Alan Percival, orphaned young. is brought up by his grandparents in, one guesses, Lancashire and starts working on a local paper. He finds temptation from the girl

sodes in a troopship, at a naval grandeur, of Christianity mixing repair shop and then more realistically, as Alan falls for a Wren After the war he becomes a left-wing political writer and finds his marriage breaking

puts on the first hat he can grab, first-class historical novel. usually his wife's, when he goes to . Alfred Duggan, I see, commends first published in America in 1947, ging out cess-pits.

Curiously in so well-conceived a novel there are passages of desperately muddy writing, as if Mr. CAROLINE GLYN, so we are The only reason why I commend fuller is determined not to make told, wrote "Don't Knock the the book at all is that it does expoetry and so deliberately flattens Corners Off" at the advanced age plain to readers in this country the his prose. Otherwise no writer of of 15 between collating her poems mental make-up of the sort of

O knightly Sir Percival appears country is designed to mould, and classes. in Rosemary Sutcliff's re- she prefers to remain rough-hewn. creation of the Arthurian Legend. It is very easy to be superior Indeed there are no knights, only about this essentially naive novel fighting men. She is concerned to and to wonder whether anyone sell the story of King Arthur as he would have bothered to publish really was: Artos the Bear, the it, if the author were not Eleanor leader of a wandering band of Glyn's great-granddaughter, but warriors fighting the invading there is sufficient in this account Saxons up and down the country. of primary, girls' public and

Fuller. (Deutsch. 18s.) Sutcliff. (Hodder. 21s.) Don't Knock the Corners Off. By Caroline Glyn. (Gollancz.

End as a Man. By Calder Willingham. (Barker. 21s.) Oh! To Be in England. By H. E. Bates. (Michael Joseph.

living next door to his digs, and

a male supporter of the local dramatic club tries to seduce him.

The seduce him.

The seduce him below to be trowned in britain.

Who can tell if her picture of the few that matters is that it is convincing. The war is described first in a In "Sword at Sunset" there just the right feel of dirt and with Mithraic worship and other

A fire consumes the food store the same, nothing could be and Artos and his followers nearly more different from Miss Glyn's starve; the king is almost killed by book than "End as a Man," which a Saxon berserker, who attacks is about the corner knocking-off but Mr. Fuller, one of our best from under his horse, but is saved that goes on in an American milipoets in a rather minor key, pro- by his dog; Guenhumara (Guine- tary college, a sort of sub-West vides a quality of observation and vere) comes to him as his wife with Point set-up in a small Southern a crispness of dialogue that makes apples in her hair; Ambrosius, the town where esprit-de-OTC is inthis no ordinary novel. Small old High King, dies fighting a stag stilled with a broom-handle into characters leap to life: the grand- on foot: all these and several quite the nastiest lot of louts I father, for instance, who always battles combine to make this a have ever encountered.

his quality could call a dog- and arranging the second exhibibiscuit "a succulent cube," Grrr, tion of her paintings. Her theme, outside Southern colleges jeering implicit in her title, is that the at the Federal troops escorting present educational system of this Negro students to sign on for their

She makes him the last Roman grammar schools, remembered in

SHORT STORIES

scruples, but he is-thank heavens! wide public. -incapable of dullness. "A Sense of Reality" (Bodley Head, 15s) Fires and Winter Country" (Eyre give a come-uppance to the local consists of three stories and a short & Spottiswoode, 21s) is a fine col- masher. novel. These are all interesting and lection of stories, all of them set in readable, but hardly important New Zealand. The inter-related additions to the well-known topo- theme is human vulnerability and

graphy of Greeneland. attempted something new. He tries A woman journalist, for instance, in this book to explore the shadowy returns to New Zealand from territory of dream, fantasy and success in Fleet Street, but failure myth. In "Under the Garden" a in love, to find a hostile and jealous dying, much-travelled man goes brother. Everywhere she looks the back to his childhood home only old innocence has crumbled. What to discover that "all measurements is the meaning of it all? The New

childhood is only a pond. in tone to Mr. Greene's main body of Mr. Shadbolt's characters from of work. A man at last meets being universal. Morin, the French author who influenced him as a schoolboy. The still paradoxical M. Morin explains that he has lost belief but not the Mirror" (Secker & Warburg, faith. I have faith in Mr. Greene's 21s) contains several well-realised talent, but cannot quite believe in stories. Miss Calisher writes as a his M. Morin.

