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**BOOKS RECENTLY PLACED IN THE
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Ordeal in England. Sir Philip Gibbs, in the earlier chapters, deals with the passing of Edward VII., accession of George V., the dramatic events of his reign with a panegyric on his jubilee, describes how his passing touched the hearts of peers and costers, all classes, men and women. As an interlude he relates his inclusion in the personnel of "A Royal Commission to enquire into the alleged abuse in the private manufacture of arms and the trading in weapons of war, and to decide whether it was possible or desirable to substitute a State monopoly in the industry." One of the ironies of this Commission was that while it was yet sitting Mussolini launched his Abyssinian campaign, and on more than one occasion the situation was critical in the extreme. The evidence of Vickers Ltd., and their cross-examination was a time of great strain. David Lloyd George was a lighter spot in that sombre strained atmosphere, fresh as a young man, full of dynamic energy, and at the top of his form. The recapitulation of the abdication is in Sir Philip's vivid style. He covers all the events, and writes faithfully and truthfully. Summing up, he says:—England loved Edward VIII., and we have lost something." As to the Air Force in the scheme of re-armament, he is pessimistic. We are moving slowly and still weak in future possibilities. He is alarmed by the thought that the "Brass Hats" may be similar to the "heads" or Brass Hats in 1914. A staggering thought, and unfortunately for all probably correct.

In defence of Conservative ideas and condemnation of leftism, he becomes very earnest and eloquent, apparently ignoring the basic cause of the conflict between these two parties. He is passionate in his desire for friendship with Germany, and his argument is apt enough to show a strong case. Searching for evidence of England's opinion, he meets many and various ideas illustrative of the chaotic condition into which not one country, but many, have been drawn. The views of an American—of whom he says, he is well known in the U.S.A. but whose identity is not divulged—are interesting, inasmuch as he presents another viewpoint of the Asiatic European situation. The Epilogue is an account of the Coronation, and concludes a very arresting and provocative book.

Japan Must Fight Britain. By Lieut.-Comm. Tota Ishimaru. This is a book well worth reading, and more than that it is one that must be read in order to get the Japanese viewpoint of expansion. The author tells us that the ultimate aim of Japan is to include China and India in the Japanese economic block, and as he holds that Britain's era of prosperity and power is quickly vanishing, he is confident of Japan's victory. He leaves a possible hope for Britain if she will renounce some of her Asiatic territory, thus making a gesture that will placate Japan and render a war of acquisition unnecessary. He makes out a case that will please naval authori-

ties in Japan, does not conceal his anger at the development of Singapore, and concedes that as long as Britain has a powerful navy and Singapore we in New Zealand and Australia can sleep in peace. He might have added that Britain has been likened unto a bulldog, whose strong point is to grip and hang on. A book to read by those who take concern at Pacific Ocean affairs.

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 the reader makes acquaintance with war in its naked horror. The relief of Alcazar will long be remembered as one of the grimmest events in the 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 Itaitn or German troops fighting Spaniards in Spain.

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.

Red Sea Nights. By Wm. J. Makin. A story of action and movement, commencing at Marseilles, when penetrating into Abyssinia, he then is for quite a long spell in and about the unknown parts of the Red Sea, where he sees life in many shades and hues. He has adventures galore, and enjoys them all.

I'll Go no More Aroving. By Charles Ladds. This is not a fairy tale, though some parts of it read like pure imagination. The author left home at fourteen, and went to sea, and in eight years had gathered quite a lot of varied experiences, and that is what the book is about. It will be well read.

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.

NEW NOVELS

By our Reviewer.

Seaway Only. By Humphrey Jordan. Do you want to read a book full of the salt tang of the sea, a story of the strength of the finest product of England, a man's book salted and vigorous? "Seaway Only," a tale of the merchant service will fill your wants of a real book full of life, brimming with interest that will grip you from cover to cover. A real character walks here for you to visualize and study. This is a book you will take up with pleasure and put down with

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