

Criminal Record

THE CHINESE BELL MURDERS. By Robert van Gulik. Harper. \$3.50. Three integrated plots make up this finely managed composite built around old oriental themes; author is Dutch diplomat who has served in Manchuria, Japan, Chungking, elsewhere; fifteen drawings by him illuminate text. High-voltage entertainment.

THE INNOCENTS. By Richard Savage. Ives Washburn. \$2.95. Yank citizen Joe Kovacs flies to Britain to rescue seven-year-old son whom Red mother has stashed away in iron-curtain legation; hero gets in jam by overtalking to press; gets out of same, but it takes time.

I'LL BE JUDGE, I'LL BE JURY. By Elizabeth Hely. Scribners. \$2.95. English bride, honeymooning in France, slain in Côte d'Or; husband, at Sûreté's suggestion, attempts to case known killer; Commissaire Cirret is good. Unusual and effective.

THE SALAZAR GRANT. By E. L. Withers. Rinehart. \$3.50. Dutch mining engineer gets tip on uranium deposits in abandoned New Mexico shaft; corpse turns up instead. Thin-spun.

THE SAINT MAKER. By Leonard Holton. Dodd, Mead. \$2.95. Reverend mother in Los Angeles convent school dithered when canvas airplane bag reveals woman's head; Father Joseph Bredder (six foot one, 200 pounds) turns detective and aids competent cops in solution. Pleasant despite grim takeoff.

THE GREY SOMBRERO. By Pete Fry. Roy. \$2.75. London shamus (complete with female secretary) takes on Tangier assignment with warm-weather vacation in view; gun-smuggling enters picture, and things are not what they were; Algiers also visited. Orthodox Barbary Coast job.

SO DEAD THE ROSE. By M. E. Chaber. Rinehart. \$2.95. It's back to Army Intelligence again for Milo March when vital paper vanishes; Berlin clues point Kremlinward; flight from Moscow to Turkey by car exciting (and geographically sound). Frisky as ever.

A MAN TO MATCH THE HOUR. By Seldon Truss. Crime Club. \$2.95. Strangled body found in moth-eaten London museum rouses Mr. Horace, *Daily Snapshot* reporter, to action; Slovenian embassy is focal point; diplomat's daughter in jeopardy; Chief Inspector Gidleigh is taken for ride. Moves along.

—SERGEANT CUFF.

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(Continued on page 34)

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(Continued from page 33)

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FOR YOUNG READERS 45

VERSE 46

NATURE 46

PICTURE BOOKS 47

RECENTLY librarians and other book-interested people celebrated the second National Library Week—a highly successful period when the public were made aware of the great variety of services available to them from their libraries. Like other national "weeks," this one was designed as a reminder and a stimulus to year-round library use. Libraries serving youth welcome them at all times. The new spring books, some of which are reviewed on the following pages, are being added to collections in school libraries and children's and young-adult rooms of public libraries for home borrowing. They are also in bookstores for purchase as part of the personal library that every child should have, though it contain only a few books.

—FRANCES LANDER SPAIN, *Coordinator,
Children Services,
The New York Public Library.*

The Tears, the Smiles Are the Same

By JANE SCOTT McCLURE, *Coordinator, Work with Young Adults,
Free Library of Philadelphia.*

Today in Asia . . . the Asian peoples reach out to us for reassurance and understanding. . . . Has any nation ever faced so great a test as ours? . . . It may be that no nation, no matter how wise or how good, can meet such a challenge. . . . History only asks that we try our best. Above all, that we act in faith, not fear.

—*"Ambassador's Report,"
by Chester Bowles
(Harper, 1954).*

IN FAITH that the young people of America will succeed in meeting this challenge, the Young Adult Services Division of the American Library Association last year embarked upon a reading project to help our young Americans in this

task. The project is called "Richer by Asia."

In spite of the dire predictions of Kipling, East and West are meeting all across America. These meetings are taking place not only in the schools and public libraries of the small towns and large cities of our country but in any spot where a young adult curls up with a good book about Asia. For it is through the world of books that our young people are learning that the Hirokos of Tokyo and the Yong Tus of Seoul are not very different from the girl or boy next door. They are learning that in spite of the contrast in culture, costume, and custom there are certain emotions which each man has in common with his fellow-man and that, deep down within, people are very much the same no matter where in the world they live.

Cynthia Bowles states it succinctly

in "At Home in India" (Harcourt, Brace) when she says:

Are there not certain universal values and emotions which are common to us all? Is there not a great basic similarity that far outweighs the differences between the peoples of the world?

In another memoir we read:

At exactly five minutes after two I would be seated in front of the Bechstein, running my unsteady fingers over the ivory keyboard while [Fraülein Roggendorff] would stand beside me . . . beating time with her deep, hollow voice. *Ein, zwei, drei . . .*

The constant urging to keep the correct time, to watch the fingering—was there ever a piano lesson given anywhere in the world that did not have this accompaniment? The clock ticks on the mantelpiece and outside the other girls are playing.

At a casual glance the scene might be in a German drawing room, but