

of the war, this was not to be; however, the post-war reconstruction plan will carry production well beyond pre-war levels to 25.4 million tons in 1950. Socialist construction forges ahead. No wonder that the first land of socialism longs for peace in which to realise the full potentialities of a socialist economy.

Against the background of his historical survey of socialism in practice Dobb introduces some theoretical questions of socialist planning such as the planning system, the financial system, the location of industry and so forth. Detailed consideration of these sections which are full of interest and illumination is not here possible, and it must suffice to commend them as a challenge to the falsification of socialist theory. Dobb's book will therefore be not only of great value within the labour movement; it is also a powerful weapon in the battle for socialist ideas in academic circles.

JOHN EATON.

Bloody Terror of Franco

Sleepless Spain by Victor Alba (The Cobbett Press, 8/6).

THE main value of this book, which is well-written, is in the way it gets under the surface and exposes much of the rottenness, corruption and bloody terror of the Franco dictatorship. The unending executions, batch after batch disposed of night after night after travesties of trials for which Franco is directly responsible, stand out vividly in this journalist's book.

Although not enough appears, it is possible to get a picture of the terrible poverty of the workers in face of soaring prices, miserable wages and long hours fixed by the Falangist Syndicats (Fascist Union Organisations) over which the workers have no control. The exploitation of the girls of Almendralejo by the dried up, religious old marchioness and the appalling poverty of the labourers of Elmeria, many suffering from trachoma, leave the reader under no illusions about the workers' lot. The

picture of the lot of the peasantry, millions of whom are landless, is a merciless exposure of the whole system, supported by the Army, the Church and the Feudal Landowners.

Nevertheless the book has a great weakness, and the fact that it was finished two years ago in 1946 is not sufficient to explain away its pessimism. I would say its defeatism, about both the anti-Franco Fight and the solution of the Spanish problem. Speaking through a middle class lawyer, he says this: "Have you ever seen a people succeed in ridding itself of Government tyrants as the Jacobins did? Never in modern times." He can say that with the example of the great October Revolution before him. His conclusion about the overthrow of Franco is

"Spain cannot be an exception. Régimes, whether democratic or totalitarian, yield only by pressure or intervention from abroad."

This is the weakness of the book. There is insufficient faith in the Spanish people. Its peasantry who are today in increasing numbers joining the "Guerrilleras". Its working class who have staged such tremendous strikes as those in the Basque country, Barcelona, Sabadell and elsewhere, since this book was written it is true, but who were already actively fighting then and who have never given up since the Franco victory.

The fighting leadership given to the movement by the heroic members of the Spanish Communist Party, the best elements of Socialists and Republicans inside Spain is not recognised.

There is a danger some readers of *Sleepless Spain* might draw the false conclusion that, well, any other kind of Government so long as Franco is out would be welcome. That is what Bevin and the British Embassy gentlemen hope for. I don't think it is what the author would want, and I'm sure the warm-hearted, hospitable and brave Spanish people, with the aid of the workers everywhere, will not replace Franco, with Prieto, Don Juan or any other betrayer, but by the Republic, free, independent and peaceful.

PETER KERRIGAN.



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than the magazine as such. Most cordial greetings and best wishes for your courageous fight against international fascism and warmongering."

M.Z. (Dresden).

WORLD'S GREATEST PLAYWRIGHT.

Perhaps, before leaving this subject I ought to mention our oldest reader, who is both Ancient and Modern. When the world's greatest playwright last week renewed his subscription for two years—a neat gesture of confidence in both himself and us—he did not scruple to put the balance of his cheque to the development fund, which will be duly acknowledged next month.

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Now would be the fitting moment to remind readers that this year, too, they can buy a Christmas and New Year gift token. This provides a subscription for a friend and a greeting card you can send on to him or her to announce the good news. (6s. per half-year; 12s. for a year; Two for £1 1s.; Three for £1 10s.). A very present help in trouble, your present problem is solved a month ahead!

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