



*speaks his
mind*

in review relating some aspects of the Negro ---

Mr. C.E. Morasse, the creator of the character called CHINCHIRI, did not intend to depict a biased

black man who could only rave unreasonably. He much rather presented a local character who experienced his complex environment in a mood of awareness and who at the same time speaks out frankly in a constructive manner. Chinchiri is never shocking at first sight but second thought his point usually becomes clear. Herewith we shall leave you alone with Chinchiri's review.

(Ed. Note)

"Am goin' write a deeply racial book", Chinchiri said to me. "And am goin' name it 'Darker than myself'."

"Why," I said. "Don't you believe there is enough ra-

cial stuff being printed - Man, there are too many superfluous volumes on that theme already on the market." "Naw." Chin chiri scuffed. "You wrong there - you wrong there, man. They ain't sayin' too much 'bout the theme 'Tis the way you treat the beast, you know. Man --," he was sayin g when Crow, an old bartender at Sea-View came up to us.

"Coke" I said - "Me too" Chinchiri joined me "but kick it an' braak a iceberg in it." Crow laughed and said "You always with you high fallutin' talks. So Rum and Coke for you, then!"

"Right!" Chinchiri confirmed and his laughter sprawled recklessly all over the place. A few persons were scattered about the bar. Two men drooped at the bar like mosquitoes who had been flitted but with not enough to kill them. An American tourist passed us on his way out and said "Hi".

"Hello" Chinchiri greeted and took a sharp swig at his drink. "Darker than myself", he mused as if tasting the virtue of the words in his mind. "You know why I picked that title" he continued, "I name it so because the rage that follow up the consequences of a more or lesser pigmentation of the skin is yet more destructive to the bearer than the shade of the colour itself", he started to comment on his imaginary book now. "In my 'Darker than myself' I'll be treatin' the fallacies of the Black man in he own environment. Take for an instance, the question of black men and women straightenin' theyhair. Take again the lighter complexion superiority - lunacy. All that is for the moon, man. 'T's luney!!"

"But," I said "our men are at fault. Because they believe that a woman just is not right unless her hair is like a peel. And she's just got to have that tomato finish, know what I mean?"

"Exactly". Chinchiri, blurted out. "That what am gettin' at. Man, am tryin' to get at the root of things. I say, the black man is still behind and I don't mean socially - economically and culturally neither. He's lost his masculinity - his manhood. You can't see our men looking at our own women through his "master's" eyes, And this myopic conditioning - ~~as~~ darker than myself - man, this thing is the original sin of my darker brother!"

"Probably you can expound that