and plenty of the country has not yet caught at their imaginations. Mr. Wadman rather takes the wind out of my sails by dealing most ably with this question in his preface, and my reservation is not levelled at his choice of pictures, but is a regret that the choice available makes such criticism almost inevitable. To my mind at least, the value of a book like this should lie in the fact that it is a book of New Zealand art, and that we should be able to trace our artists' inspiration from the New Zealand way of life and the New Zealand scene, just as the art of Grant Wood—to take the first name which comes to mind—so vividly and unmistakably portrays at least a part of the American way of life, Our artists in the main do not yet lead us towards fresh and exciting futures, but tend to delightfully enrich the past. They have not yet learnt to reach out from our green hilltops to grab off something that is their own. Instead they still derive their impetus from older and more established forms. Many of the works here are arresting and satisfactory in themselves, but there are only a few who give us anything that is intrinsically New Zealand. This sounds like a plea for parochialism, but nothing is further from my mind,

TO complete the visual section space we have some examples of modern architecture, fabric design, sculpture and a glimpse of some of Sam Williams's design for stage costumes as well as the curtain designed for the Canterbury College productions, but there is one aspect of pictorial art which Mr. Wadman seems to have overlooked. What of photography? Is George Silk's "Blinded Soldier" or his "Silly Cow," to be rated at a lower level than Cairncross's self-portrait or Sam Williams's Designs because they are recorded with a camera instead of brush and paint?

THEATRE

REPORTS on the progress of local drama societies in Wellington, Dunedin, Auckland and Christchurch give the impression that the amateur stage is taking its work more seriously than ever before and that the plays of Shakespeare, Dekker, Shaw, O'Neill, and such are at last taking precedence over the more shoddy product, while the dawning realisation that sets and costumes are integral parts of the whole and not pieces of superimposed embroidery, points to a more lively and adventurous future. All four articles say more or less the same thing in different ways and the thought arises that a precis of the lot, giving an overall impression of the work of the theatre in New Zealand might be a better idea for the next issue.

VERSE

GORDON WALTERS'S amusing arrangement of lines and curves called "The Poet" precedes William Hart-Smith's sensitive article on poetry in New Zealand. In his dual role of visitor and native son, Mr. Hart-Smith writes clearly about poetry in New Zealand as seen by an expatriate but recently returned. The verse which follows has been chosen by A. R. D. Fairburn, and Mr. Hart-Smith's remarks in general about New Zealand poetry, applies in the main to this selection. He says, "New Zealand poetry is full of integrity,

(continued on next page)

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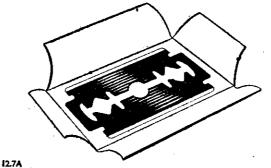
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