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**Sand and Sun**, by Michael Terry. A very interesting account of two gold prospecting expeditions with camels in the dry lands of Central Australia, 1932-1933. Mr Terry had as companions Stan O'Grady and Ben Nicker, two stout, reliable comrades, and two black "fellows." Leaving Erldunda Station, in Central Australia, north-west of Ordnatta, they journeyed mostly by untrodden paths to Lake Mackay, in Western Australia, returning to Central Australia, then launching out again to Western Australia, finally finishing at Warron-bia. Mr Terry's description of their many trials and dangers is given in terse and vivid words, and, being blessed with a native gift of humour, the story is not without the lighter and brighter side. When leaving the Alfred and Marie Range in Western Australia he noticed some marks on a desert eucalyptus, and to his surprise read Lasseter 2.12.30. Further on more evidence was found of that prospector's work. But no one has ever found the reputed reef of fabulous wealth which Lasseter claimed to have discovered. The most important result of their first expedition was the discovery of potassium-nitrate. This discovery is of immense importance to agricultural work in Australia if interest in it can only be aroused. For its possibilities are of tremendous value as the base of many fertilisers, and also from the fact that nitrate is not available within the Empire as yet. This is a most interesting and enjoyable book.

**The Valley of the Assassins**, by Freya Stark. Miss Stark has given us here a work that has gained glowing eulogies from the critics and the English Press, also gaining recognition of her work and achievements from the Royal Geographical Society and the Royal Asiatic Society.

Those who enjoyed "The Southern Gates of Arabia" will find here the same charm in greater variety.

**The Siege of Alcazar**, by H. R. Knickerbocker. The books on the Revolution in Spain have yet to be written, but this one is written by an American journalist who was granted every possible facility to see as much as he could on the Rebel Front. He writes forcefully, and through him we make acquaintance with war in its naked horror. The relief of Alcazar will long be remembered as one of the grimmest events in this struggle. Writing from the Rebel front, we gain a slight insight as to how the struggle is carried on, but it is worth while noting that, while the Moors are mentioned, very little is mentioned of either Italian or German troops fighting Spaniards in Spain.

**Three Lives and—Now**, by Stephen Foot. Quite a different book this. The author was employed by a famous oil company, first in Singapore then in Mexico. When war broke out he became a staff officer in the Tank Corps. After the war he was an assistant master at his Alma Mater. Then "Now" is recorded. At last he had found that direct service of God was the greatest thing of all. A "human" book.