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competently written mystery story, with the Sino-Japanese war for its background. (Times Literary Supplement).

Perilous Discovery. By Gunnar Johnston. Dallington and Fordingbridge were close friends who lost touch with one another after the War, when Dallington turned to journalism and Fordingbridge to science. He, in fact, made a discovery in physics which might have been developed with incalculable results for good or evil. An unfortunate love affair, however, led to the final frustration of all his work. This book will appeal to those readers who like scientific fiction.

Historical Nights' Entertainments, by Rafael Sabatini, is his third volume of what might be called spliced versions of historic dramas; that is, he uses invention only to splice the breaks in recorded fact. And he tells us where the breaks are. The stories of Anne Boleyn, Lady Jane Grey, Elizabeth and Essex, and Lady Arabella Stuart are told effectively; so are two incidents in the long fight between Catharine de Medicis and the Guises, and the death of Henrietta of Orleans. The trial of wits between Maria Theresa and Frederick of Prussia is plain history. Unlike all the other stories, that of Napoleon's first meeting with Josephine is probably myth. Mr Sabatini tells us so, but he did not invent it; Barras did. Last comes a new interpretation of the murder of Monaldeschi by Christina of Sweden. The incident may not be historically important, but the character of its heroine, or villainess, makes it perennially interesting. No one need sympathize with Monaldeschi, whose rascality is quite clear, but why Christina set an equal rascal to murder him no one knows. Mr Sabatini's version is as likely as any, and almost anything except normal conduct is credible of Christina. But he is wrong in saying that no other solution has been published. Each of Christina's many biographers has suggested a fresh one. (Times Literary Supplement).

SOME NEW PURCHASES OF FICTION

And Then Goodbye Barbara Hedworth
The Black Arrows Francis Beeding
Black Spot Mystery Andrew Soutar
Crime's Masquerader A. McVicar
Cameron of the Rancho F. H. Spearman
Crinklenose Oliver Sandys
Down Donkey Row Len Ootzen
The Dream Prevails Maud Diver
The Four False Weapons Jno. D. Carr
Gay by Name R. S. Macnamara
Gold Moon of Africa Hermina Black
Gone with the Wind Mary Mitchell
Hearts of Gold Countess Barynska
Historical Nights' Entertainments Rafael Sabatini
Hopalong Cassidy Takes Cards Clarence Mulford
Illgotten Gains E. W. Savi
Invisible Weapons Jno. Rhode
The Ivory Goddess Jean Barre
Jackals of the Secret Service Operator 1384
Khyber Contraband Victor Bayley
Land of Tomorrow Shirley Siefert
The Missing Link Carolyn Wells

Murder in Switzerland Edmund Snell
One Who Kills Ridgwell Callum
Perilous Discovery Gunnar Johnston
Pity of the World Elinor Mordaunt
The Radcliffe Case Jno. Bentley
Restless Heart Denise Robins
Scotland Yard Alibi Don Betheridge
A Secret Life Hester Shepherd
A Snip of the Line C. S. Forrester
Sing a Song of Sydney Rosemary Rees
The Song and the Shadow Sophie Cole
Spring Always Comes Eliz. Cambridge
The Substitute Guest Grace L. Hill
Tish Marches On Mary R. Rinehart
There was Another Ruby M. Ayres
Wandering Cowboy C. W. Sanders
Weave a Circle Diana Patrick

RECOMMENDED NON-FICTION

And Nothing Long, by Ronald MacDonell. This is a book for a cold night and a warm fire. From the start one is held by the writer's happy, humorous style and fine abundant variety. In the first chapter he faithfully and humorously depicts "Victorian Youth" with the atmosphere of those days. His banking days, though brief, give us some bright pictures. The early days in Moscow are interesting reading, followed by a transfer to Baku. Here he has a series of adventures that lasted quite some time, for he was now Vice-consul, and the Russian upheaval was in progress. His story of the restless, disturbing activity in the district around the Caspian and Black Seas are full of dramatic interest, while tragedy is rampant, following struggles between conflicting parties, Russians, white and red, Jews, Armenians, Georgians, Persians, and Turks. His activities as Political Agent do not meet with the approval of some, twice arrested, and the second time sentenced to death, gave him an awkward time, though he was safely away in good time.

This book, written with a light touch, with here and there a sterner note, will be found full of interest to all.

The Chamberlain Tradition, by Sir Charles Petrie. The author is a well known writer and this work is his latest historical work. Joseph Chamberlain, Austen Chamberlain and Neville Chamberlain are the three persons dealt with here, all eminent in their work for Great Britain and the Empire, and the influence exerted by them is notable.

The story is interspersed with anecdotes and personal reminiscences which throw new light on the character of these three great men.

Under the Japanese Mask, by Miles W. Vaughn. Very informative and highly interesting, also very revealing. Under the Mask we get glimpses of personalities and events that help us to better understand the tremendous drama now being played in China. A book that the reader will find to be full of interest from beginning to the end.

The Birth of the Future, by Ritchie Calder. Though published a year or two ago this book will not be out of date for years to come. Now

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