourselves as hedged around by once too common to record are now ia in a state of transition. Antonina the demands of a social scheme that limits gotten, since in 600 years the day-tories a sailor who is cruel to her and is our freedom and takes in the forms of taxes existence of the countryman has chan

es her heart, largely because he gives the daily life of our ancestors, to picture and remarkable patience; but most of child his revolver to play with. The the existence of a freeman in a mediæval the naturalness of the perspective it of volver, I hasten to add, is unloaded. English village, worse off in every material the constant and unstrained revelation respect (as he often was), with his few the life of 1300 in the world of 1931 Monks Charity" is a quiet English acres and his incessant anxiety, than the signs of the true wisdom of medy, set in a small country town, and bondman whose holding might be 10 times scholarship. vened by a mischievous sense of as large. He was free, but only in name. If Mr. Bennett will forgive the exp nour. Miss Sybil Fountain evades the whereas the greater part of his country- sion, I shall say that he writes of median

cerities of behaviour. Julia, saddled The countryman dwelling on the feudal a pleasant but unworldly father, and estate is the centre of vision in Mr. H. S. nily now growing up, finds herself in- Bennett's "LIFE ON THE ENGLISH MANOR, Lady Doctor-Woman Spy. By Bernard d to a large house which once had been 1150-1400." He is an elusive figure in a Newman. mother's home. The opportunities for mist of uncertainty to most historians, for contrast and irony are obvious, but not so much as his dwelling houses survive. "LADY DOCTOR-WOMAN Spy" sets of y are exploited with some subtlety, and The few mediæval houses still standing prove that at least in the realm of esp ere is a well rendered love affair to give were not the homes of the ordinary peasant. Truth is stranger than fiction. The exp whose thatched cottage of mud walls soon of "Anna Maria Lesser" (this was no fell into decay. Even a virgater, one of real name), the famous German spy, a the aristocracy of his kind, had a painful fantastic that in a previous book Mr. 1 e first volume of Lt.-Col. C. H. Grey's and necessitous life. Apart from the never- man denied that she ever existed, and iss k on "Hardy Bulbs" has been pub- ceasing struggle with the land and the a challenge to anyone to prove that she ed by Williams and Norgate (36s). It innumerable services due to his lord, which The results of his challenge convinced

earch has gone to the compilation of the evening what service was to be rendered. The adventures of the Lady Doctor V Cecily Grey. The whole work will be Burdens and restrictions dogged him they are summarily and soberly told with wearisome ubiquity. The problem of book is not really a work of fiction, alth Ir. Leonard Russell is following his matrimony, hard enough at any time, for the author states that he has insisted ily diverting "Parody Party," which he the serf was complicated with a host of it should be published as such, as it of ed last year, by "Press Gang," a "Crazy difficulties. If he wanted to marry a not possibly attain the degree of account rld Chronicle," wherein a number of woman on the same manor all was well, essential to history. The chief incident

greatly concerned. But if it were a matter of marrying a woman from outs whether free or from a different manor. whom would the children belong? question was carried so far that a fine (Cambridge University Press. 16s.) exacted from those guilty of incontine not on moral grounds, but as a penalty wasting their lord's chattels.

The everyday life of such a peasant in some respects beyond belief. The ge butler, and finally a G.P.U. man history it would be salutary to read of history are evidence of vast preparat

Famous Woman Spy

ers the whole family of Iradaceae, which meant either putting his hand in his pocket that he was wrong, and the present des the Iris. Crocus. Gladiolus, Freesia, or setting it to the plough, he lived in a contains an authenticated account of

provide materials for a dozen novels inguished contributors provide parodies. He might have to pay his lord a small fine all true, however, and the resourceful the news of the day. Mr. Nicholas as a symbol of ownership, but both parties, and courage of this astonishing person atley has illustrated the volume, which and therefore their progeny, remained in make many undiluted works of ficts