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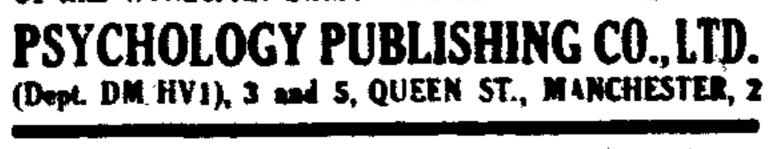
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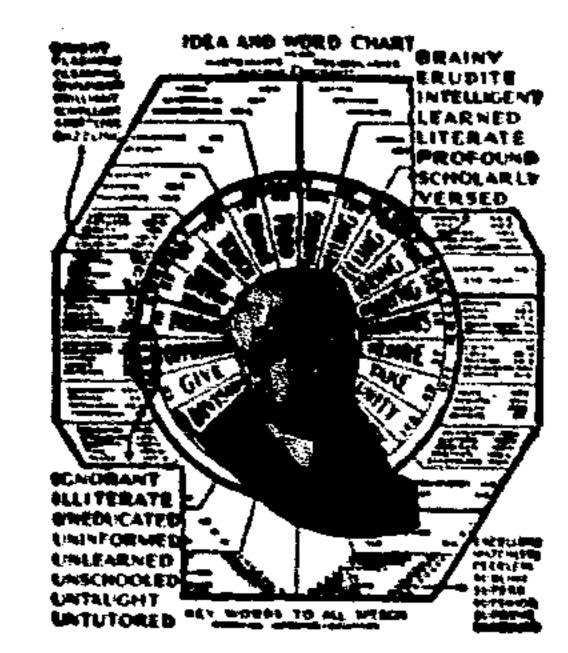
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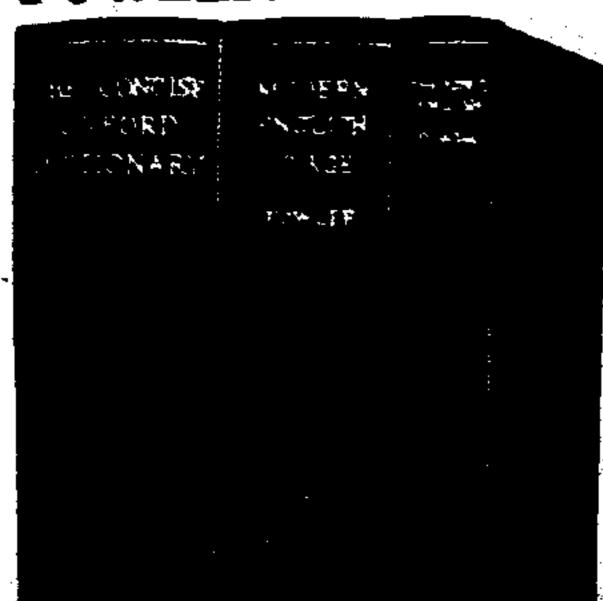
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* SPECIAL BOOK SECTION

The "Daily Mail" Book of the Month

the Month for May is a

Women, by H. E. Bates (Cape, 7s. 6d., pub. The author is one of the ablest and most individual of younger novelists, and there is an edge to all he writes; in this book he reaches a new and deeper understandmotives.

It would be absurd to press too far a comparison between him Thomas Hardy, because Mr. Bates, with all his promise, still falls a good way short that commanding stature. But I prised if a great many readers of this dramatic **tale** are not reminded

Hardy. Mr. Bates ex- H. E. Bates, author of "A House of Women"

cels in the evocation of country sights and scenes and the delineation of unsophisticated characters. There are, perhaps, a dozen living English novelists with a similar power to depict bucolic drama, for modern literary talent seems to be predisposed to rustic themes. But Mr. Bates's affinity with Hardy goes deeper than a common interest in country life.