American critics who maintain "No doubt," Miss Calisher says of that both the novel and the short this lady, "she enjoyed the sense story are dying literary forms. Mr. of conspiracy-her hats grew a O'Hara will have none of it and— trifle larger each year."

subtleties of speech. pieces in this collection is about master of atmosphere. Nobody in an engineer dandy who turns out his senses would argue against Elito be a homosexual. In another zabeth Bowen's phrase, in her introgood one, an Irish car dealer duction, that William Sansom is a set a good example. In Northern strikes up an improbable and dis- "short-storyist by birth, addiction astrous friendship with an Ivy- and destiny."

By ROBERT GREACEN

the destructive impulse that Mr. Greene has, to his credit, causes people to hurt one another. had changed." The lake of his Zealand atmosphere is clearly brought out in these stories, but "A Visit to Morin" is nearest this does not prevent the problems

Hortense Calisher's "Tale for Southerner, whether she scrutinises a Hindu mystic who settles on the banks of the Hudson or gives the Mount Kenya. John O'Hara's "The Cape Cod low-down on a Virginian lady who Lighter" (Cresset, 21s) is prefaced oddly, but inevitably, becomes a

One of the most deeply-felt narrative gift, he has long been a

Michelangelo's self-portrait, detail

Michelangelo, Sculptor.'

It is essential to return to the

The evidence provided by the

wonders live

tyrants stern."

of a Pietá illustrated in

## Michelangelo on Himself

By TERENCE MULLALY Michelangelo's Theory of Art. By

Robert J. Clements. (Routledge. 70s.)

1. Michelangelo, Sculptor. Edited by Irving and Jean Stone. (Collins. 30s.)

ICHELANGELO wrote in letter: "Painting and sculpture, fatigue and faith have ruined me, and things are still going from bad to worse. It would have been better if in my youth I had hired

matches." It is a cry from the heart of one whose life was consumed in passionate involvement with his art, his fellow men, and then-but only then-with ideas. No wonder he dence used in this book. did not find time to evolve a coherent theory of art. What he did do is write a large number of revealing letters. It is these aspects of Michelangelo that are covered by two new books. By far the most considerable is "Michelangelo's Theory of Art" by Robert dozen greatest creative geniuses of Evidence of Letters to illuminate Michelangelo's views letters has, since Milanesi's corpus

has placed in his debt all those of Michelangelo, believe when we add to our eyes and our those people we are studying." have, though, two doubts.

## Patterns behind Variety?

The first is whether it is quite mirrors of Michelangelo. Clements assumes to discover patterns be- in one of the sonnets quoted in scribed hind variety and even inconsist- this book: Certainly this book provides that will fascinate both ordinary readers and the scholar, but I suspect Michelangelo was too much a creature of fire and the moment, too contradictory in his many-faceted genius, for it to be wise to place too much reliance

One finds sharp scenes of boys being beastly in break, nice girls suddenly turning into conformist swots, and one terrible one (which I deeply trust is fiction) where a headmistress denounces a member of the Lower V for becoming pregnant, reproaching her before the whole school.

the tranquillity of the middle teens, to justify recommending the

older cults.

fetch coal from the yard, or the it on the jacket. He might well be but no British publisher has felt naval fitter with delusions of proud to have written it. Miss bold enough (or perhaps silly grandeur describing in a rich Sutcliff is better-known as a writer enough) to produce it in this monologue how when he is a lord for children. In this book she country till now. There is much the Master-at-Arms will be dig- shows she can enthral adults as emphasis on obscenity, excrement and vomit, but also some finely

who loathe the Larkins, H. E. Bates's wonderful/ghastly, merry/ appoint their more fervent adloathing. The knockabout comedy orders not quite so marked. The undemanding will find it a plea-CRAHAM GREENE can be League millionaire. Despite a sant read as "Pop" Larkin deexasperatingly morbid and rather prosaic style Mr. O'Hara cides to have his brood christened over-concerned with religious will certainly give pleasure to a rather late, has trouble with young hoodlums in a fair ground and Maurice Shadbolt's "Summer arranges for a voluptuous piece to

into those who love and those

describing life in the town.

