



"Nevil Shute is a first-rate story-teller ... You have to read on and on... Strongly recommended." J. B. PRIESTLEY

"It is fascinating, heroic in substance, and veracious, novel, and exciting in detail."

FRANK SWINNERTON

""This exciting story is one of the most original novels~ of the hour."

ROBERT LYND (News-Chronicle) Book Society Recommendation

By H. Foster Anderson No one is more qualified to write of Russia than Mr. Foster Anderson.

since 1920 he has lived most of hi freely with the population and even spent some time at Moscow Univeralthough the country was occupied 10/6 net

The Three

A novel of great charm and beauty, a strange and fascinating story, which the customs and way of life great vividness.

By Keith West

Recommended by The Book Society

Just published.

Philip Inman's

A famous London surgeon writes:

by H. W. Katz

THE WORLD OF BOOKS

By DESMOND MacCARTHY

fame, his shrewdness, and—to use perhaps slightly unexpected

Propaganda is the natural warwork of the elderly author, but few is of them are fitted for it. Reputation, literary skill, enthusiasm are not enough. The effective propagandist must also be one whose imagination is habituated to seeing and (this may be very important in making converts) doing so without feeling morally superior. Behind and within him, of course, must lie a hard core of conviction. Now these are qualities which have helped to make Mr. Maugham a remarkable portrayer of character in his stories.

Although the title of this book suggests that it is autobiographical and personal rather than public in its focus, the words "strictly private" apply to about threequarters of it. The latter part was obviously written with an eye to leading public opinion in America over to our now (thank Heaven!) common cause. This part is a continuation of the work he undertook at the request of the Ministry of Information during the first year of the war. It was to describe in a series of articles for the English public the French war

effort; also to investigate how the French looked upon the British contribution and "how the population and the French army were getting on with the B.E.F." These articles, when collected, had a very large circulation. They were as truthful as was consistent with of investigation Mr. Maugham discovered a number of disquieting example, that Gamelin and his chief of staff, General George, were barely on speaking terms, and that the French thought that the British were not taking the war seriously **b** men between twenty and forty-c five were mobilised. Britain was France could never be beaten. All the life of wartime Mosco only training those in the early Even after the break-through, they is here—theatres; cinemas, twenties. The difficulty of equip-believed that Weygand would ballet (Mr. Werth is not a balle ping more was not present to their minds, so the spiteful slander that in the British were prepared to fight have derived from this book and chauffeurs, the comings and

# The Short Story | Spirit of Greece

Mr. Bates is enamoured of the short story. He writes of it superlatively, in the sense both of writing of it in terms of superlatives and superlatively well. He claims for it the highest rank as an interpreter of the modern mood and and feels that it has displaced the Denmark, Holland, Belgium over novel as the principal form of contemporary imaginative literature. It is not so much that his geese are matter of individual stories (of which he is himself an eminent practitioner) is in the main

reliable, as that he will have it that his swan is an eagle. His knowledge of the historical development of the short story is a extensive and detailed; his grasp of its main lines of progress is threats, claims, accusations about sure; and his sympathies are oppressed minorities and breaches generally catholic. But he finds of neutrality; now she struck, and that Maugham and Conrad do not the world believed with her that carry forward its development. Hardy wrote with an intolerable heaviness of style. Galsworthy and Bennett maintained "in their best work a sound tradition of realistic craftsmanship," but at the same time did no more than carry forward "into the new world the cooled and now unmalleable traditions of the old." They did not, like Joyce, "threaten the orderly by the U.S.S.R. until February, 1941, business of the day with a charge the Axis, and Mr. Casson's is the Queensberry, he must be an

hypodermic injection of disturbing people and their superb unity in the eighth marquess was the pattern which recalls Aldous understanding of Shakespearean virulence." It is to writers like the greater danger which was to supreme legislator the tenth Huxley's "Eyeless in Gaza," but drama. Bates's opinion, owes its present Koritsa was announced, worked in coursing upon the historical origin his grandfather (who ruined Wilde momentum, so far, that is, as it Athens as a member of the British of the knock-out, which is more and the family), and of himself.

traces its brief history, is a foreign plant, bedded abroad, invigorated 📜 with alien water. It began with ||Poe, an-American, and Gogol, a Russian. It reached perhaps its highest achievement in Tchehov, of ancient China come to life with Tolstoy (Mr. Bates thinks "The Death of Ivan Ilyitch" as fine a "A heavenly, wise, and witty tale as any ever written), and OBSERVER | Maupassant. It has sprung into a new splendour in the present American renaissance, which has discovered regionalism, and come into late flower even in our own 🖪 country.

