

Brief Reviews

By Anne L. Whitmack
(Travel Books)

Much has been made of "Fireside Travelling." There are two alternatives in reading at home: either one expects to see the places one is reading about; or, one never expects to see the places. European and Round-the-world cruises are in the first category, Antarctic and jungle expeditions in the second.

Books on European scenes and people are a light to our path, and a happy remembrance when we return. A series of guidebooks of inestimable value (outside of Muirhead's Blue-books) are Clara E. McLaughlin's *So You're Going Series*—to Paris, England, Italy, France. Edward Verrall Lucas has written the *Wanderer books*—in London, Paris, Venice and elsewhere that are charming and informative. Harry A. Franck has trampled through almost every country in the world, and for accurate information hard to beat.

A number of books that give the atmosphere and feeling of England are: Charles Brook's "Threads of an English Road," and "Roundabout to Canterbury"; Hudson's "Afoot in England," that so delightfully covers out-of-the-way corners; Tomlinson's "Foreshore of England," and Quennell's "History of Everyday Things in England." The last should be read at all costs.

Romance is indissolubly connected with London. There is a huge library written on it alone. But two books that serve as introductions are Gordon's *Rambles in Old London* and Tomlinson's *London River*.

After we think of England, we think of France. There is a wealth of material both on the cities and the countryside with its legends and folklore. Robson's *Wayfarer in Provence* treats of that little known section, while Henry James' *Tour of France* is a charming and valuable book. Henry Adams wrote *Mont St. Michel and Chartres*, a brilliant book that should be read before and after one's visit to the cathedral.

Central Europe has been neglected since the war, but there are an increasing number of travellers who desire to see it. A charming and unconventional account of a corner of Czechoslovakia is Baerlin's "Over the Hills to Ruthenia." McBride's "Towns and People of Modern Germany," is very good, so is Rimington's "Motor Ramble Through Central Europe." "A Wayfarer in Hungary," by Birmingham, is written with humor and acuteness.

Italy and Spain are lands of romance, sunlight and color. Howell's "Venetian Life" is a delightful book that has not been superseded. Havelock Ellis has written a penetrating book called the "Soul of Spain," and akin to it is "Andalusia," by Somerset Maugham. "Recent Days in Spain," by McCormach, is delightful, and the new mecca for globe-trotters "The Balearic Islands," is covered by Chamberlin.

Men and women have been fired with a longing to see Asia and Africa. There is something in the names that sends a thrill along our spine. Few of us actually see the interior of either continent. Sven Hedin's "My Life as an Explorer" is a succession of thrilling adventures, escapes and remarkable exploits in central Asia. Roy Chapman Andrews has covered the Gobi desert in his books "On the Trail of Ancient Man" and "Across Mongolian Plains." The discovery of the Dinosaur eggs will not soon be forgotten.

A poetic interpretation of China is Ayscough's "Chinese Mirror," and a

realistic account is Howard's "Ten Weeks With the Chinese Bandits." An accurate and adventurous book is McGovern's "To Lhasa in Disguise." "With Lawrence in Arabia" is a book that no one cares to miss, while a brilliant account of Arabs and Persians is given in Powell's "By Camel and Car to the Peacock Throne." "Grass," the record of a nomad tribe's search for forage, is most engrossing. "Beyond Khyber Pass" tells of little known Afghanistan.

African books always seem in violent contrast with those on Asia. "South Africans," by Sarah Millin, is an in-

teresting study of race relations. "Trader Horn" is a most romantic book. A rare volume is Woodberry's "North Africa and the Desert." Coudenhove's, "My African Neighbors," should not be missed. A new contribution to folklore is Blaise Cendrars' "African Saga." Powell's books on Africa should not be forgotten.

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Burchard of Oxford road have left Kenilworth for an extended trip to Europe. They will spend most of the early spring near Rome.

Mrs. Leroy Baumgartl of 1180 Oakley avenue, Hubbard Woods, returned last Monday from New York. Mrs. Baumgartl was not expected until Wednesday. Mr. Baumgartl returned last week. They spent a short time in New York after returning from a cruise to Cuba and the West Indies.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Breit and family of 422 Essex road, Kenilworth, left last Thursday evening for Miami, Fla. They expect to return in May.

Dr. Jay M. Garner of 804 Prospect avenue left last Saturday for two months' study in Philadelphia.

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