

'High Diplomacy' opened this week

at the Westminster Theatre

DELEGATES from the world's major powers plotted and intrigued on the stage of the Westminster Theatre while the fate of the Precarious Isles hung in the balance when London's newest musical opened on Thursday night, 5 June.

The show stars:

Muriel Smith as Candida

Donald Scott as Achilles
the Bartender in the Palace of Peace

Patricia Bredin as Penelope
the Efficiency Expert

photo: Andrew Rhodes



photo: Houston Rogers



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Howard book captures national interest

'Peter Howard: Life and Letters' by Anne Wolrige Gordon has been reviewed widely in the national and provincial Press of Britain. We publish extracts from two reviews:

From
'The Times Educational Supplement',
30 May

THE WITTILY astringent columnist of the *Daily Express*; the international Rugby player who overcame what to most people would have been the insuperable handicap of a deformed left leg; the leader and driving force of the Moral Re-Armament campaign; in all these fields Peter Howard was a man to be remembered.

His life's story, here told by his daughter, shows clearly enough the intellectual force and vitality of this man, nor is it difficult to discern why he aroused strong affections and equally strong resentments. In his books and plays, in his political journalism, and most of all when he had turned his whole energies to the movement for moral regeneration, he was a man of determined purpose, and he did not pull his punches. As an *Express* columnist his relationship with

Beaverbrook was predictably stormy at times. One argument ended when Lord Beaverbrook shouted to him to leave his house, then raced after him to apologize; and when the press peer joined the Government, the columnist's ironical comments on those in authority were no longer appreciated, and he was forbidden to write on political topics.

This is Howard's book as much as his daughter's. She stands aside, leaving him to express himself and his ideals through letters and passages from newspaper articles. Perhaps indeed she falls back rather too much on old newspaper cuttings, but they do serve to show his purposes as a writer and why he was widely read.

The crusader latent in him had begun to reveal himself in an enthusiasm for Mosley's New Party which ended in disillusionment, but it was his meeting with Buchman that set him off permanently in a new direction. Relinquishing his job, income and home life, the crusader became dominant for the rest of his days, and the latter half of the book consists almost wholly of letters written home by this dedicated man travelling with his message around the world.

He kept his belief in Britain, while deploring much that he saw:

'I heard some foreigner say that our

country is finished. This is a form of folly that has afflicted tyrants and dictators through centuries. The best of Britain does not make the biggest noise or the big mess.'

From the *'Western Mail'*, 24 May

THIS IS a daughter's eye-view of a man who went through the successive phases of rigger Blue and international, supporter in turn of Sir Oswald Mosley, Winston Churchill and Dr Frank Buchman, and who ended up as head of the Moral Re-Armament movement.

In the story of Peter Dunsmore Howard his daughter, Anne Wolrige Gordon, describes lovingly her father's journey from agnosticism to faith. She never attempts to blur or hide those periods in his life when Howard was merely worldly-wise and pleasure-loving.

The post-war chapters of this book I find the most interesting. They give not only a picture of the world as seen through MRA eyes, but of how MRA played a part in shaping some of the leading politicians of this era.

'Three men—Adenauer, Schuman and de Gasperi—from three different nations—decided to stand together to build Europe. Those men were united in their political philosophy by being pupils of Don Sturzo. They were helped to this effective action by their conviction about Moral Re-Armament.' . . . Howard himself said, 'Moral Re-Armament is not an army. It is a war. It is not a regiment you can join . . . Moral Re-Armament is a battle all should fight.'

And in this spirit Peter Howard fought and, when Buchman died, it seemed natural that he should take up the mantle of leadership. His ambition was to carry the cause of MRA to Asia, Africa and Latin America. In all these places he achieved some measures of success and in Brazil he was able to claim with justification that 'the dockers of Rio had been the pioneers of MRA in Latin America.'

This is not so much a partisan book as a biography that tells the story of Howard mainly through quotations from his letters, speeches and articles. Inevitably it becomes a self-portrait. But it is a fascinating picture of how a chance meeting can change a man's whole life.

Education's giant task

A CONFERENCE on the theme 'Education's Giant Task' was held at Victoria University, New Zealand from 15-19 May. Addressing the conference A E Kinsella, Minister of Education, said, 'It is very fitting indeed that Moral Re-Armament should hold discussions on education because your aims and objectives, your ideals are, or should be, the ideals of the formal education system. The education of children is a national task and the whole of society is responsible for it. It is at school and later at university that the foundation of man's knowledge is laid along with the fundamentals of world outlook. His character is to a great extent shaped there.'

MRA Student Conference Caux, Switzerland CHARTER BUS

Depart London: **Thursday 17 July**
Arrive Caux: **Friday 18 July**

Depart Caux: **Sunday 27 July**
Arrive London: **Monday 28 July**

COST, inclusive of travel and accommodation at Caux: £33 approx.

**For further details apply to:
George Williams, 4 Hays Mews,
LONDON W1X 7RS Tel: 01-499 3443**