



"Why can't he hate to practise like other kids?"

(Holt in the "New Yorker")

(continued from previous page)

when it was practically decided to make the permanent capital on the shores of the Waitemata. However, Okiato was bought. It was much in the pattern of early New Zealand, buyer and seller equally sanguine that they had the best of the bargain. It was in accord with that pattern too that it is in the spirit of history (if one may personalise any such abstraction) which has had the laugh of them both. Smart Captain Clendon, the seller, was never paid in full, government or no government. Hobson's dream of a town in which sections could be sold off to pay Clendon and make a profit for Treasury was dashed by the sour pedantry of Governor Gipps, of New South Wales. However, Okiato-Russell was our capital from May, 1840, roughly, until February, 1841. The aerial photographs which, together with some excellent maps, illustrate this bulletin show some traces of the limited settlement which was begun there. After Hobson's departure for Auckland it did not take Okiato long to sink back into what it remains to-day, a picturesque corner of the Bay of Islands, or as Mrs. Ross describes it, "a place of peace, having about it a definite air of its own personal character, derived more from the magnificence of its setting and the kindness and care of its owners than from any transient glory of the past."

Mrs. Ross tells this tangled story well. What she says about Hobson's officials (except Shortland) helps to confirm a suspicion that good Governor Gipps, of New South Wales, must have found the New Zealand venture a golden opportunity to get rid of men whose services he did not particularly value. I am not quite clear that Mrs. Ross has made up her mind about the character of Hobson. Was he, as Major Bunbury said, muddle-headed, lacking "the necessary grasp of thought to seize the main point of a question," possibly as the result of illness? The fire-eating smoker-out of West Indies pirates who yet contrived to look like a strangely perennial Shelley, Hobson was, no doubt, only a simple sailor; but just how simple a sailor was he?

The author has dispersed so many of the mists of romanticism which enshroud everybody associated with early New Zealand that it is a matter of regret that she could not turn aside for a moment to sketch Hobson more fully with the firmness and vigour she has shown in her estimates of character throughout this book.

The footnotes in this book should not be ignored. They contain some cautionary tales concerning the treatment of historical records even in this present age of grace and enlightenment. The reader is delighted throughout these 70 pages by the sharpness and intelligence of Mrs. Ross's criticisms of men and events. She has set a standard both in scholarship and literary ease for succeeding bulletins of the Historical Branch.

THE GARDEN FRAME AND THE SMALL GLASS-HOUSE. By E. O. Petersen. A. H. and A. W. Reed, Wellington.

HOW to build and use "simple yet profitable adjuncts to the well-ordered garden," with clear diagrams, and sections dealing with tomatoes and cucumbers, grapes, and pot plants.

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THE NEW ZEALAND PRISON SYSTEM. By Elaine Newton. The Wanganui Chronicle.

REPLYING to "some highly emotional individuals" who "prompted an attack upon the prison system of New Zealand"; and reproducing Miss Newton's article and an editorial from the *Wanganui Chronicle*, with a foreword by the Controller-General of Prisoners, B. L. Dallard.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

UNIVERSITY REFORM — a pamphlet containing the report of a committee set up by the Canterbury University College Students' Association to consider University reform, and four of the addresses given on special subjects at public meetings arranged by this committee.

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ROSTRUM, 1946—The seventh issue of the annual published by the N.Z. University Students' Association, which was edited this year in Auckland. It contains an article on Rilke by Paul Hoffmann, and a translation by James Bertram of a Rilke Elegy; "Europe This Year," by W. B. Sutch; designs by Hella Hofmann for the Auckland production of *Peer Gynt*, and articles, poems, and illustrations by students and graduates.

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THE BIBLE AND THE BIBLE SOCIETY IN NEW ZEALAND, 1846-1946. A. H. & A. W. Reed, Wellington, for the British and Foreign Bible Society of New Zealand.

AN historical survey by the Rev. W. C. Comber (with three portraits), together with "The Maori Bible," by the Rev. David Calder and the Rev. W. C. Comber, and "a Maori girl and her Gospel," by Mr. Calder.

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