

Alan Paton

## DURRANT'S PRESS CUTTINGS

29-39, Mount Pleasant, London, W.C.1.

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### Manchester Evening News

3 Cross Street, Manchester.

Cutting from issue dated... **2. 0. OCT 1948** .....

# Genius tells story of negro

**CRY, THE BELOVED COUNTRY**, by Alan Paton (*Jonathan Cape, 9s. 6d.*).

**T**HIS is a novel written with such beauty that the reader might easily be entranced by its lingering pathos and tenderness and lose the inherent message. It is the story of an old negro pastor who sets off from his hut in the lush valleys of Natal for Johannesburg in search of his son, who left home and about whom nothing more has been heard. Mr. Paton's genius truly emerges in the restraint with which he unfolds this tale.

In South Africa feeling runs high on the colour question. Rarely does reason raise a feeble protest, nor does humanity show itself except in hesitant and uncertain snatches. Mr. Paton describes the squalor and vice of the native quarters in Johannesburg with unforgettable vividness. But where the book touches greatness is when the old minister meets the father of the man murdered by the minister's son. Every adjective of praise in the catalogue will be applied to this novel, which is, indeed, unforgettable. J. L. T.

**DAWN JOURNEY**, by Reginald Kirby (*Collins, 10s. 6d.*). Those who like to turn back history's pages will enjoy this eighteenth-century romance of intrigue and suspense. The story opens in a stage-coach with the meeting of two beautiful girls who are strikingly alike. One is wealthy, escaping from an elopement, and the other poor and ambitious, on her way to London to seek fortune on the stage. They change places, which sets in motion a thrilling series of events until the reader learns why they bear so striking a resemblance to each other.