### Crime Fiction

Again Percival Wilde shows himself a skilled and original crafts-

ventional confession) to prove him right or wrong. to have settled down to employing pretty patient admits her terror of (Colli

Strictly Personal. By W. Somerset Maugham. ~ (Heinemann. 8s. 6d.)

emmanded him believed that unfailing unity of purpose. current once more. That could not be said then in print; nor would it the have helped to describe such an the conduct of a holder of a vitally important patent who charged so ever happens.

ow the Greeks, pitting heroism It is an important qualification, of German troops into Bulgaria for the short story, as Mr. Bates was followed by our own despatch cuation. (He was not in the

itary history of the campaign,

ner, and writes affectionately death belong to our own situation rebellions spoil the strength and Lieutenant-Colonel of each well of pre-war Paris. His in this world, and the sinless the grandeur of our purpose to go on formation, but Lieu and, not least, a concierge), and a man of sorrows and acquainted eventual victory. We are caught of our guard. We find other people to the lift, victim of a with grief.

The Transfiguration seems to the likely after a restless night) to the lift, victim, and a man of sorrows and acquainted eventual victory. We are caught of our guard. We find other people to the lift, victim, and a man of sorrows and acquainted eventual victory. We are caught of our guard. We find other people to the lift, victim, and a man of sorrows and acquainted eventual victory. We are caught of our guard. We find other people to the lift, victim, and the lift, victim of a with grief.

The Transfiguration seems to are trying. Small vexations arise. enants—it is this which makes the reach of Christ, as the perfect severe or inconvenient. Momentary Stoppage" (Gol- Man. But He preferred the sadder strongly desire to carry out our and it may be interesting to

the Channel Islands to-day pursue.

There was no doubt in which trusted to our race to maintain in list rebellion came a year late a good one with plenty of point: here was an exhibition of the freedom of individuals and the offer of such a huge reward a haunting taxi; the doctor and ventional in its make-up and inci-were His goal. When He came must all be careful, perhaps more serving in the Army in Ireland

yage home. He has never the intensity of the spirit of resis

enough. They were exasperated then French morale was perfect, record of the background of the to think that whereas all French. To the last the Frenchmen who war—a profound confidence and an live to see it, but sixty years later from the northern end. Though the

to the last Frenchman began to be is that there is obviously more to goings of the foreign corme as thinking that their own is of living he discovered, and he notes should certainly make many example of French selfishness as flawless merely because they more than once that Russian bitteremain cheerfully confident what ness against the Germans is deep

> amines the possibilities of Anglon the way of it. 'If we use our bes'

and European—the Russian people able kind which, incidentally, Mr Agate mentions Holinshed.

should prove to be the perfect there any certainty that Shakespea

hen the poor dog is to be sho

erve them demand your ever-|quantities of metre-gau would have been justly proud. 81 in., the Luxor-Assuan ever unfriendly, it seems to uggesting all the while a gracious

ened by the reflection that this TN an East Anglian setting Mr. attack came just when they were I Mottram strikes a not wholly Time and the Macbeths reward of long years of hardship Turns Slowly Round." At the and sacrifice. That is one of the beginning we are in the Easthampthings for which the aggressor is ton of Victorian days, when Mi The Modern Short Story. By H. E. Greece Against the Axis. By Stanley going to be made to pay when the Hartest's slightly unconventional cases. (Nelson 7s. 6d.) The moving story of his journey important presentation at Court, still deluded by early nineteenthto the Smolensk Front, and his But nothing she does, least of all century German solemnities about civilians in the recaptured towns, regretted, and more than forty ensible self, knowing that though temper in the realm of creative art, Axis Power on land. Norway, accounts of his non-stop flight to at moments the world seems to be keep the pot a-boiling. Any sort of and feels that it has displaced the Denmark Holland Polisium every Archangel and of his return on turning to that though comedians fund together on a time together on the time together of time together on the time together on the time together of the time together of time together on the time together on the time together on the time together on the time together of time together on time together on the time together of time together on the time together of time together of

Tenth Marquess of Queensberry, not only by a sense of duty but out of far-fetched sense. (Hutchinson, 15s.)

when he returned to England, via Moscow and Vladivostock.

Moscow and these, to Katherine Mansfield and confront them—the German on-marquess knew nothing. But, is inspired, not by any admira- Hove. aught of last April. Mr. Casson, touched by this democratic appretion for modern novels, but by a to V. S. Pritchett and Leslie Hal- arriving in Greece on the day ciation, he set himself to find out. desire to weave into a coherent ward, that the short story, in Mr. when the news of the victory at Now he is equally capable of dis-whole the life stories of Old Q, of owes anything at all to the British Military Mission to the Greek recent than most people suppose. He very considerably succeeds in Army until March, when the entry or of arguing about the correct an autobiography more remarkof German troops into Bulgaria size of a ring. He has constructed able for vivid incident than for a full account of the Breadalbane Continued in next column | closely organised thought.

