

that was to be evacuated. Fairly enough, he attributes these quarrels to each nation's concern for its own survival and the natural anxiety of commanders to save their men from falling into enemy hands, but he is distressed by the lack of confidence shown in him by the Headquarters of the British Expeditionary Force and its commander (Lord Gort), criticises the poor allocation of R.A.F. support to the Battle of France in comparison with the numbers of aircraft retained in Britain for its defence, and is grieved by the misunderstandings over the disposal of the French Fleet which ended in the sinking of French ships at Mers-el-Kebir and Dakar.

The book is a valuable one and the French point of view is well worth study. As Cyril Falls, Chichele Professor of the History of War at the University of Oxford, writes in his introduction: "There is a good deal in it with which I do not find myself in agreement—but I think it should be read."

—W.A.G.

#### ANOTHER NOTABLE

**THE LIFE AND TIMES OF SIR JULIUS VOGEL.** By R. M. Burdon. The Caxton Press. 17/6.

IN his full-length biography of Vogel, R. M. Burdon has been as brilliantly successful as in the shorter Studies of "New Zealand Notables." In spite of its being a book of only 236 pages, it well merits the title *The Life and Times of Sir Julius Vogel*, for it throws a new light on many facts of New Zealand history between the years 1861 and 1888. At the same time it remains essentially a biography of Vogel (1835 to 1898), and causes the greatness of the man as well as his weaknesses to stand out clearly.

Burdon is able to accomplish so much in a book of moderate size owing to the terseness and compression which are the marks of all his historical writing. His mastery of words enables him on page after page to put a vivid picture before his reader in a few sentences: the interest never drops. A corresponding attribute of Burdon's style is his masterly handling of what has been obviously both extensive and intensive research. Take the half-dozen pages 87 to 93: a comparison of Vogel's Government Life Insurance Act with the rele-

vant points of Gladstone's Act of 1864: the arguments on Vogel's Public Trust Office Act: enlivened by examples of insurance advertising of the day and by epigrams which will make the margin-writers scrawl, "No!" or "I agree" on every library copy; mingled with telling remarks on political consistency and on difficulties of Jews, with a supremely apt quotation from Churchill's "Randolph Churchill." Incidentally, in these same few pages is enough to show why in the recent Broadcast Quiz the experts had forgotten Waterhouse: one of the more mordant of the many sketches of politicians.

The book is a fine example of the work of The Caxton Press.

—J.G.D.

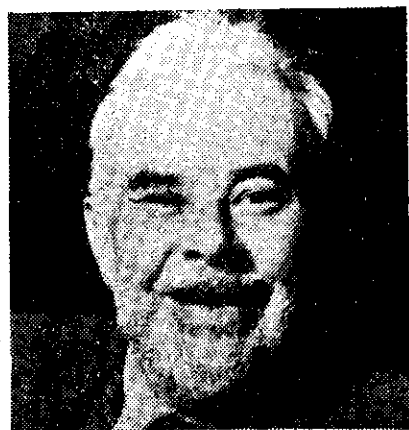


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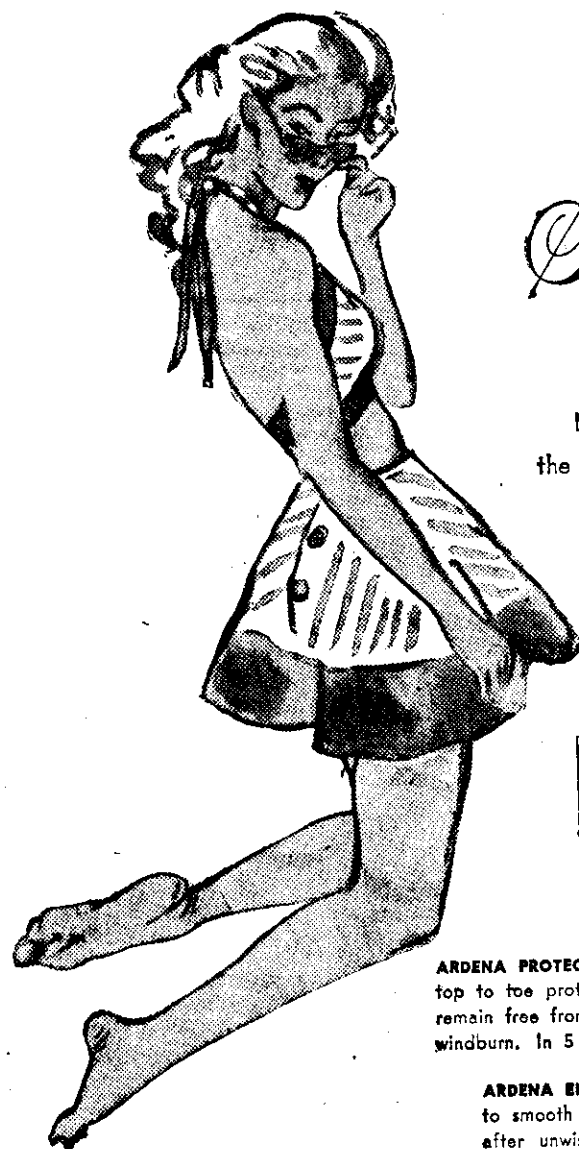
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THE four books to be reviewed in the ZB Book Review session at 9.15 p.m. on Sunday, March 27, will be "The Wild Colonial Boys," by Frank Clune (reviewer, R. M. Burdon); "The Pioneers," by Arnold Wall (Allen Curnow); "Valerie," by Morchard Bishop (Frank Sargeson), and "A Year More or Less," by C. E. M. Joad (Professor G. von Zedlitz). The photograph shows Dr. Joad.

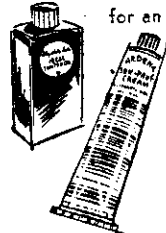
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