

and film stars come first, they squander wealth in the most profligate manner while children 'cry for bread'. But in the Soviet Union and China, from the first days of their respective revolutions, it has been—first care for the children. So, our travellers, with warm hearts, seeing eyes and receptive minds can say, and I hope that many will read what leads up to it, and what follows: 'We began this report with a comment on the importance which socialists attach to the education and upbringing of their children, and gave some illustrations, drawn from our experience with the children of the Soviet Union. The Chinese people feel an equal pride and have equal hopes for their children. Until we visited China we felt that the children we had met in Soviet Russia, taken as a whole, were the healthiest and best-balanced, pleasantest children we had seen anywhere. We now feel that the Chinese young people are at least the equal of the Russians in robust, sturdy, well-developed bodies and balanced minds. Outside of these two countries we have never seen young people, from babies up, who radiate such hope, such confidence, purpose, self-possession and cheer, Chinese and Russian youth are climbing fast and far'.

WILLIAM GALLACHER.

Anglo-Soviet Journal, Vol. XIX.
S.C.R. Quarterly, 2s. 6d.

WHEN a group of eminent dons recently exhorted *The Times* readers to study Soviet methods of teaching English, the folly of further impeding cultural exchanges became absurdly apparent. The point is underlined by articles in the past four issues of the *Anglo-Soviet Journal*, which for 19 years now has been storming the obstacles to closer cul-

tural relations. In 'Forgotten Pages of English Poetry', A. Nikilyukin reminds us of the poetry of the Corresponding Societies in the 1790's, while in another issue N. Minkh offers some stimulating 'Thoughts on Jazz' (an incontestably post-Dickensian topic, Mr. Prime Minister). Apart from these engaging opportunities 'to see ourselves as others see us', the main merit of the *Journal* remains its picture of the Soviet scene. Contributors in the past period include Russians as distinguished as the composer Shostakovich and film producer Grigori Alexandrov, as well as a host of authoritative British writers whose view is not coloured by cold-war spectacles. The serious thought given to cultural questions in the Soviet Union attracts notice in the general British Press only when, as recently, Pasternak is criticised by the editors of *Novy Mir*. But the *Anglo-Soviet Journal*, now incorporating *The Arts in the U.S.S.R.*, consistently provides a concise quarterly review of events and controversy that is unrivalled by any other English-language publication. It is all the more needed when Tory 'freedom' has succeeded in reducing the number of students taking advanced level G.C.E. Russian from 249 in 1955 to only 62 in 1957. These back numbers do not date.

PETER TEMPEST.

Jim Crow Guide to the U.S.A.

Stetson Kennedy

Lawrence & Wishart. 230pp. 18s.

A DEVASTATING exposure of the daily humiliations, restrictions and assaults suffered by American Negroes, Indians, Puerto Ricans and others. Though the chapter arrangement of this guide enables one to follow it without difficulty, an Index would no doubt have been useful.

J.W.

Blow You Jack, We Were Right!*B.O.A.C. Shop Stewards.* 14 pp. 6d.

THIS neat turn of a colloquialism is the title of a pamphlet published by the Joint Shop Stewards' Committee, B.O.A.C., London Airport. It is the answer of the London Airport workers to the recent report of the Government Court of Enquiry which was set up to probe into the causes of the B.O.A.C. dispute which took place last October. That Court, under the chairmanship of Professor D. T. Jack, C.B.E., J.P., issued a report of a most biased character against trade union organisation at the airport and which, of course, received extensive publicity in the daily Press. We now have, in this well-reasoned, illustrated pamphlet, a very effective reply to that 'Jack report'. It shows how the evidence of reliable trade union officials and leading shop stewards which indicated that the guilty party causing the dispute was the B.O.A.C. management, was either distorted or ignored in the findings of the Court of Enquiry. It gives a very clear account of the events leading to the strike which closed down B.O.A.C. for ten days. It also shows how the policy of this Tory government has been to undermine the structure of nationalisation by handing over to private airline companies the more profitable services operated by the nationalised airlines. The 'Jack report' has encouraged the management to try to break up the shop stewards organisation at the airport. Says the pamphlet: 'Provocation follows provocation. Long established customs and local agreements with regard to meetings have been shamelessly torn up'. Well, unless that policy ceases, we are likely to see another stoppage of work at B.O.A.C.

WAL HANNINGTON.

History Unearthed

Sir Leonard Woolley

Ernest Benn. 184 pp. 30s.

THIS beautiful book has a selection of as many photographs as it has pages to make a survey of eighteen archaeological sites throughout the world. Its author, renowned for his unearthing of Ur of the Chaldees, sometimes shows a naïveté which may be ascribed to his Victorian education.

Thus he is quite uncritical of Evans whose hoarding of the Knossos tablets (deciphered by the genius of Ventris after the death of Evans and others had made them at last available to all the talents) and false theories about them had hindered the spread of knowledge.

Nor should there, in contrast to the richness of the photographs, be so meagre a map of 'Chinese Turkestan,' which in any case is not all 'an unrelieved waste of gravel and shifting sand-dunes' but contains the Tien Shan or Celestial Mountains, in high sufficient relief.

Nor ought the extensive thefts from the Caves of the Thousand Buddhas by Aurel Stein over fifty years ago be treated as in no way reprehensible but simply as 'an unparalleled archaeological "scoop"'. The twenty-four cases of M.S.S. stolen by Stein and received by the British Museum may one day be followed by a hue-and-cry from the Chinese people: in which event no doubt the B.M. trustees, who have shown a keen eye to the main chance in their anxiety to get a whack of the Bernard Shaw fortune, will gracefully pay the worth of these treasures—or hand them back.

Lastly, Sutton Hoo is not in Sussex but in Suffolk. These and such-like blemishes apart, this is a good book, and finely produced.

R. P. ARNOT.