

The Millionth Copy

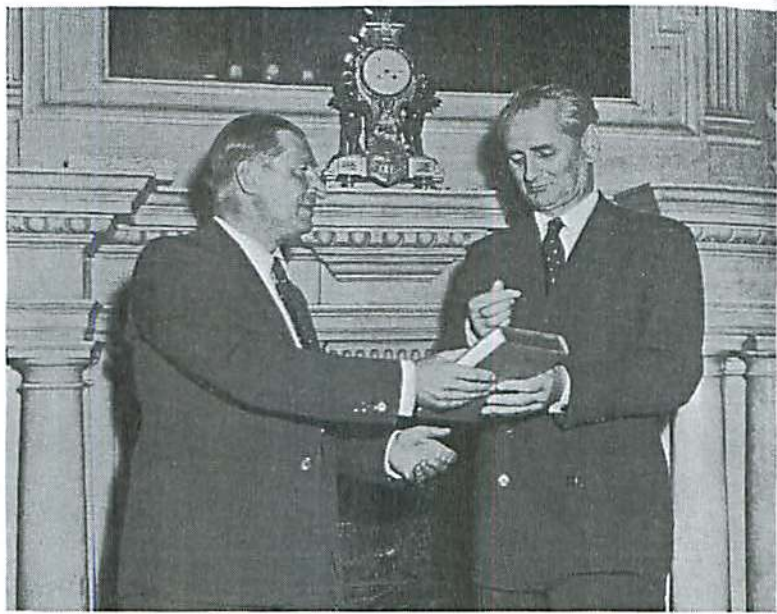
CASSELL have met with no opposition to their claim for *The Cruel Sea*, that this is the first time in the history of British publishing that a novel has sold a million copies in the original edition, and members of the trade who attended their presentation ceremony at Claridge's last Monday evening were, therefore, invited to celebrate "a unique occasion in publishing history". On behalf of Cassells, Mr. Desmond Flower presented to Mr. Nicholas Monsarrat the millionth copy, printed in an edition of one from the existing plates and specially bound in leather.

Mr. Flower recalled that it was nearly 20 years since he first met Mr. Monsarrat. When he first came to Cassells, the discovery that they lived opposite to each other was the start of a friendship which had continued in spite of widely separated paths during the war. After the war, said Mr. Flower, Nicholas Monsarrat had told him: "In three years' time I shall bring you a book about the Western Approaches which I think will ring the bell." As Mr. Flower rightly observed: "It did indeed ring the bell, though how loudly and for how long no one could have foretold."

Mr. Monsarrat, thanking Mr. Flower for the volume, also recalled his early association with Cassell, saying that this edition of one copy, of which he was so proud, pretty well represented the sales of his first books. There were enough "professionals" in the room, he continued, to know that no author could sell a million copies without an extremely good publisher. The President of the Booksellers Association, Mr. Thomas Joy, who said that for once booksellers had something to celebrate, congratulated both author and publishers on proving so spectacularly what he and his colleagues had always maintained, that "if it's a good book, the bookseller can sell it".

"Are War Books on the Wane?"

AT their next lunchtime meeting, to be held on Tuesday, September 17th, the Publishers Publicity Circle will hear Mr. Terence Robertson give a talk entitled "Are War Books on the Wane?". Announcing this meeting, the Circle reminds its members that some five or six years ago there was a general feeling in many quarters of the trade that war books were finished,



Mr. Desmond Flower (left) presents Nicholas Monsarrat with the millionth copy of "The Cruel Sea" in the original edition (see note)

and that the public wished to indulge in escape literature in a lighter vein. Since then, however, the trade has seen the phenomenal success of many war books, and the demand appears to be as great as ever before. Mr. Robertson's own writings include *The Golden Horse-shoe*, *Walker R.N.* and *The Ship with Two Captains*. His new book, *Channel Dash*, the story of the *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau*, will be published by Evans early next year.

Book Jackets Competition

BOOK jackets were provided by publishers for a competition held by High Hill Bookshops Ltd., Hampstead, and a panel of local artists—Stephen Bone, Ithell Colquhoun, Linda Carmen, Sydney Arbus and Morley Bury—selected what they considered to be the best twelve. Prizes of books were awarded to the competitors whose choice was nearest to that of the panel, and there were four joint winners, one of whom was Peter Raymond, the 16-year-old son of the novelists, Ernest and Diana Raymond.

The winning jackets were those for the following books (the designer's and publisher's names are given in brackets): *The Face of Spain* (Stephen Russ, Turnstile Press); *Letters of Virginia Woolf* and *Lytton Strachey* (Vanessa Bell,

Hogarth Press); *Marigold Garden* (Kate Greenaway, Warne); *Epitaph for Love* (Eric Fraser, Macmillan); *Temple Tiger* (Eric Fraser, Oxford); *Landscape into Art* (Graham Sutherland, Murray); *Haunted England* (Lynton Lamb, Batsford); *Church Brasses* (Stella Marston, Batsford); *Tower of Ivory* (Hans Tisdall, Cape); *Over the River Charlie* (Denis Piper, Cape); *Cheeses of the World* (B. Wolpe, Faber); *The Old Man and the Sea* (American jacket, artist unknown, Cape).

