

ing "devoted considerable time and labour" to the task, and having found "no work so completely akin to *Through the Looking Glass* as the apocalyptic and prophetic works of the Bible" Thus, "the vorpal blade refers surely to the weapon of propaganda which, wielded by the Press Lords, did so much to discourage and finally to defeat Germany." On the other hand, in what is probably a greater number of cases, concentrated scrutiny has been rewarded by the discovery of previously unsuspected, illuminating truths. It must at once be said that Dr. Orgel's work, though it may not be considered to belong to the latter group, yet very definitely has no place in the former.

Dr. Orgel's claim to be presenting a new view does not refer to the method she has adopted, the method, much intensified, of every baccalauréat manual.

She takes us through the plays, scene by scene, speech by speech, an age-old method which is also that of the latest analysis of *Hamlet*. What is new is the minutely detailed thoroughness of the presentation; the unusually copious quotations; and the more or less convincing refutations of many of the disparaging comments accumulated in two centuries and more of criticism, together with a few adverse criticisms of her own finding on minor details.

Racine has in the past been something of an embarrassment to English-speaking commentators. French eulogies have been felt as amounting to a proof of the inferiority of French to English poetry. A comparison with Shakespeare was unthinkable; even Virgil, with whom the French so often compare Racine, is held to be a poet of greater stature by so fervent an admirer of French poetry as J. C. Bailey. Yet the comparison holds good in many ways: their relation to their fore-runners and to their publics is similar; so is their own poetic development and growing command of their media of expression; most of all, so is the maestria shown by each in conscious self-restraint. Dr. Orgel is not insensitive to the force and beauty of certain passages of Racine; but she thinks of him as "not primarily a poet." You, O courteous Mantuan soul, would have understood the comparison and not disdained to rank as an equal, but it would take an essay of Quarterly dimension to argue the point.

—G.W.Z.

WHERE TO FISH—AND HOW

TROUT AND SALMON FISHING IN OTAGO. The Otago Anglers' Association, Dunedin.

THE CONCISE HANDBOOK OF AUSTRALIAN FISHING. By "Taggerty." Robertson and Mullens Ltd., Melbourne.

ANGLING SECRETS. By Pat Castle, Macmillan and Co. Ltd., London.

THE contribution of the Otago Anglers' Association to the general Centennial rejoicings is a useful little booklet which covers (briefly) the history of trout and salmon acclimatisation in the province, the history of the Association itself, and (most exhaustively) the angling waters of Otago. In the

introductory section of the book some of the statements are a little over-enthusiastic (it cannot seriously be claimed, for example, that the Atlantic salmon has thriven "to an amazing degree" in the Te Anau area), but in the sections which will count most with anglers—those dealing in alphabetical order with the angling centres, and the lakes and rivers of the province—the information is succinct, sober, factual, and exhaustive. Fishing centres are listed first, along with details of hotels,



camping - grounds, and fishing waters. Lakes and streams are dealt with individually in another section, and by cross-reference from one section to the other a detailed picture of the angling available in most areas from the Makarora to the Catlins can be obtained.

A number of excellent photographs have been used to illustrate the book,

but reproduction is not uniformly good. The Association is not a wealthy body and in the present instance make-up and typography (and the inclusion of 20-odd pages of advertisements) reflect that sacrifice of dignity to economy so often forced upon small groups.

No New Zealand angler is likely to go to Australia for the fishing, but if one is an angler, and has to go to Australia, "Taggerty's" little manual is worth taking along. It makes good reading—the author writes gracefully, and with humour as well as authority—and it covers sea and estuary fishing besides freshwater angling. But the author does not move far beyond the borders of Victoria.

Pat Castle's *Angling Secrets* are, in the main, the secrets of angling in Britain. Some of them have been open secrets for a good many years, others would be better kept dark by any angler intending to profit from them in New Zealand. But there are two useful chapters on nymph-fishing and some entertaining pages of miscellaneous information.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

TARARUA 1948: MAGAZINE OF THE TARARUA TRAMPING CLUB.

SOME of the most beautiful photographs ever assembled between two magazine covers in New Zealand, and some of the most incredible articles. Only two or three of the contributors can say plainly and simply that they climbed a mountain or crossed a river or pitched a tent or carried a swag. Most feel it necessary to make adventures of these routine experiences, or sparkling recitals, or hilarious jokes. One pleasant exception is D. R. Hoggard's account of an adventure on the hills with wild cattle. It is of course greatly to the credit of the Club that it has been able to produce a journal of the size and scope of this magazine, to pay for such good paper and get such good printing, and circulate it at 5/- a copy (6/- through the book-sellers).



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