

Reviews :—**BOOKS BY F. D. AMR BEY AND K. C. GANDAR DOWER.**

AMATEUR ADVENTURE by K. C. GANDAR DOWER
Rich and Cowan, 5/-.

It seems a great pity, considering all the trouble Mr. K. C. Gandar Dower took to avoid publicity for his flight that we should now step in and shatter that laudable endeavour by reviewing the story of his trip to India. Yet it is pleasant, to be cheeky for a moment, to find as we turn the pages that this book is immensely readable and about a subject far more worthy of the author's pen than some articles which we have lately seen slyly confessing that they were written by him.

Should an excuse be thought necessary for reviewing a book among these pages which is not concerned with games, we have one ready made for us on the frontispiece. Here is Mr. Gandar Dower, looking even more English than his companion looks British, and wearing quite obviously a Jesters tie. Then, as if this were not enough, we find him for one brief moment playing Squash at the Gezira Sporting Club in "strange, black stone courts such as man hath not seen in Europe." There he played a match with the professional, "before a gallery of young English girlhood," and it opened, "not with a fanfare of trumpets but with a rending sound."

But we are not going to pretend that such brief mentions of games and the names of games players are the best part of the book. Indeed, they are not. It is a book to be enjoyed, which makes you wish to do and see and be. Someday we say hopefully, we too may do the same and we are carried from our armchair, away on the wings of Gandar's aeroplane with Mr. Irwin, to seek adventure, new sights and new ideas. Here we are setting off from Heston in the pouring rain, now flying over the Mediterranean, now across long tracts of desert; gazing down at Jerusalem which aeroplanically is perfect and swooping close to the ground to watch a "whopping turtle," which "seemed at least 4 or 5 feet long and 3 or 4 across, and it was swimming up the Persian Gulf doing the breast stroke with a kind or unhurried imperturbability. Two hundred yards behind it, fairly racing after it, a little baby one was doing the crawl, flat out." "It was more important that it should catch up Mother than that we should make Karachi."

Perhaps we do not at all times agree with the manner in which Mr. Gandar Dower occasionally inveighs against the Laws and the Prophets but for the rest this book is very good Dower and not bad Gandarish. One other point. Lest there be any who still imagine that a book by Gandar Dower must necessarily be bereft of feminine interest: let us say at once that this is not so. Indeed, No! For a good part of the book the 'jeunes femmes' are there, usually getting off a bit before and arriving just a little bit after. In any case their presence is for some of us, a sign-post which points the way. J.A.

SqR, F, T & R December 1933

K. C. Gandar Dower.

Of late K. C. Gandar-Dower has been wielding the racket far less than the pen. In this number of the paper he contributes a long letter to the Correspondence Columns, proposing new hazards for a Squash Rackets Court and in a contemporary, "The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News," he starts his article on Squash Rackets thus: "Some day historians, when they grow



K. C. GANDAR DOWER.

weary of describing the dramatic futility of wars and the dreary futility of the conferences that follow them, and take to giving some account of how people really lived in the early twentieth century, will have to account for the far more pleasant futility of sport, and the remarkable increase of popularity that has come to almost every branch of athletics since the war. For, whatever may be the cause, that movement cannot be denied."

RICH & COWAN

have just published

**AMATEUR
ADVENTURE**

by

K. C. GANDAR DOWER

5s. net.

This book reveals another phase of the versatility of Mr. Gandar Dower. It is his thrilling but modest narrative of how he made the record flight to Madras from England in a Puss Moth. There are sixteen photographic illustrations.

Obtainable from all Booksellers and Libraries.

27, MAIDEN LANE

STRAND

LONDON.