

She describes the Otago Women's Club, founded in 1914, as "the first of such provincial clubs in New Zealand." The Pioneer Club in Wellington was founded in 1909, and the Canterbury Women's Club in Christchurch in 1912.

The illustrations in this well-printed book will be a delight to all interested in the old days. The pictures of women's dress and of household implements are important social documents, and the photograph of wagon-teams en route to the goldfields in 1862 is worth a chapter of written description.

—A.M.

A LOVER OF WILDFOWL

A BOOK OF WILDFOWL. By Ian Pitman. With Paintings and Drawings by Peter Scott. Faber and Faber, London.

PRISONERS of war in different countries during World War II. adopted many schemes for whiling away the time. Ian Pitman, P.O.W. in Germany, wrote a book on wildfowl and shooting, and in attaining his object—"to lose war and death and tedium of life in memories of clear starlit nights, of marram grass and grey saltings, of curlew and plover and pluck and of the whistle of wings cutting through cold winter air"—he has produced a book that will be read with interest and pleasure by shooting men and lovers of nature throughout the world. His analysis of his feelings towards shooting in his introduction "to himself" must state the case of many a shooting man.

The book emphasises the plenty of wildfowl—of both species and individuals—in Britain where they get numbers of migratory birds, as compared with New Zealand, where the area shot over has to provide the game. It also emphasises the satisfaction that the true sportsman gets out of small bags, if he is, as he should be, a student of nature and a lover of the outdoors. The sentiments of the author may be epitomised by a verse that first appeared nearly half a century ago:

Who cares for the goal? It's the game
Sets the pulses aflame.
The goal is satiety; bliss
In the chase alone is.
God give us the hunt, though the prey
Shall escape us to-day.

His detailed descriptions of some of his forays leave no doubts as to his enthusiasm and appreciation of his surroundings. He tells of a night after widegeon on a tidal flat and adds: "On a night such as I have described you may be out for four or five hours at a stretch and if you get a dozen widegeon you will have done extraordinarily well You will certainly be cold and probably be wet, and yet if you can rise above the discomfort you will find an endless fascination in the joy of merging into that shadowy moonlit world; in listening to the calling of the birds and in watching, yourself unseen, the feeding and flighting of duck and curlew, the constant coming and going of estuary life. The thrill of an occasional shot is sufficient to send the blood chasing, and to keep you from freezing up altogether." It should be remembered that this is in Scotland where the temperature is much lower than in New Zealand, and the enthusiasm with which a shooter must be imbued to go on such expeditions is reflected throughout this book. In recent years there has been some talk by local Acclimatisation Societies about importing to New Zealand duck that would thrive on estuarial waters. They would get much practical

The Wind is a Bold Painter

UNDER a ragged sky

The mountains seem to run

Even faster than the storm wind;

On that dark day too

The waterfall seems a thing frozen;

Such stillness is in moving things,

Such motion in things fixed.

The forest ruffles like a girl's hair

Or a hay pasture just before cutting.

The wind is a bold painter,

A juggler with abstract form;

His theory is quite reckless—

Anything goes—and you like it;

Cloud, tree, hill, and sky

Binds in wild patterns that are matchless.

—David Hall

information here that would be of value to them, though differences in temperature would need to be considered.

In dealing with the wild geese the author rightly refers to the "Canada" Goose, not "Canadian," the title that is incorrectly used by all Acclimatisation Societies here, and even in the Animals Protection Act itself.

The book is beautifully illustrated by Peter Scott. Of the two coloured plates, the one of "Grey Geese, Dawn Flight," is particularly fine. No one who has ever shot geese could look at that picture without feeling a thrill, for it is so life-like that it seems the birds are bound to pass right overhead. "Evening Flight, Pintail" is another picture that no duck shooter could look at without a twitching of the trigger-finger. The small sketches of the different duck are very informative, and the method of repeating them at the beginnings or endings of chapters makes a novel and attractive set up to the book.

—Edgar F. Stead.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

CONSCRIPTION AND YOU: A QUAKER MESSAGE. Presbyterian Bookroom, Christchurch, on behalf of the Society of Friends.

AN appeal to the people and Government of New Zealand, with quotations from Captain Liddell Hart, Carl Heath, St. John Ervine, Professor G. H. C. MacGregor, William Penn, "The Catholic World," Hanson Baldwin, Professor R. M. Hutchins, Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, and C. E. M. Joad—some of them too brief to have significance, and some so completely isolated from their context as to be misleading.

FILM RIGHTS OF BOOKS

WITH British film studios being exhorted to increase production, English authors are hoeful of augmenting their incomes by the sale of the film rights of their books. The prices normally paid for these rights are, however, not spectacular. A report that £120,000 was paid for the rights of a new novel by F. L. Green was received in literary circles in London with some scepticism as the price ordinarily offered by British film companies for a published book is about £3000. The figure might even in some cases be as low as £500, while it was stated that the maximum that could be hoped for by an unknown writer was £5000.

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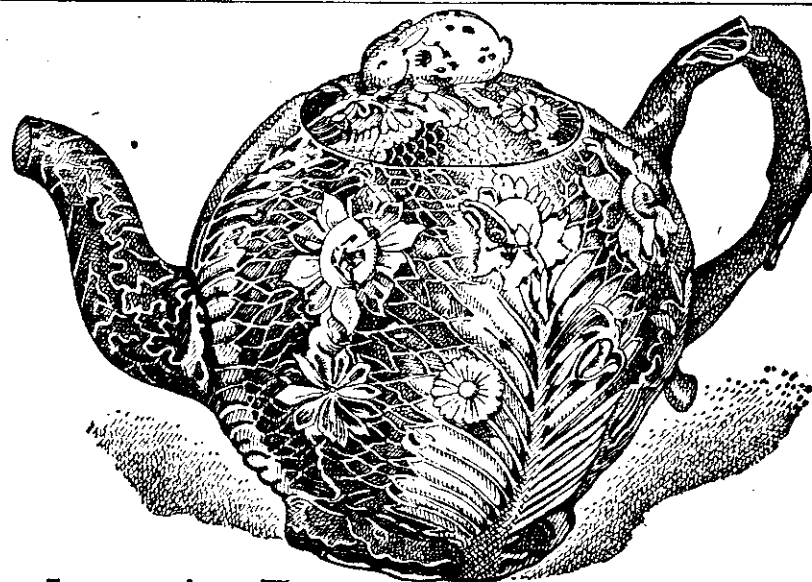
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YESTERDAY-TODAY-TOMORROW



Interesting Teapots

No. 4:
Whieldon

Thomas Whieldon, the Staffordshire potter, was first to develop decoration by means of coloured glazes about 1740. He made teapots that resembled cauliflower and other vegetables, and he introduced earthenware table sets exactly imitating agate and tortoiseshell. (The "woodland" teapot shown is in green and brown, and the knob on top is a yellow rabbit).

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