

(continued from previous page)

for the Czechoslovak republic written by a Czechoslovak citizen who has lived for some years in New Zealand. The author is right in saying, and emphasising, that small nations have rights as well as big nations, and a contribution to make to world civilisation. How much Czechoslovakia has contributed already may surprise some of Mr. Rosenfeld's readers.

## GOLD

**FORBIDDEN GOLD.** By Will Lawson. Oswald-Sealy (N.Z.) Ltd., Auckland.

(Reviewed by Tom L. Mills)

IT is strangely stirring to read in a rapidly-moving narrative that is not all pure fiction intimate descriptions of places with which we were so familiar in our younger days, when it was a delight to hike round the beach from Island Bay, and clamber over the hills down Happy Valley on to Brooklyn and so downwards into Wellington again by its back door. It is like a lost memory found again to come across a phrase like "the calm blue waters of Ohau Bay, sheltering behind Cape Terawhiti;" on another occasion to look down on the grey backs of the sea that "seemed tiny ripples on the tide that ran before the wind through the 11-miles wide strait;" yet again, as the lovers gazed from the ridge: "The strait lay level as a mirror. The Sydney steamer, making for Wellington, was passing three miles out, the tripping sound of her heavy engines coming clearly to their ears." (How Will Lawson loves the sea and all that trade on the deep waters). But he makes the search for gold realistic, and almost makes us believe that there is still a rich golden lode for the digging over the hills that run back to Terawhiti. When, towards the end of the tale the super-villain secretly brings his stolen treasure under horse-power along the ranges into the city via Tinakori road, where he always halted at the Shepherd's Arms hotel for his wonted (and wanted) handle of beer, I miss nothing but the name of Old Man Gillespie, who travelled some in his years and gathered so many antiques and curios by the way that his house was a museum. Another memory awakened by Will Lawson's book is the notable feat performed by Big Bill Polson (now Mr. W. H. Polson, M.P. for Stratford) in riding over that rough country and getting the story of the wreck in what was then one of the most inaccessible spots on the Island.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

**PARTY NIGHT AGAIN.** By "Harlequin." A. H. and A. W. Reed.

A COLLECTION of games ("quiet" as well as "boisterous"), competitions, and other activities to be indulged in by those who are not satisfied with being merely conversational at social gatherings. It is a pretty comprehensive list, containing such refinements as "ice-breakers," "stunts," and "surprises," and it has been compiled with obvious gusto. Those who are in the habit of entertaining frequently, or those who have an ambition to be regarded as the "life and soul of any party," might be well advised to spend 1s 9d.

**WIZARD CROSSWORDS.** Compiled by S. R. Hutcheson. A. H. and A. W. Reed.

THE crossword-puzzle craze has never died out and now shows signs of a vigorous revival. Here is one of the signs—a collection of 29 original puzzles,

## SEA BREEZES ON THE AIR

THE last time we went yachting the skipper told us to make fast the main sheet, and we tidied up his bunk. We didn't know a main sheet was a rope. When he asked us to polish the tabernacle we were quite at sea because no one had explained that it was a brass socket. There is not much nostalgia, either, in recollecting that afternoon when, off the Kaikoura coast, we rolled about on a windless day, with every empty teacup, etc., rolling to and fro over the cabin floor.

And all that perhaps explains why we like our yachting in small doses and preferably per book or photograph. But



RUTH FRANCE

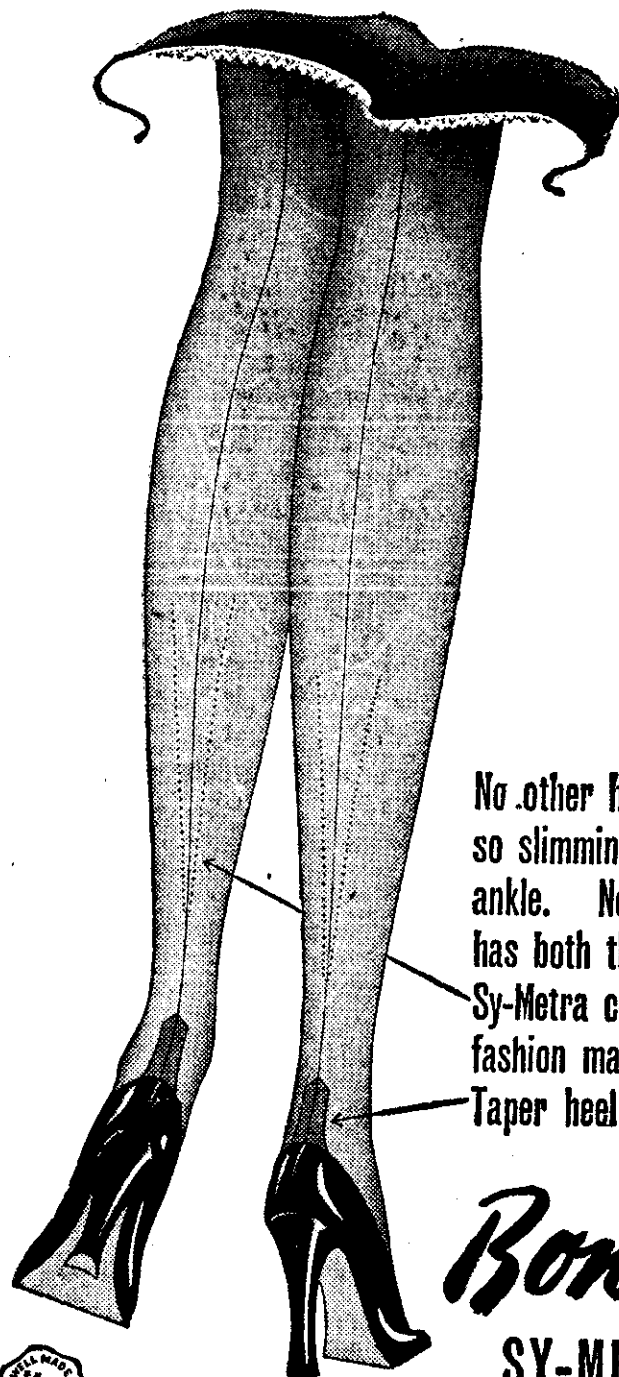
Ruth France, of Christchurch, with her husband and son, makes a great part of her life one on the ocean wave. Mrs. France has often been heard over the NBS stations in talks about cruising round Banks Peninsula. Now she is to speak again, this time on her recent trip in the family Bermuda-rigged ketch Windswift from Lyttelton to Wellington. We have not seen the little ship but we understand that it is as comfortable as any small vessel can be, with a bathroom actually containing a bath. But we leave it to Mrs. France to describe the yacht, and the trip, from 3YA at 11.0 a.m. on February 11, when the first of a series of six weekly talks will be broadcast.

some easy, some difficult. There are two outside puzzles, several based on cinema information, and an introduction which discusses crossword-puzzle building and solving almost as if it were a fine art—as perhaps it is.

## JESSIE MACKAY AWARD, 1945

IT is announced that Mrs. Isobel Andrews and O. N. Gillespie have been appointed judges of the Jessie Mackay Memorial Award for Poetry. Entries for the 1945 award close with the secretary of the P.E.N., Box 965, Wellington, on February 28 next.

Readers of THE NEW ZEALAND LISTENER can obtain autographed copies of "A MERE TWENTY YEARS," by Maxmillian Rosenfeld (as reviewed on page 16), the full proceeds of which are devoted to the Czech Red Cross, from the Czechoslovak Association, P.O. Box 515, Auckland, and G.P.O. Box 260, Wellington, for 3/6 each, including postage.



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