

The Cherry Tree by Derek Tangye.

The latest of several books in the Minack Chronicles, the delightful recounting of the story of the lives of Derek and Jeannie Tangye. Having removed themselves from the stresses of life in London, the Tangyes live a blissful life of solitude on their daffodil farm in Cornwall. They revel in the change of seasons, even the back breaking business of picking daffodils for the market. Quiet walks accompanied by their donkeys Fred and Merlin or alternatively strolling with Ambrose the cat and a kitten who appeared starving under the cherry tree. The book is busy with their efforts to feed her and win her approval and of course they name her Cherry. The Chronicles are well read in many countries and this brings visitors to invade the precious solitude, many of them famous and all welcome. Relaxing reading, it fills one with peace and some envy, not only of the life-style they have achieved but the joy with which they live it.

BS

Charade by John Mortimer.

Mr. Mortimer's first novel, published in 1947 and acclaimed by the critics. Since then he has regaled his fans with a deluge of books and plays including the Rumpole series recently seen on television. It is a strange little story of a young man on the eve of the Normandy landings arrives in an English seaside resort. He is there to join a film unit for the purpose of making a documentary on army training. The crew are a very odd lot, a soldier dies in the course of the exercises. Filled with suspicion the young man loses his enthusiasm and departs to a steadier but dreary life as an insurance slaesman. One does wonder how an apparently healthy young man can contemplate two careers at a time when every able bodied male of his age was a conscript in one of the forces.

BS

A Dowry of Owls by Larry McKeever.

Kay McKeever is known as Canada's Owl Lady and her husband Larry has written a book about her and her affinity for owls. What started out as a hobby, with three owls, when they were married twenty years ago has now become the Owl Rehabilitation Research Foundation, a non-profit organisation devoted to the care of injured owls. The owls are not pets. The idea is to heal and return them to the wild. The aviary is at Vineland, in the Niagara Peninsula and has become internationally known. Kay gives talks to naturalist societies, has spoken on radio and television and a few weeks ago became the recipient of an Order of Canada medal. As Gerald Durrell says, read this book for its humour and charm and for the serious picture it brings of the work of this remarkable couple.

JR

Antarctica published by Reader's Digest.

The great voyages of discovery and exploration during the 19th and early 20th centuries form the main part of this fantastic new book about Antarctica, some of the most extraordinary tales of courage and daring ever told. Names like Larsen, Amundsen, Scott and Shaekleton come to mind. There is a section on the physical background, climate, penguins, sealing and whaling, etc., special features on shelter, transport, etc. and hundreds of rare old maps, photos and paintings.

The world's coldest, iciest, highest, driest, windiest and most remote continent is now fully mapped and inhabited year round by scientists and its awesome beauty viewed by tourists. The major contributors to the book are from Australia and New Zealand but all research is carried out in a spirit of full international cooperation and for peaceful purposes only.

JR

Understanding Arthritis by the Arthritis Foundation (American).

As an arthritic I read anything that comes to hand on the painful subject, this book is the most informative. With the aid of diagrams it outlines the early warning signs of arthritis and explains the methods of pain control from medication to biofeedback and relaxation training. There are sixteen forms of the disease and it is estimated that thirty seven million Americans suffer from it. The authors discuss the pros and cons of surgery in extreme cases and deride quack gadgets and diets that claim instant relief, often at great cost to the gullible. Worth reading even if you are only subject to an occasional warning twinge.

BS

Capital Offences by Allan Fotheringham.

Fotheringham's complaining that his book is not getting any reviews, so perhaps Leeds Lantern could come to the rescue! His Dr. Foth Meets Uncle Sam is bright and breezy as ever, but also very well informed about our neighbours

to the south, Dr. Foth at his best. Funny, not too much overkill and just great for the holiday season.
JR

Caitlin by Caitlin Thomas with George Tremlett.

Caitlin is the wife of the Welsh poet, Dylan Thomas, who died suddenly when on a speaking tour of the United States in 1953. Goerge Tremlett runs an antiquarian bookstore in Dylan's home town of Laugharne and coaxed her into telling him about her life with Dylan, which he felt had to be recorded. The debauchery, drunkenness and brutality is all here as well as the genius, tenderness and love. Caitlin married again and found peace of mind in Italy. Dylan lives on in his poetry and at this time of year C.B.C. regularly broadcasts his short story, A Child's Christmas in Wales.
JR



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