He has much the same sense of the inevitable in human affairs. He too, sees the tragedy implicit in untutored relationships. His men and women are torn and moved by fierce passions and blind prejudices; but they are driven in the long run

T is 50 years since Rider

novel about Africa published

to instil haunting excitement

picture of contemporary conditions

his restraint that he has contrived

West Africa. It does credit to

His theme is the ju-ju system with

who dominates the story, is not so

doctors ills, but she looks for their

can be kind and wise, but the fate

of those, like the girl Osi, who fall

brother Aledai is a complete con-

MR. Cary excels in the por-

the brooding, sinister life of the

Nigerian slums. His account of the

women's war, led by Elizabeth, for

the overthrow of white authority, is

leaves on the mind an unforgettable

He has not envisaged his white

characters quite so clearly. Burwash,

the harassed official, is almost a

caricature of the indecisive slave of

red tape Every Civil Service con-

tains its weak, amiable men of good

intentions, but West Africa is con-

spicuously well served by its ad-

ministrators, and I cannot believe

that a Burwash would for long hold

THOSE who whole-heartedly

'Journey's End " may congratu-

late themselves on the soundness of

their judgments. Mr. R. C. Sherriff's

subsequent work has shown gratify-

ing evidence of a staying power

which has been comparatively rare

in recent years among the writers of

lancz, 7s. 6d.), has a very strong claim

to popular approval, and it will not

be surprising if it proves to be

among the two or three most success-

ful novels of the year. It is within

its rigid limits a perfect piece of

Mr. Sherriff's genuine sympathy with

simple ways of life. He understands

the aspirations of the "little man."

and, what is more, approves of them.

He tells the story of two old dears

who start life anew in a modern

housing estate on the outskirts of

London; but he makes of it a breath-

traditional clock and retires after

40 years' service in an insurance

office, his plans for an agreeable

employment of his leisure go wrong.

He fritters away his time, and he

and his wife negin to get on each

other's nerves. They turn against

their dilapidated house in a decay-

ing neighbourhood, and "Green

How, after struggles and misgiv-

Gates" with its plot of land in

housing estate wins their hearts.

When Mr. Baldwin receives the

less tale of high adventure.

It exhibits in a concentrated form

His new novel, Green Gates (Gol-

recognised the merits of

Mr. Sherriff Again

impression of an irresistible surge of

almost painfully enthralling. H

trayal of black types and

(Goilancz, 8s. 6d.).

bounds of the plausible.

tween two ideologies,

Sinister Life

impassioned fanatics.

a place among them.

best sellers.

Haggard's "She" appeared.

by forces either outside themselves, or of which they are wholly unaware.

When Tom Jeffery marries Rosie Perkins, the plump and pretty barmaid from the Angel, he introduces an alien and disruptive influence into the life of the farm which he and his have held for generations, and loved in their queer, inarticulate way. Rosie is independent and outspoken; used to hard work and ready to take her place in household tasks and in the harvest field; but intolerant of system, and contemptuous of tradition. Her husband's heart is in the farm; he talks

ENGLAND

Reviewed by DOUGLAS WEST

crops and livestock prices and limits his mental and emotional horizon to the next harvest. He has let his fancy stray from the job on hand by marrying Rosie, and his senile mother and faded waspish sisters take care that he shall not forget his lapse.

TRAPPED and Thwarted

A FTER all, the farm could not be run without their unpaid and ungrudging service. By such tenacity, coupled with a sound business instinct, many small farmers in this country have survived successive depressions and kept a tight hold on their acres and bank balances, however depleted by hard times.

But a life dedicated to the soil, and the snatching from it of marginal profits, tends to foster the less attractive virtues, and is inimical to the development of gracious and tolerant personalities. At the Jeffery farm it bred avarice, suspicion, and a jealous dislike of strangers.

