

anything from ribbons to handbags.' To the reader one deeply moving aspect is the sympathetic understanding of the liberators under all circumstances.

The difficult task of getting the inmates back to normality was not only a matter of food and clothing, though these came first. Entertainment, too, was planned. The Old Vic Company visited the camp and played Shaw's 'Arms and the Man'. A dance for the recovering internees was organised in the open air. An orchestra from the Royal Air Force played, and a great crowd collected. The girls were dressed in their new finery, though some could hardly walk. Each British soldier took a girl and danced with her. 'Never, perhaps', says Dr Collis, 'have those British private soldiers done more to make the name of England loved than that evening when these victorious men who had stormed across the Rhine showed what they thought of the superior Nordic race theory and danced with the despised and outcast of the earth. The poor word "liberation", which in the end was to denote many different things, that night had its true meaning.'

The chapter which describes the repatriation of eighty-five mothers and children to Czechoslovakia in ambulance and omnibus is a genuine thriller, and the story is told with humour. The Russians refused permission to let them pass, and a *détour* of seven hundred miles had to be made to reach Prague. The return journey without the Czechs was allowed through the Russian zone. 'This was the strangest adventure of our lives', says Dr Collis.

It is deeply interesting to learn that the relations of the teams with the Germans were friendly. A fairly large number of German doctors and nurses were employed, and many of these had turned out well. Several became really fond of the children. A touching account is given of an operation calling for exceptional skill carried out successfully by a young German surgeon from a neighbouring prisoner-of-war camp. True, says the author, the Germans had been guilty of great cruelties, 'but we had ceased to hate. Belsen had in some way cured us of all hate, at least all hate of any human creature . . . we were able now, for the first time, to begin to feel compassion enter our hardened hearts once more . . . and to comprehend that it was not only *their* sins which had destroyed so much love and beauty in the world, but *ours* as well'.

MARGRIETA BEER.

MAXIMS AND REFLECTIONS OF THE RT HON. WINSTON CHURCHILL, O.M., C.H., M.P. Introduction by Colin Coote. (Eyre and Spottiswoode; 8s. 6d.)

This small book may be of use in the future to those wishing to find examples of Mr Churchill's peculiar turn of phrase. Some of those phrases which have been included are flat enough, but the majority illustrate the great man's flashes of political wisdom and literary felicity. They cover the whole of Mr Churchill's long political career, and it is interesting to see that the earlier examples are, as

a whole, less forcible, less picturesque, than the later ones. His description of Lord Montgomery, 'Austere, severe, accomplished, tireless', is a good example of his use of adjectives. His remark that the French 'have done what they like. Their difficulty is to like what they have done', is a good specimen of his happy use of inversion. For sheer effective rhetoric, his apostrophe to the German people in *The World Crisis*, stands out: 'In the sphere of force, human records contain no manifestation like the eruption of the German volcano. For four years Germany fought and defied the five continents of the world by land, sea and air. . . . Surely, Germans, for history it is enough'. Though Mr Churchill's place in history is secure, a final estimate of him as a statesman must wait for many years yet, but he has already established himself in his speeches and in his books as one of the great masters of English prose.

PAUL FOSTER, O.P.

THE LEAGUE HANDS OVER. (League of Nations Publications, Geneva; Allen and Unwin, London; 2s.)

PREPARATORY DOCUMENTS CONCERNING THE ADOPTION OF AN IDENTITY AND TRAVEL DOCUMENT FOR REFUGEES COMING WITHIN THE MANDATE OF THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE. (League of Nations Publications, Geneva; Allen and Unwin, London, 10s. 6d.)

The League of Nations had many faults, but at worst it was a reminder to the conscience of statesmen that international life had to be based on some kind of principles, that there was an ideal to be honoured even if it was not observed; at best, it is impossible to estimate the wars avoided through the mere fact of its existence, it did really succeed in much humanitarian and social work, not least stimulated by the driving force of Nansen—in its work for refugees. The first of these publications recalls some of these achievements, outlines the methods by which it is proposed to carry on the work and expresses—dare one say, a little hesitatingly—the hope that the old traditions will be fully maintained. The second gives an account of the deliberations of the inter-governmental committee on refugees, together with the comments of experts on the preparation of a suitable travel document.

As the refugee is, by definition, without the protection of his own government which should be guaranteed on his passport, as soon as he begins to move from the place in which he has first taken refuge, he needs a document to show that he is a person with some kind of right to protection at least from insecurity in matters of life and liberty. And if he is to move across frontiers this document must carry an international guarantee. Its form and the conditions under which it is issued are obviously to be decided only after careful consideration of all the legal issues involved, and therein lies the importance of this report of the inter-governmental committee. But the main problem is obviously political; there is no physical diffi-