

## NOTICES

IN MY VIEW is a collection of Eric Newton's articles (Longmans; 10s. 6d.) and shows the variety of his interests as an art critic and his clarity in conveying them within the close limits of weekly journalism. His great gift is that of interpreting the artist's intentions, and whether his subject be African primitives or Max Beerbohm, Jack Yeats or Paul Klee, he is always just, always readable, and above all concerned to communicate his own enjoyment or otherwise with reasons given and reasonably explained.

SHOOTING AN ELEPHANT is the surprising title of a collection of George Orwell's last essays (Secker and Warburg; 10s.) and reveals afresh his integrity of mind and style. Notable are his study of Gandhi, his polemic on 'Politics and the English Language', and his acute reflections on the essential weakness of Tolstoy. The early death of Orwell was a heavy loss to English writing, and his increasingly clear understanding of the perils of our time is seen in these vigorous essays, with their penetration beyond the surface of labels and generalisations.

THE TWENTY-FIFTH HOUR by Virgil Gheorghiu (Heinemann; 10s.6d.) is an apocalyptic novel, translated from the Roumanian, which has already received immense attention in France. It is concerned with the fate of the dispossessed in the Eastern Europe of our own day. Its record of totalitarian barbarism is relieved only by the enduring human qualities of fidelity and love.

Immanuel Velikovsky's WORLDS IN COLLISION (Gollancz; 15s.) is, according to its publishers, 'the book about the day the sun stood still'. It is certainly about this, and much else as well: a mass of detail, sometimes interesting, with strange erudition wedded to fertile imagination. The handling of biblical themes cannot be called scholarly; rather is there a mixture à la Jules Verne cum Cabbala, far removed from the Catholic interpretation which at once admits of miracles and yet does not hesitate to be critical.

WHY I ESCAPED (Harvill Press; 12s. 6d.) is the latest instalment in the series of records of Soviet disillusionment. Its author, Peter Pirogov, was an airman, and his account of his flight over the Iron Curtain into freedom has a freshness that convinces. He describes the Soviet world into which his generation was born with candour and careful observation. The book should do something to illuminate part of the Russian mystery.