Rosie, gregarious and pleasureloving, and accustomed since her childhood to flippant backchat, feels

its aim. This is the story of a de-

mure, domesticated, and talkative

widow who goes to stay at a villa

its length of 840 pages is not as ex-

cessive as it seems at first sight. This

trilogy of the Chicago streets has

immense vigour, and its document-

ary value is great. It provides a

complete analysis of the mind of an

ill-educated American citizen of the

submerged lower middle-class, ex-

posed from his earliest days to the

shoddiest of influences, and in-

capable in manhood of retrieving his

misdirected youth. His environment

is likewise depicted with photo-

wrong. The effect on this muddled

being is much the same. Selection

is the soul of art, and Mr. Farrell has

not thought fit to select. After a

time his very effective situations be-

cockroach, and Mehitabel.

the incorrigibly frivolous cat,

are not nearly so well known in this

country as they ought to be. Their

creator, Mr. Don Marquis, is the

most mordant and original of

modern American humorists and his

satire loses little of its edge by

In archy does his part (Faber and

Faber, 5s.) the cockroach is once

more butting the keys of Mr.

Marquis's typewriter, and still un-

able to reach the shift key, so that

his musings on bridge, unemploy-

ment, and the international situa-

tion lack capitals and punctuation.

Not for long can he keep away from

his friend Mehrtabel, though he is

continually shocked by her flaunt-

Mehitabel's frankly hedonist

views on life would appal a mind

less prim and sober than Archy's.

Both these gloriously absurd crea-

tures can be studied at their best in

this book. Mr. Marquis provides an

hour of delightful fun, but with it a

terse and searching commentary on

To-day in the Garden

weaker growths of vigorous herba-

ceous clumps and be thorough in

removing suckers from roses.

May 7.—Remove some of the

Pot on chrysanthemums as they

Transfer to a cold frame young

plants of perpetual flowering carna-

Sow some annual popples, Shirley

Remove faded flowers from the

or others, for a later show of these

rock garden and generally keep it

neat. Plant alpines in vacant spots.

philosophic

gin to look like repetitions.

Gay Satire

A RCHY, the

crossing the Atlantic.

ing depravity.

modern existence.

become ready.

brilliant things.

Things go right with Studs, or go

graphic clarity.

trapped and thwarted in this

of her sister-in-law and been laid against her in that embittered heart Soon after, with Tom's departure to fight in the Great War, Rosie assumes the leadership in this "house of women." She develops a fierce

house from which all but immediately practical considerations have been banished. Her husband is dour and uncompanionable, and she drifts, from boredom rather than inclination, into a liasion with his younger brother, a youth slightly less inhuman than the rest of his family. PRIDE in

The Land

THROUGHOUT this episode the reader's sympathy is enlisted on the side of the unsuspecting husband. But I can recall no novel of recent years in which the contrast between the cramped and the generous attitude to life has been-more effectively treated. The brother is drowned, though not before Rosie's conduct has come to the knowledge

pride in the land and a surprising patience with her unpleasant relations. Mr. Bates touches greatness in his portrayal of this discordant house-

Women dominate this book and give it life and movement. Mr. Bates has built up his portrait of Rosie with brilliant skill; in her impassioned revolt against meanness and duliness she attains a real dignity. We forget her flamboyance

and remember only her courage. Because she is of aner and more enduring stuff than they, she wins her battle against the carping and skinflint family into which she has married. Her nature remains unsoured and her mind young.

Tom returns a hopeless cripple, and soon his mind is poisoned against his wife. He dies after trying to shoot her in a fit of insanc rage. Shocked the women live for a time in a kind of chastened peace with one another, working relentlessly to keep the farm going.

All round them farmers are failing, but they cannot believe that the Jeffery farm can go the same way. "Good land, good folks on it." they would say. "Folks like us 'ave got foundation." But at last they muddle into their own crisis, "victims of their own honesty, paying too well and too readily."

THE Farm Is Sold Up

THE sisters die, and Rosie, now 50 and alone, becomes yet another victim of the agricultural depression. She is forced to sell the farm. But we part from her on the threshold of a new life. Mr. Bates tells his story with complete integrity and with a fine economy of phrase and structure. He understands the terrific effectiveness of restraint. This is a fine novel, vital, arresting, dramatic, and full of the liveliest promise.

