

(continued from previous page)

a good environment for writers, and it was perhaps easier to write about the background of war than of war itself. In spite of this, some of the best things in the collection are inspired by battle experiences: the description in J. W. Scott's *Pastorale* of an incident at Sidi Gazal, Erik de Mauny's memories of a field hospital in the desert, John Pudney's simple and poignant *Landscape: Western Desert*, and Uys Krige's *The Taking of the Koppie*. The prose piece I liked best of all, however, has no connection with war; it is *The Postman Gets His Own Back*, a farcical sketch in which an Egyptian writer, Albert Cossery, illuminates one of those dark corners of Cairo that were "out of bounds" to allied soldiers in both a physical and a psychological sense. The only comparable talent in the collection, though it is of a different order, is that of G. S. Fraser, a fluent and uneven writer who may do something important when he acquires the power of self-criticism. The worst things included are three pieces of obvious satire by John Ropes; amusing enough when sung in wartime reviews, they are too feeble for publication between boards. But the editors were wise to include the bad with the good; had they been more exacting they would have been less true to the place and the time they have commemorated.

KIWI MEETS GREEK

KALIMERA KIWI. C. M. Wheeler. A. H. and A. W. Reed.

THIS is a personal account of his own and his unit's doings in Greece by an officer of the New Zealand Engineers. The author relates with scarcely flagging liveliness the strange experiences of this short campaign. At first the Sappers' task was to build roads and bridges. Very soon it was to destroy them, hazardous work at any time and doubly so when carried out in frantic haste in the path of the advancing enemy.

This book makes it plain that no demoralisation accompanied the retreat. Units kept themselves intact to a remarkable extent after the abrupt disintegration of the Allied front.

The narrative, like the events it describes, does at times become rather incoherent, and it is disappointing that the writer was not in a position to describe more clearly the destruction of the important bridge across the Corinth Canal. On the level of entertainment Mr. Wheeler's account of people and places is humorous and briskly told. His attitude to the Greek people is generous and understanding.

A GOSSIP AT SEA

IN THE WAKE. Gerald S. Doorly. Robertson and Mullens, Ltd., Melbourne.

CAPTAIN DOORLY writes of his career in the Merchant Navy which led him from his birthplace in Trinidad to many far corners of the globe, including the Antarctic (he sailed in the Morning, relief ship to Scott's first expedition). He had much experience of the New Zealand coast, and was wrecked in Dusky Sound. Incidentally, both he and his friend "Teddy" Evans (Admiral Sir Edward Evans of the Broke) found brides in this country. Also Captain Doorly skippered the troopships *Navua* and *Aparima* taking the First N.Z.E.F. overseas. This is a cheerful, garrulous book which will interest everyone who enjoys stories of the fortunes of war and of life at sea.

—David Hall

PAGEANT OF EXPLORATION

PACIFIC HORIZONS. By Christopher Lloyd. George Allen and Unwin, Ltd.

INTO this comparatively short volume

Christopher Lloyd packs a comprehensive account of the voyages of discovery in the Pacific, from Magellan's setting out in 1519 with his five "very old and patched ships" to Cook's "I have now done with the Southern Pacific Ocean and flatter myself that no one will think I have left it unexplored." The book makes a fine pageant: Magellan and Drake; Mendana sailing across the Pacific to the Solomons and reaching back after a fearful voyage, making a second voyage plus an unpleasant wife and dying off the Philippines; Quiros the devout, loyal Catholic who voyaged for the love of God and of souls and of discovery to the New Hebrides in 1606; the solid, unimaginative Dutchmen who explored as a commercial proposition and the buccaneers who sought gold and adventure; the colourful Dampier rising from the deck of a pirate sloop to the quarter-deck of His Majesty's ship, who by his writings put the Pacific on the map again; Anson's squadron manned by "a poor detachment of decrepit and inferior invalids from Chelsea Hospital," and the almost incredible sufferings the crew of the shipwrecked *Wage* endured as told in the narrative of Byron's grandfather "foul weather Jack"; the brave Carteret in the rotten *Swallow* rediscovering the Solomons; the charming and accomplished Bougainville; and Cook, the scientific explorer. The book is excellently written. The author has the great gift of compression while maintaining the vivid interest of the story. His small quotations are excellent and illustrate his points admirably. On the one hand he gives us the grim humour of: "The 6th died Thomas Harvey, the Purser. This gentleman died a mere skeleton for want of Food, and was probably the first Purser, belonging to His Majesty's Service, that ever perished with Hunger," and on the other the ecstasy of Quiros giving God all the glory and kissing the soil of the New Hebrides, "O Land! sought for so long, intended to be found by so many, and so desired of me!" The book will be of much interest to all who love the stories of exploration and adventure. A fine book to go into a school library.

—O. E. Burton

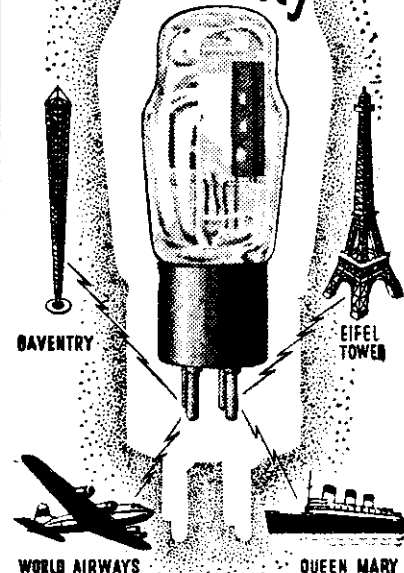
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

CANTERBURY LAMBS. The first appearance of a self-styled "literary effort" printed at the Caxton Press on behalf of the Canterbury University College Literary Club—"a group of people who have written some verse and prose and who now, meekly and candidly, suggest that you may be interested in reading it."

THE CULTURE OF CARNATIONS AND SWEET PEAS. By E. O. Petersen. A. H. & A. W. Reed, Wellington.

THIS is No. 15 in a Home Gardening series of booklets. The author devotes rather more than half his space to the carnation, not because he considers the carnation a better flower than the sweet pea, but "for the reason that there is more to the growing of good carnations than of excellent sweet peas."

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