## Christ's Chosen Way By the BISHOP OF NORWICH

omed by all friends of Greece. ministry was approaching, and we sacrifice. sece never surrendered. And read that He set his face to go to We, too, are frequently called to had been sent to Ireland, in 1802 s not surrendering now," he Jerusalem. He never looked back, take the exacting road. Much des. The courage of her people, The Transfiguration had taken liberation and much unselfishne adfast in misery and starva-place, and we recall again that He may be necessary before we reach n as they were on the battle-had in it deliberately, chosen our determination, but none the d, will not be forgotten by the between what might have been and less we often find that the decision, Perthshire) was one of the nine

8s. 6d.) an unusual detec- alternative, putting Himself on a national and imperial purpose on July 4, 1797, the non-company of the non-company of

is in "Terror On the Island" His fixed, unbroken intention, small nations, a sense of personal vides a proof (if any wins. 7s. 6d.), but one too con-Jerusalem. Gethsemane, Calvary responsibility to God. But we of the loyalty of the a haunting taxi; the doctor and others see her death; and she is but one of a trio similarly menaced. It is difficult perhaps to regard the principal plot as realistic, and the characters are rather shadowy; but there is plenty of excitement, continued in next column

Output to be outstanding. Its setting dent to be outstanding. Its setting in private life than in our public of our response. We too must set our response. We too must set our public our response. We too must set our response. We too must set our public our response. We too must set our response our response. We too must set our response our response. We too must set our response our response our response our response our response our respon

Cape to Cairo

It is still the home of his Alexandria-Cairo-Luxor gauge was The novel, I believe, has had a the regular South African standard. reat success in America: here it You very rightly suggest of wh

ears later, as a happy grand- a pantomime. It was a series of

- Fencibles

From LORD MACMILLAN

the death as we know it, points the way steps involved.

In the leader that the readalbane estates are the solve than he may death as we know it, points the way steps involved.

The commanding officer of the solve the puzzle, and distressing accompaniments of Petty complaints and little bane. I am unable to say who was

Continued from page 4

Sir,—In your issue of last Sunday Scrutator alluded to the proposed be popular. That is not to say that Lord Cromer urged that, for prac-

Carlton Club, S.W.1.

Sir,--To look for a rational timeintelligent as to look for geographical.

A Shakespeare play was not unlike

The Beachy Head Murder A masterly thriller featuring crime investigator in fiction."

GEORGE SAMPSON.

The Breadalbane

t as a personal record it is to be The climax of our Lord's rounded His passion and self-recruited from Perthshire. Two MACMILLAN.

> between | | | A new novel by the author of Gambler's Glory

romances.

Rebecca West

BLACK LAMB AND

Tomorrow!

Book Society

Recommend

AND THE

WARREN STUART

exciting

novel

-JAMES HILTON

JONATHAN

STAGGE

his new thriller

CALL A HEARSE

F. L. GREEN

his, brilliant,

Book Society

Recommendation

MUSIC IN THE PARK

Gilbert Larose, "the most famous

ROWLAND

Death of Nevill Norway

John Rowland's thrilling story of

crime and punishment is one of his

BURKE

Love Wore a Cloak

A modern love-story of great

charm by the author of Homage to

FLORENCE

Elizabeth in Wartime

DAVIDE

SERNICOLI

Desert Atonement

The most fascinating of this

author's many popular desert

An irresistibly humorous story of the wartime exploits of the inimitable Elizabeth 7/6 net

best yet.

GREY FALCON "This book is not only a record of travel, it is an autobiography, a history, and a book of ideas. . . . the texture of the writing, and it is used to produce laughter."—Sylvia Lynd in The Book Society News

THE SCENE IS CHANGED

lacework of autobiography, travel, and artistic endeavour."-Daily Sketch Sean O'Casey

"Delicately intermingled

PICTURES IN THE HALLWAY. The story of Sean O'Casside as a young man in Dublin.

Edmund Blunden ...

THOMAS HARDY

"Mr. Blunden's book will go far to win for Hardy the poet the estimation that he deserves."—Times 7/6

HUGH MERRICK

Good and exciting . . . of special interest."-Manchester Guardian. "A love story, charmingly told . . . as attractive as it is unusual." -Birmingham Post.

A BAD

SIDNEY DARK "A journalist of the first order, his trenchant autobiography makes excellent reading. 15s. net: —Raymond Mortimer.