Fantasy Award to Professor Tolkien

THE Science Fiction Luncheon Club met at the Criterion Restaurant last Tuesday for the presentation of the International Fantasy Award. This presentation provided a fitting end to the Fifteenth World Science Fiction Convention, sponsored by the World Science Fiction Society Inc., New York, which concluded its proceedings at the King's Court Hotel, Leinster Gardens, on the preceding day.

The winner of the 1956-57 Award was Professor J. R. R. Tolkien, for his trilogy, *Lord of the Rings*, published by Allen & Unwin. Second came John Christopher, for his *The Death of Grass* (Michael Joseph), and third, equally, Mr. William Golding for his *Lord of the Flies* (Faber) and Mr. Frank

Herbert for his *Dragon in the Sea* (Doubleday).

A speaker at the luncheon was Sir Stanley Unwin, Professor Tolkien's publisher, who said that any publisher knew what to expect when he issued a book in three volumes—sales of the first volume, good, of the second, rather fewer, and of the third, hardly any. But the normal tendency had been reversed with the appearance of *Lord of the Rings*. This fantasy by the Merton Professor of English Language and Literature at Oxford had been originally planned for publication in three volumes at monthly intervals. The first two appeared. When the third failed to materialise in time the publishers, recognising genius, were prepared to wait. But not the public. Allen & Unwin had been deluged with correspondence, some entertaining, some abusive, from readers who were being kept in suspense; and when the third volume appeared a year later the trilogy became a best-seller.

Miss Clemence Dane presented the award, an elegant silver rocket ("I have never stopped a rocket before", said Professor Tolkien. "They had better not know about this in Oxford"). The chairman was Mr. Arthur C. Clarke.

Book Trade Authors

EVERY publisher with export interests in the Far East is familiar with the name of Donald Moore of Singapore. Hodder & Stoughton are publishing a novel by him about an Arctic convoy to Russia, entitled *All of One Company*. They have the highest hopes of it and will be making a "considerable noise" about its merits before publication on October 10th. Hutchinson are to publish Gerard Bell's second novel, *White Lion*, early next year. The story is set partly in London and partly in the wilds of East Africa. Gerard Bell, Educational Representative for the Oxford University Press, enjoyed a considerable success with his first novel, *Side-Show*, based on factual incidents in the Burma Campaign, which (including the Corgi edition) has now sold 200,000 copies.

Books on Emigration

FOR the forthcoming second Edition of *Careers Encyclopedia*, of which he is the co-editor, P. J. Edmonds, of Cleaver-Hume Press Ltd., W.8, would be grateful for suggestions of books written by

recent migrants to the Dominions. He considers that a select bibliography might greatly enhance the value of the articles devoted to emigration, and such books often appear under somewhat cryptic titles.

£1,000 Trust Fund is the Prize

AN educational trust fund of £1,000 has been established by Sampson Low Marston & Co. in connection with their three pictorial encyclopædias, *The Pictorial Encyclopaedia of Scientific Knowledge*, *The Pictorial History Book* and *The Pictorial Encyclopaedia* (each 17s. 6d.). The £1,000 will be spent on extending the education of one boy or girl who will be selected by a competition. Entry forms for the competition, in packets of 50 (each packet contains special display cards), can be obtained by booksellers on application to the publishers. Competitors, who must not be younger than nine years or older than 15 years on January 31st, 1958 (the closing date of the competition), are required to name the 20 people or events or subjects mentioned in any one of the three books which the competitor considers have had

the greatest effect on the way of life to-day. "It is not a 'simple' competition", say the publishers. "It is designed so that, although only one boy or girl can win, all who enter will gain a great deal of useful knowledge and learn to use their judgment about the meaning of facts."

Sir John Wolfenden, Mr. Ivor Brown and Lady Pakenham will advise Sampson Low on the best way of spending the trust fund to give the winner of the competition "the greatest help in developing his or her talents for a successful future".

Very Much in Demand

IN last week's issue it was suggested that the slighting reference to *The Secret Garden* in the National Book League's bibliographical work *Four to Fourteen*, compiled by Kathleen M. Lines, gave a very misleading impression about the demand for this children's classic. The relevant entry notes that the book "still receives some adult approbation".

Heinemann have this week confirmed that the book is as popular as ever it was. Since *The Secret*



Shooting of the Associated British Pathé film of Christopher Landon's novel, "Ice-Cold in Alex" (Heinemann), begins in the Libyan Desert this week. This photograph, taken at a send-off party for the stars, shows Mr. A. Dwyer Evans, joint managing director of Heinemann, presenting a copy of the book to Anthony Quayle, who plays a leading part in the film. Mr. Quayle is also a Heinemann author and, like Mr. Dwyer Evans, is a director of *The Bodley Head* and *Max Reinhardt*