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both of which say something, and say it well. V. G. O'Connor's article on "Art and Fascism" is a good bit of hard hitting, in which Sir Lionel Lindsay and his brother Norman are deservedly pulped. In his article "Take the People to Art," John Reed says some useful things, which run rather against the editorial grain; but I feel that parts of it might be taken as a defence of the wilful obscurity and humbug of contemporary art, which help to create prejudice against honest and sensitive work.

*NEW ZEALAND NEW WRITING* is less ideological in flavour than its Australian contemporary, but in this collection, too, there is much commonplace writing—none of it quite as flabby as the worst of the Australian stuff.

Professor Robertson earns no gold medals for prose by writing like this in his "Eruption at Tarawera":

"Attached as we are to proportionalities for the reaffirmation of fragments of life, art, history, we seek a comparison with Vesuvius. The amount of emitted ash in the two eruptions bears some approximation."

Greville Texidor's story, "An Annual Affair," and Frank Sargeson's "Growing Up" are both notable pieces of writing. For the benefit of Mr. David Hyman and others who think the literary artist should pay the "masses" the doubtful compliment of writing down to them, I should like to make a point about Sargeson's prose. His use of an idiom based on common speech is not to be taken as a concession to illiteracy. It is a literary device, used to express character and to define an attitude. As such it fully justifies itself, whether or not it exactly reflects New Zealand speech. The canons of realism should be applied with caution. Realism, as a complete theory of artistic expression, is indefensible.

The poetry of Anton Vogt, Kendrick Smithyman, G. R. Gilbert and Ronald L. Meek is of a high standard. And the two poems by the late Don McDonald (especially "Time") are evidence of our loss of a very fine talent. There is a need, I think, for more critical articles in *New Zealand New Writing*, and for some editorial comment of a kind that would help to give the publication an identity. Also, since part of the intention is to encourage new writers, some discrimination might usefully be exercised in order to make it clear that not all the work is put forward as first-grade. For instance, Frank Sargeson's story in this number might have been "starred" in some way, instead of being left to jostle with more amateurish stuff.

In spite of marshy patches, both of these collections are well worth buying for the good things they contain. The price should discourage nobody.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*WHAT SHALL WE BELIEVE? The Beliefs of a Scientist.* By R. S. Allan. Caxton Press, Christchurch.

A LECTURE delivered by the head of the geology department at Canterbury University College, and now printed and offered for sale for the benefit of the International Students Relief Fund. Tough reading, because the result of deep thinking, but stimulating.

CANADIAN - NEW ZEALAND MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT (No. 2 of N.Z. Treaty Series 1944). LIST OF Overseas Representatives in New Zealand and New Zealand Representatives Overseas.

TWO useful publications of the Department of External Affairs, which are also pleasant examples of good official typography.

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