

THE BISMARCK EPISODE. By Captain Russell Grenfell, R.N. (Faber and Faber; 12s. 6d.)

In the light of later information many details are added to the published despatches on this most exciting chase in naval history. The changing situation is well described, the suspense well held, the parts well balanced, and this tribute to a successful piece of team work is salted with judicious criticism of dispositions, tactics and material. Where so much was done by so many with skill and devotion it is invidious to lay the credit, but three ships stand out, *Suffolk*, *Ark Royal* and *Rodney*. There are one or two inaccuracies; *Hermione* was not a six-inch gun cruiser, Force H was as much at home in the Atlantic as in the Mediterranean. And we should have liked to have been told more about what was going on in the minds of *Bismarck's* people during her sortie before she was finally sunk, with two Dominicans in her neighbourhood to give absolution.

T. G.

THE NEW INDIA. By Sir Atul Chandra Chatterjee. (Allen and Unwin; 8s. 6d.)

The author of this short work was for seven years High Commissioner for India in London and has been a member of the Governing body of the I.L.O. He has written a non-controversial, informative survey of the whole Indian scene which can be recommended to anyone wishing to take up the study of the sub-continent. As is only natural he devotes a good proportion of his space to the description of labour and economic conditions generally. It would be a useful text-book if it were a little less highly priced.

P.U.F.

THE PRIVATE DIARIES OF PAUL BAUDOIN. Foreword by Malcolm Muggeridge, translated by Sir Charles Petrie. (Eyre and Spottiswoode; 16s.)

This day to day diary of M. Baudouin between March 1940 and January 1941 is reminiscent of Mr Bruce Marshall's *Yellow Tapers For Paris*. It reveals from the inside much of that governmental inefficiency and corruption which Mr Marshall was only able to indicate, and covers that terrible period which elapsed between the German break-through at Sedan and the establishment of Marshal Pétain's government at Vichy. M. Baudouin was called very late in the day from the business world to do for the French Cabinet under M. Paul Reynaud what Lord Hankey had for so long done for the British Cabinet, to co-ordinate and direct its debates and resolutions. No one could read this piece of contemporary history without feeling the greatest sympathy for a man striving against impossible odds, and the book will take its place with the diaries of Ciano and Dr Schuschnigg as one of those indispensable for the study of those agonising days. There should, however, be an index.

P.U.F.