Out of all the young men writing to-day I would back Mr. Bates to go

Green Hills of Africa

ERNEST HEMINGWAY

Mr. Hemingway has made comprehensible and vivid the magnetic delights of the hunter. He has given us intimate and vivid sketches of his travelling companions, white and black. And finally he has produced a very remarkable self-portrait. The power of a sheer gift of writing was never better exemplified than in this book." JULIAN HUXLEY for the Book Society 8s. 6d. net

Lasseter's Last Ride ION L. IDRIESS

The annals of Central Australian exploration are tragic and heroic, but it is long indeed since I read a more moving story of endurance and heroism in the face of terrific odds than the epic which Mr. Idriess has woven out of the last few months of the life of L. H. B. Lasseter.' From the introduction by Field-Marshal Sir William Birdwood

The Fool Hath Said

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to find spiritual reality and has succeeded. The chapter on Sex is the best sermon on the subject I have ever read.' The DEAN OF ST. PAUL'S in the Sunday Times

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JULIAN DUGUID author of 'Green Hell'

The story of the founding, by the Spaniards in 1535. of the City of Buenos Aires. 'Mr. Duguid narrates well, describes vividly, reconstructs period with convincing liveliness." The MANCHESTER GUARDIAN

'Read this, it is splendid story-telling.'

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A Harp in Lowndes Square RACHEL FERGUSON

The backbone of her new novel is an intellectual ghost story about a house. Vere and her twin brother have the "Sight", and through it they piece together the details of their grandmother's enormity. This experiment with time is brilliantly handled.' PUNCH 7s. 6d. not 2nd printing

A House of Women H. E. BATES The Daily Mail Book of the Month for May 70. 6d. set

THE FALLOW LAND an earlier novel by H. E. BATES is now obtainable in FLORIN BOOKS, price 2s. net; a volume of short stories, THIRTY TALES is listed in THE TRAVELLERS' LIBRARY 3s. 6d. net. For a full list of titles in either of these series write to the publishers.

JONATHAN CAPE THIRTY BEDFORD SQUARE LONDON



ings, they reach their haven is the whole plot. So persuasive is Mr. Sherriff that the reader's mind is constantly agitated by the fear that, after all, the Baldwins may be cheated out of the uncomplicated happiness they seek. Here is a human problem, handled with insight, and with a far from insipid

IF there is not an avid public new novel, Fly Away Paul (Hodder and Stoughton, 7s. 6d.), I shall be very much surprised. two things extremely well. He can tell a fast-moving tale, with gusto and a keen appreciation of every situation, comic or dramatic, or both. And he can conjure up the

liveliest and most authentic pictures of the English countryside.

Here Mr. Canning shows the stuff that is in him. This wild chase across the length and breadth of England has many exciting and diverting incidents, for quite a number of indignant people are close on Paul's heels. But it is for its joyous evocation of the English countryside that this novel deserves to

cious fiancée as well. His only course

A Widow's Story

SYBIL BOLITHO and Cen Mrs. Rudd Writes Home (Collins, 7s. 6d.), have not so rollicking a sense of humour as Mr. Canning,

near Verona with her daughter and her son-in-law, a vain and exuberant theatrical producer. Mrs. Rudd is neither awed by sophistication nor shocked by the unconventional behaviour of the household. In a series of letters to another daughter in England she records. with shrewd perception and a quiet malice, the progress of amorous intrigues, the absurdities of her daughter's guests, the trivial incidents which reveal character. The authors have created a little world which, while we read about it, seems more real than our own furniture. In page after page the magic of their quiet, insistent narrative does not falter. There are gaiety and sadness in this book, much poetry, and an All-pervading sense of humour. Chicago Streets STUDS LONIGAN, by James T. Farrell (Constable, 8s. 6d.), is three novels in one, so that

A Yorkist lady of 1450from Historic Costuming, by Nevil Truman (Pitman 10/6)

kindliness of heart.

for Mr. Victor Canning's For this young novelist can do

His young hero, who begins by stowing away in an Atlantic liner. innocently agrees to leave the ship posing as a famous American crooner, who has good reasons for not wishing to face the rapturous crowd at Southampton. He suspects that among it may lurk a detective or two. So Paul has some unpleasant shocks. He is landed, not only with a defaulting crooner's identity, but with his remarkably pertina-

Fearnley, the authors of but it is surer and more searching in