

(continued from previous page)

dispense with striving after effect. Occasionally he can go to the opposite extreme and use the artificial, the far-fetched word—"opiate clouds," "an-themed citadel." But it is the light, the usual word which has the last word and is freighted with the heaviest significance:

... as the genius left you,
Blood pouring in a haemorrhage, the feet
unsteady,
Down, down you slipped, your virtue lost
like bubbles.

Douglas le Pan uses symbolism liberally, but although his verse is full of wounded princes, Excalibur "the blue aurora weapon of the future," and "you seek new Easts," he can also write, without jarring the reader, of the wireless which "puts out crackling fingers and finds no friendship" or

There are holes here and there for a gold-
mine or a hydro-plant.

The fable blends with the modern—

The infant Hercules compels the snake,
The surgeon cuts the flesh to an exquisite
thinness

naturally and without discontent.

Some features of le Pan's poetry remind me of Ursula Bethell, though he has a firmer accomplishment. He is like Henry Reed in the flexibility and graceful, inevitable ebb and flow of his varied and entralling rhythms. Here is a poet whose utterance is mature, noble, and fresh.

WAR CRIMES

NUREMBERG. By Peter Calvocoresi. Chatto and Windus.

BOTH the legal and the moral backgrounds of the great trial at Nuremberg are the theme of Peter Calvocoresi's book. He is a vigorous writer (apparently English) who can use slang discreetly without disfiguring the general earnestness of tone of a book which has the explicit purpose of justifying the war-crimes trial in human as well as legal terms. I feel he succeeds in this, although I am not sure that he entirely disposes by the skill of his advocacy of the various objections, on moral grounds, to the trial, the chief of which is that the victors tried the vanquished. Undoubtedly the accused were guilty of the terrible crimes for which they were sentenced—one sympathises, too, with the Soviet minority dissenting judgment on the acquittals—but was not the real crime for which they were punished that of having lost the war?

The legal basis for the trial is a good deal firmer than a layman might suppose. The trial was scrupulously fair, though it is disturbing to find that by Article 19 of the tribunal's charter the court was empowered to disregard "technical rules of evidence" and could "admit any evidence which it deems to have probative value," an opening to abuse which might become as wide as a church door. The accused had, in spite

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"THE LIFE AND TIMES OF SIR JULIUS von HAAST" is being published by subscription by the author, H. F. von Haast, 41 Salamanca Road, Wellington, who invites you to send to him for a prospectus of this work, which not only tells the story of the life of a great pioneer, but narrates the development of the people and province of Canterbury. The book, of which the edition is limited, will be available for distribution in June.—P.B.A.

GIVE A DAY

Save a Child

WHAT IT MEANS TO EMPLOYEES

The United Nations Appeal for Children is an attempt by all the peace-loving peoples of the earth to save millions of little children this year from dying in a world of plenty. You are asked this month to give a

day's pay. Maybe you can and will want to give more. Perhaps circumstances will compel you to give less. But whatever you can give, please authorise your employer to deduct the amount from your pay—spread over the next four weeks, if you like—and thus save the excessive cost of individual collection and acknowledgement.

WHAT IT MEANS TO EMPLOYERS

One of the biggest ways in which you can help save the lives of the world's starving children is to help in the collection of your employees' gifts to this world-wide fund: to let your cashier or pay-clerk deduct authorised amounts from the pay of your employees. By

so doing you will help save a large sum that would otherwise be spent in the cost of collection—a sum that can best be spent in saving lives. And then to the joint contributions of your staff you can add the equivalent of one day's profit as a company gift, and send the cheque for the whole amount to the treasurer of the local Mayor's U.N.A.C. Fund; or to the Dominion Treasurer, G.P.O. Box 650, Wellington.

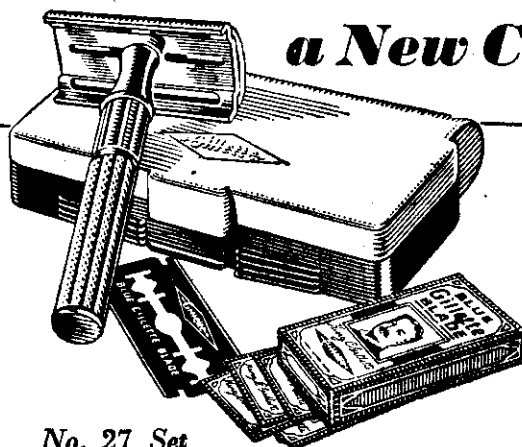
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