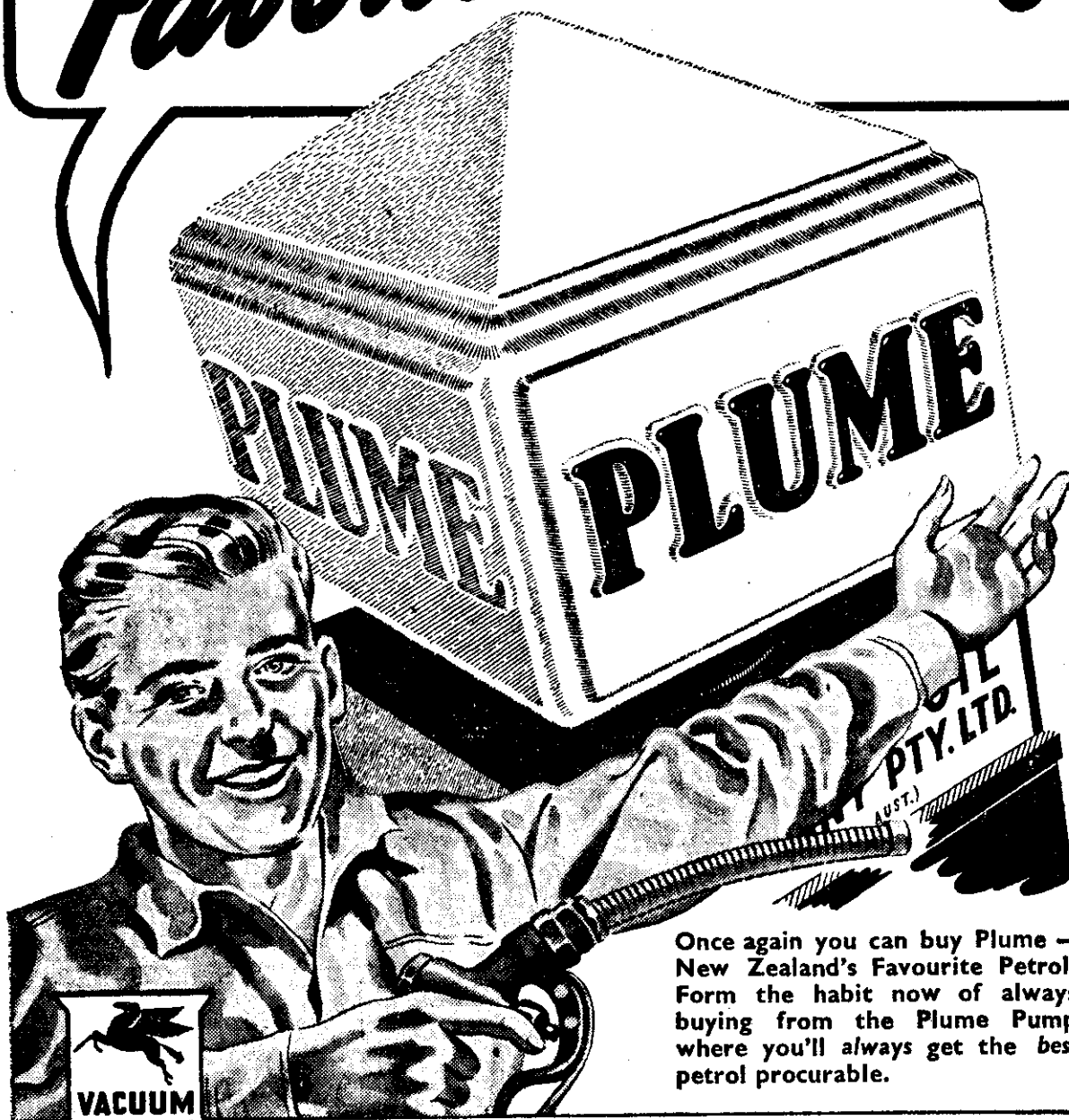


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BOOK REVIEWS

THE BICYCLE CLUB

BOOK, No. 9. Caxton Press.

PART of the charm of *Book* lies in its unexpected appearances. This short story number contains many new names. A. P. Gaskell (a name not quite so new) has a well worked out story. P. J. Wilson and Denis McEldowney play about with Maori *tapu*; I prefer the Maori-Pakeha social encounter of James Forsyth. Donald Anderson, G. LeF. Young, and Dorothy White tell their tales straightforwardly, and Maurice Duggan is a pleasant parodist. P. J. Wilson (in his second story) and Bill Pearson seem to me to have told us most. In some of these stories there is a suggestion of a level of competence, a skilful success more damaging than failure. Perversely and very ungratefully, I would feel happier if some of these stories were really bad. Nobody really gets off his bike; for some there is hard pedalling to keep up with the club.

The poets are Anton Vogt, who begins a good poem with a harsh and alien metaphor, Louis Johnson, whose Leda has a black swan, Basil Dowling, who in his three poems gives hints of W. H. Davies and of the 17th Century, W. J. McEldowney, who does not quite bring off a descriptive piece, James Baxter, whose dirge on a virgin echoes traditional pieties, Kendrick Smithyman, whose two sonnets are in an easily flowing idiom, E. Badian, who translates Aragon well, and Walter Brookes, who does the same for Heine. In spite of an occasional puncture they get ahead of the mob and have the billy boiling by the time they arrive.

The Caxton Pressers have had a lot of good, clean fun with some line blocks of Victorian or at least Edwardian vintage, but perhaps that bike has been ridden far enough?

—David Hall

WITH THE KIWIS

BROADCASTING WITH THE KIWIS. By Winston McCarthy. Sporting Publications, Wellington, through A. H. and A. W. Reed.

WHEN Winston McCarthy was asked to write the story of the Kiwi matches in Britain he protested that he was a broadcaster and not a writer. He was then asked to write as he would broadcast and (the publishers say) agreed. Fortunately he did not keep the agreement. He knew that speaking is one art and writing another, and that if he had tried to get on paper the effects he so easily brings off on the air the result would have been disastrous. He has been too wise for that. He writes colloquially, even conversationally, but it is direct writing, conventional, short sentences but properly formed, each a statement of fact or a question, and the result, if not as exciting as his broadcasts, is completely satisfying. It is a pity the publishers did not take a bigger risk with the paper, printing, and binding, which are all unworthy of the excellent matter.

A WOMAN'S LIFE

SUNSHINE AND SHADOW. By Helen Black. Printed by John McIndoe, Dunedin.

MRS. BLACK has had a busy and interesting life about which she tells us in some detail. She has travelled extensively through Europe and America, she has filled the onerous public position of Mayoress, she has brought up a family

(continued on next page)