

## BOOKS

### India To-day and To-morrow

**BROTHER INDIA.** By W. M. Ryburn.  
Presbyterian Bookroom.

**M**R. RYBURN is a New Zealander who has been a Presbyterian missionary in India for over 20 years. For almost the whole of that time he has been in charge of a large High School in the Punjab, and is one of the best-known figures in Indian education. His recent book *Brother India* was written primarily to give the members of his church an accurate picture of the state of affairs in India to-day. He insists that this knowledge is urgent as "with the emergence of a free and independent India our whole attitude toward her must be reconsidered." He argues that although India was united in the demand for independence it is strongly divided on many other issues and that in the new freedom these will emerge strongly. He traces the development of the clash between Hindu and Sikh and the Moslem. Acute as this is he shows that beneath the surface there is a still more fundamental division between capital and labour—and predicts that "in the years immediately ahead the Hindu-Moslem struggle which so fills the picture to-day will be replaced by a struggle of capitalists of all religions against socialists and communists of all religions."

While the war had a retarding effect on many developments it nevertheless gave a fillip to the idea of industrialisation. If this is to develop normally, Mr. Ryburn thinks, it must go hand in hand with an agrarian revolution and with a general rise in the level of education. Any future government in India will make strenuous endeavours to industrialise, to improve agriculture, and to educate; but any movement in these directions will be difficult in face of ignorance and the high birthrate.

Mr. Ryburn is critical of British rule and emphatic that freedom should have been given; but he is not blind to the faults of the peoples of India or of the immense difficulties with which they are now confronted. There are fearful disunities—the communal as between Hindu, Sikh, and Moslem; the caste system with its rigid walls between the various castes and the problem of over 50 million outcasts whose conditions are no better than those of slaves; and the division between capitalist and working class. Democratic ways are not understood by any except the Sikhs. The average Indian tends to evade reality in a spate of words. Ignorance among the masses is abysmal and poverty is beyond anything we can imagine. The first necessity, Mr. Ryburn says, is to try to restore Indian self-respect. Under British rule "she developed a slave mentality and a disinclination to think and act for herself." Therefore all Europeans now should serve and not rule. He himself will practise what he preaches and will go back as a simple teacher in the school which he has controlled for 20 years. India will need much specialist help over the next 30 years, but only if specialists are willing to serve under Indians. So far as the Christian Church is concerned, Mr. Ryburn feels that now Christianity is no longer the religion of

the conquerors, great developments will be possible if the missionaries from overseas are willing to serve under Indian control.

—O.B.

#### KLONDIKE

**THE GOLDEN GRINDSTONE.** By Angus Graham. Digest Publications, Melbourne.

**T**HIS is the story of a failure, a failure more satisfying than many men's successes. George M. Mitchell, a Canadian business man, dropped everything to join the gold rush to the Klondike in 1896; he chose the long northern route down the Mackenzie River and back up a tributary to a suitable pass. In this tributary, the Peel, he broke his kneecap and spent a winter with a tribe of largely friendly Indians (some of them made strenuous attempts to murder him), who healed his leg and fed him when nearly starving themselves, and rather to his own surprise, he lived to tell the tale.

The tale is a good one, though it is difficult to see what are the relations of Mitchell and the narrator. So much of the story is in inverted commas "in Mitchell's own words," one begins to wonder why he did not tell it all himself, especially as his own words are never allowed to rise above such mild oaths as "the God-damndest curious thing," coyly proffered as a sort of certificate of authenticity. The fault of the book is its frequent protestation of reliability: apparently the narrator expects to be disbelieved things which are the commonplaces of anthropology. By the way, what a shame it is that the anthropologist is so often so late on the scene: what a lot a trained observer would have drawn from such a blood-brotherhood as Mitchell's with this unspoiled tribe.

But Mitchell, evidently a man of strong character, tells us much. He reproduces the virile, shameless world of the North, where the weak perished and the strong had difficulty in surviving by copy-book rules, with colour and zest. The dangers of travel in that country of hard winters and navigable rivers which every so often become impassable rapids were added to by tough and unscrupulous fellow travellers. The miners and the Indians are described magnificently with a "sourbelly" garrulity whose period flavour is part of the charm of the book; a whole alien way of life takes shape in these hearty pages.

—David Hall

#### ONE FAMILY

**SUTHERLANDS OF NGAIPU.** By Alex Sutherland. A. H. & A. W. Reed, Wellington.

**I**T is one of the most interesting stories in the world, the story of our ancestors and how they lived. When it is the story of men who dwelt where we now dwell, who knew those hills when they were dark with bush, who hunted in the swamp where those houses now stand, it is more vivid, more real. New Zealand history appeals because of its nearness. It is so easy to conjure up a vision of a hundred years ago, and behold, the small storm-tossed ships are anchoring in the bay and men and women are gazing anxiously out at the new land. On one of those small ships, the Oriental, came Alexander and Elizabeth Sutherland to New Zealand.

(continued on next page)

**CHILD RECEIVES  
FATAL BURNS**

**BOYS DEAD IN  
BATH**

**Overcome By Gas  
Button Was In  
Baby's Throat**

A button the size of a half penny was removed from the throat of the baby.

**2 BABIES  
DROWNED  
IN POND**

**CHILD FATALLY SCALDED.**

(P.A.) After being scalded at her home yesterday.

**BABY SUFFOCATES  
IN BED**

**BABY GIRL'S DEATH**

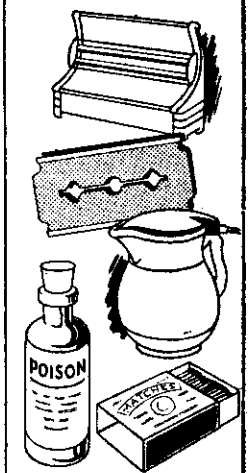
(P.A.) Injuries from which she died in the Hospital, were received by an 18-months-old child when she pulled a pot of boiling water over herself at her home. She was daughter of Mr. T. J. ...

## There are too many PREVENTABLE ACCIDENTS

The toll of death and suffering among our toddlers could be minimised by ordinary care.

- † Guard radiators and open fires.
- † Keep electric flexes and fittings out of reach of inquisitive little fingers.
- † See that pots and kettles cannot be pulled off the stove.
- † Razor blades, knives, scissors, pins, needles, should be kept in a safe place.
- † Matches, poisons, cleaning fluids, caustic soda, medicine, etc., should be inaccessible to children.

**KEEP THESE AWAY  
FROM TODDLERS**



The home is the one place where kiddies expect safety and security. It is up to parents to see that they get it.

Issued by the Department of Health

Keep this announcement for future reference

2/47

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**Fairy Dyes**

30 FAST COLOURS in easy-to-use glass tubes for boiling or cold water tinting. Made in Scotland.

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