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North to the Rime-ringed Sun. By J. W. Huthison. This is a most enjoyable journey we make, and the authoress holds our close attention from first to last. We will admire her real courage in the many things she did, and will equally admire the way she tells us about them. An adventure that was full of adventure.

My Mis-spent Youth. By Henry Fitch. Notes and recollections, gleaned from diaries, signal logs, and scraps jotted down here, there, and anywhere. Plenty of movement, and written in a happy sailor's breezy style.

The Face of the Earth. By J. H. Curle. In some respects this is the best book yet from this author, perhaps best of all, he gives Britishers something to think about that might hurt a bit. Don't miss this "Curle."

Through Wildest Papua. By J. G. Hicks. The story of two expeditions into the heart of New Guinea, and emphasises the power of sympathetic understanding in winning the confidence of even a New Guinea head hunter. Well worth reading.

Stanley Baldwin. By Arthur Bryant. A somewhat rapid glance through this study of Stanley Baldwin gave birth to the resolve to read it later on, as it deserves to be read.

FICTION

Child Royal. By D. K. Broster. Heinemann. 7/6. Those who like a good tale founded on scholarly history will be glad to see Miss Broster again in the field. There are numberless stories already of Mary of Scots, of her brief unhappy reign or her long imprisonment. Here, however, is something more unusual—a tale of the happy years of her French childhood, when she was the betrothed of the little Dauphin. It was a less happy time for Ninian Graham, a gentleman-archer of the French King's Scots Guard, and for Magdalen Lindsay, the little Queen's maid of honour. The crux of the tale is a plot to poison Queen Mary, as in actual historic fact was once attempted; and since Ninian and his bride are both, through no fault of their own, involved, their careers nearly come to an unpleasant end. Miss Broster, the Cardinal de Lorraine, and a French river intervene, however, and an ingenious twist restores their fortunes.

The historical background, as always with this writer, is carefully accurate. King Henri, the smooth, neglected Florentine Queen, the enigmatic Diane de Poitiers, her temporary rival Lady Fleming, the Cardinal de Lorraine, his sister the Queen Dowager of Scot, the pitiful and spirited little Dauphin, the charming Reinette, and her quartet of Maries, all play their parts as the story moves from Dumbarton to Roscoff, St. Germain to Blois, Anet to Chateaubriant, through a pattern of pageantry and court intrigues.

—Times Literary Supplement.

Mystery Cruise. By Taffrail (Captain Taprell Dorling). Hodder and Stoughton. 7/6. Edward Norwell preferred gun-running or dabbling in civil wars and revolutions to the humdrum existence of an officer of a passenger liner. So he organised an expedition in the steamer Varuna, under his own command and manned chiefly by British hands, though flying the flag of a small Baltic State, to supply a cargo of arms to the insurgents in Spain. In the Channel he rescued from a burning yacht a prominent politician and his daughter Clarissa. They were agents of the opposite Spanish faction on board, who first nearly succeeded in blowing up the ship, then betrayed her whereabouts to the warship on the look-out for her, and finally kidnapped Clarissa and held her as a hostage. However, the villains were shot in a stirring scrap, and Clarissa reunited to her buccaneer. The thrill peters out to rather a lame end, though the nautical local colour is, of course, unimpeachable.

Lenient God, By Naomi Jacobs, is a charming story, rich in humour, in humanity, in beauty, and the stern common sense that Yorkshire people impart into the most farcical surroundings. Bill Warren is hero—a Yorkshireman. Warren, striving for higher education, is the victim of a rotten young schoolmaster in childhood; he tries to please his father by becoming a grocer, but hates it, and has a pleasant interlude as chauffeur to a charming and pathetic young man who dies. He falls in love with his ideal woman, who cannot marry him, and is saved the despair that might have seized him by his mother's staunch friendship, his queer old grandmother, and his rather foolish brother.

Every character in the book is vivid, and Miss Jacobs has written nothing better than this story of simple, rather humble people, and her new book should enhance her reputation as a creator of character and a gripping storyteller.

—Vide Times Literary Supplement.

**SOME RECENTLY PURCHASED
FICTION**

An Infamous ArmyGeorgette Heyer
Be Patient with Love.....Guy Trent
Be Gentle with Love.....Sylvia Sark
Black Virgin.....Mary Borden
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By Breathless Ways.....Ben Bolt
The Candle Virgins.....Mrs Baillie Saunders
Child Royal.....D. K. Broster
The Crooked Furrow.....Jeffery Farnol
Dangerous Years.....Gilbert Frankau
Dark Valley.....Jackson Gregory
Death in Downing Street.....J. G. Brandon
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