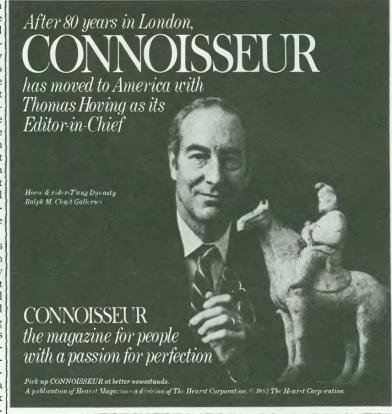
to one of his biographers in which he blamed his own poor performance for Shabunin's death. With the aid of the Soviet Embassy in Washington and the Novosti Press Agency in Moscow, Mr. Kerr was able to study the old War Department file on the case, and discovered-what Tolstoy, of course, never realizedthat the Minister of War or the Adjutant General had falsified the record so as to make execution inevitable. Mr. Kerr believes that the government wished to signal a tightening of discipline throughout czarist Russia. Tolstoy's guilt and agony were needless, and his critique of his society was truer than he knew.

WINTER SEASON: A DANCER'S JOURNAL, by Toni Bentley (Random House; \$11.95). By the time they are eighteen or nineteen, most ballet dancers have acquired enough skill to mount full-fledged professional careers, but unless they are among the chosen few who become stars they may go through their performing lives nagged by the uncertainty and self-doubt that young people feel everywhere. The author, a member of the corps of New York City Ballet, records a year of conflict in her life and in the life of the company (1980-81, when there was a threat of a dancers' strike). Her tone is sweet-tempered and unneurotic, but she can't help wondering about what she does and why she does it. She conveys the tension between hothouse fragility and stoic pride which dominates a dancer's sensibility, and although she doesn't press the point we come to understand the essentially religious dedication that binds her to her work. When she writes of the nakedness she feels onstage and of how much she loves being exposed to "three thousand pairs of eyes and one pair that sees more than all the others put together," we realize that she means Balanchine, not God, but that for her they may as well be one and the same.

ALBERT EINSTEIN: HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES, edited by Gerald Holton and Yehuda Elkana (Princeton; \$35). Among the many celebrations, in 1979, of the centennial of Albert Einstein's birth was one that was held in Jerusalem and dealt not only with Einstein's influence on science but with the cultural and humanistic aspects of his life and career. This book col-



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