

(continued from previous page)

these early chapters on social background were profusely illustrated with extracts from the novels, and one finds one's mental energies continually dissipated on the effort of remembering whether Uncle Edmund was the curate or the retired tea-planter. Towards the end of the book, however, the social and individual threads intermingle in harmonious pattern.

Misses Mare and Percival do not, of course, deny themselves the pleasure of a little quiet irony at the expense of Victorianism. Yet though entertainment is the inevitable by-product of any attempt to describe Victorian attitudes to the sceptical modern it is not permitted to distract the reader's sympathy from Charlotte herself, the unconscious victim of an anti-feminist environment. Rather does it help one to realise the enormous disadvantages under which Charlotte worked, and to appreciate the mental and physical stamina necessary to complete so great a body of writing.

—M.B.

#### MORE FROM OTAGO

**DOWN THE YEARS IN THE MANIOTOTO.**  
By Janet C. Cowan. Otago Centennial Publications.

**IN SEARCH OF CENTRAL OTAGO.** By G. H. Sumpter. Whitcombe and Tombs Ltd.

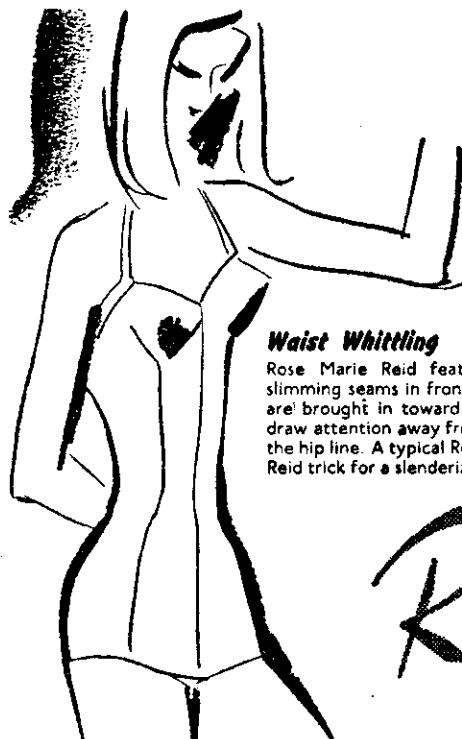
It is greatly to the credit of the people of Otago that they are still finding the money and the enthusiasm to produce books about themselves. Miss Cowan's is the fifth volume issued by the Otago Centennial Historical Committee, and at least two more are on the way. The important fact too is that they can all be accepted as accurate (except for minor slips) and even authoritative compilations for ordinary readers. Centennials are always rushed to some extent, and these books have had to be prepared more hastily than would have been the case if each had been an independent study by an author working in his own time to gratify a personal desire for historical discovery. In that sense they are hasty work, but it has been directed haste, guided by experts and checked if not much changed by higher authority.

Miss Cowan's story of the Maniototo is in fact a little like a university thesis. She has taken her topics one by one—explorers, run-holders, miners, local politicians—and shown skill as well as diligence in following them through the existing records. A good deal of her material has come from early and now defunct newspapers, a revealing fact when we think how few the permanent inhabitants were, how fevered and fleeting the life of the others was, and what a problem distribution must have been.

Mr. Sumpter's book is not history, but meditation on the move. It is a journalistic ramble in the manner of H. V. Morton and his school, discursive and chatty, and kept on the safe side of triviality by the author's nose for news and the rich variety of his field. His chief remit as a writer is that he usually knows when to stop. Without that trick, which all journalists have to learn, he would never have made the grand circle from Palmerston to Lawrence through Naseby, Arrowtown, and the Dunstan.

Both books are well printed, strongly if not attractively bound, and admirably illustrated.

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Originals are designed to make that wish come true.

She uses all kinds of clever tricks to glorify a good figure and to make a less-than-perfect one seem beautiful.

# Rose Marie Reid

OF CALIFORNIA

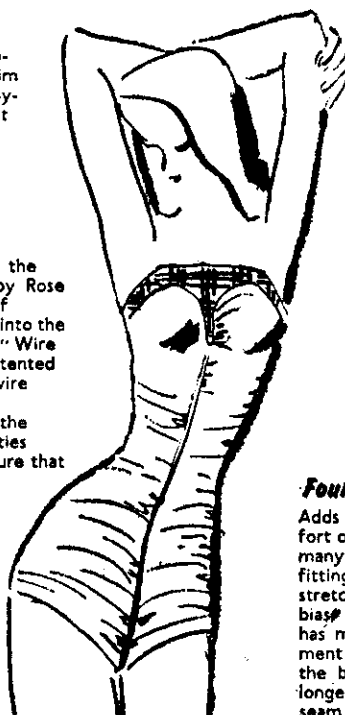
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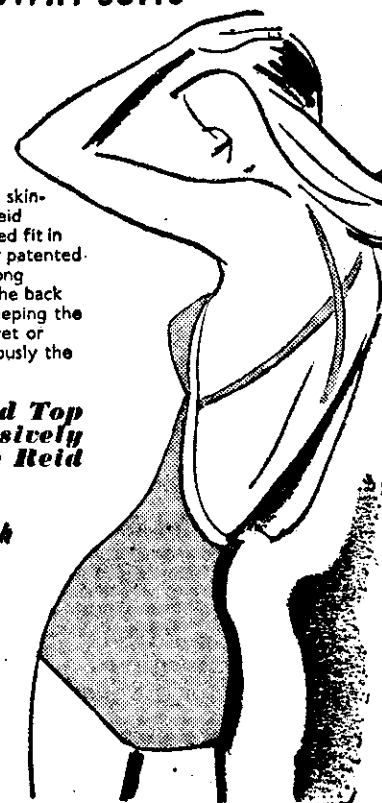
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**\*Patented Band Top is found exclusively in Rose Marie Reid Originals**

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