# Present

By MICHAEL DAVISON African Zoo Man. By John Pollard.

(Hale. 18s.) Joan's Ark. By Joan Winifred Taylor. (Hale. 18s.)

Africa: Journey Out of Darkness. By W. Byford-Jones. (Hale. 21s.) Meteor Out of Africa. By Peggy Hervey Jackson. (Cassell, 35s.)

N "African Zoo Man" John Pollard has written a lively and sympathetic account of one of the pioneer settlers and White Hunters of Kenya, Raymond Hook, of Nanyuki. Mr. Hook's many-sided career has included notably the arranging of countless safaris up

But modern interest in wild life conservation has stripped the sagas by some fighting words about Communist hostess and martyr, of the old-time White Hunters of a little of their romance. It strikes rather a harsh note these days to read of Mr. Hook trapping zebras at £50 each for zoos, monkeys at indignation apart—gives us 23 "The Stories of William Sansom" £3, and helping tourists win big stories with which he hopes to (Hogarth, 25s) is a reminder of game trophies. And his attempt to prove the critics wrong. He has the author's highly individual and train cheetahs to race against greyobviously not lost his ear for the poetic contribution to post-war hounds at White City seems a little English fiction. A bit lacking in insensitive even for the less sophisticated days of 1937. One rejoices that the cheetahs proved uncooperative.

Not that Authority has always Rhodesia leopards were classed as vermin until 1954, and efforts by a few to educate people in game conservation, as we learn from Joan Winifred Taylor's "Joan's Ark," for a long time faced official indifference.

### Zoo of Casualties

Mrs. Taylor's "ark" was a zoo of a sort, but a zoo only of casualties, of creatures of all species-including snakes and the unlovely wart-hog - found injured or orphaned in the bush or rescued from illegal captivity. A kindly and unassuming record, this; and towards the end there is an exciting description of what happens when two lions attack a bull buffalo.

First-hand accounts like Mrs. Taylor's of one aspect of life in Africa often have a freshness lacking in wider-ranging travelogues. "Africa: Journey Out of Darkness," falls into the latter category, but at least W. Byford - Jones, on his journey from Cape Town to approach that persuaded a variety of interesting people to talk to him and to guide him to some out-of-

the-way discoveries. Africa, from the Africa of only 90 years ago traversed by Stanley in of Livingstone. ther analysis by those trained in Hervey Jackson went with her husband to make a television film given us is a valuable new tool for retracing Stanley's steps, and in "Meteor Out of Africa" she has compiled a highly readable account of the safari.

of 1875, been available but, sur-IN 1911 Sir Douglas Mawson, prisingly enough, not previously already at that date a seasoned translated into English. This is explorer, lost nearly all his food now done in "I, Michelangelo, down a crevasse when 315 miles Sculptor," edited by Irving and from Base. Alone of an original editing leaves much to be desired. in the field, leading the British, Australian and New Zealand Re-Clements's work is professional. search Expedition to the Antarctic. Yet it should open the eyes of The work of this expedition, many to one of the most revealing which was made to justify His faith in his art is summed up the Southern Continent, is dein "The Winning Australian Antarctica," by Grenfell Price, based "Thus to effect cause yields, that hath Mawson Papers (Angus & Robert-

and triumphs over Nature. 1, who son, 50s). Told largely in diary form, the story is a fit memorial to the great Australian scientific traveller who died in 1958, still actively engaged in spite of time and death, those in polar research.

# By PATRICK GIBBS

To appreciate Miss Glyn you have to understand that all grownups are silly (except Mummy and Daddy, who are nice but mad, and Primary School "Sir," who

is an inspired teacher) and that most children are horrible (with a a feeling that we have not heard the last of Miss Glyn, if she has time for fiction among her other A LTHOUGH the theme is much

Calder Willingham's book was written strange short passages the book at all is that it does exyoung men who have been standing

THE world is roughly divided

I KNOW IT'S CHEAPER

TO BUY COAL IN SUMMER





