

The Nine-Pointed Star

The Scotsman, February 21, 1927

The secret society has always been a favourite ingredient of the mystery story, and it is the story of a man who by accident became involved in the designs of a more than usually sinister secret society that Claud W. Sykes relates in *The Nine-Pointed Star* (7s. 6d. net. London: Hamilton). The possession of a piece of jewellery which had belonged to his father led to an easy-going actor forsaking a life of indolence and luxury and taking part in a great world-drama of evil import; for the jewellery was shown to an Indian juggler, a member of the Oriental organisation whose symbol it was, and thereafter a series of mysterious attempts are made on the life of the actor. How does he combat the enmity of the Nine Masters of the Golden Star and survive the terrible persecution to which he is subjected? Let Mr. Sykes tell his own tale. He tells it well, and introduces a very charming love interest which adds to the varied appeal of the work.

Aberdeen Press & Journal, January 3, 1927

In Claud Sykes's "Nine-Pointed Star" the showing of a golden jewelled star, a curio of his father's, to an Indian conjurer, brings adventure to spare to Max Prescott, a touring actor. Alike in warm climates and in chilly wastes he is pursued by the members of an Indian sect whose anger he has aroused, but with the assistance of a friend the gangsters are satisfactorily disposed of, and his life becomes less a round of hazardous enterprise.

The Metor, February 23, 1927 (Rugby School's monthly journal)

Max Prescott unwittingly got possession of an anagram and the mortal hatred of the "Star": this was a huge international secret society aiming at the destruction of all established authority and government on the "twentieth," but its operations had provoked certain men in high places, who formed a society to combat it, and into this society Prescott is initiated, and owing to the anagram which contains the names of the "Masters of the North," proves very useful. The anagram, cleverly contrived and neatly solved makes possible the final act on a glacier where the masters of the "Star" and their confederates are killed or taken prisoner, save Pereira who escapes. So Max Prescott is saved and the "Star" crippled.

This book contains plenty of excitement, and if he accepts the likelihood of men from all nations combining for such a purpose with no apparent motive, will hold the reader's interest to the end with thrills of burglaries, murders, motor accidents, air fights, disguises in plenty and a love story: and to those who like a mystery story of the John Buchan style we thoroughly recommend this novel, and with them shall look forward to the reappearance of the "father Pereira."