

of philosophers, and exposes many of the minor sophistries which are apt to trick us when Freedom is our subject.  
—Arthur N. Prior

## UNDERGRAD MIXUP

BALLET HOO. By Nicholas Bentley. Michael Joseph.

WE must be eternally grateful to Nicholas Bentley for introducing the works of Damon Runyon to an English publisher. Otherwise, such are the curious conventions of high finance and the book publishing world, we in New Zealand would probably never have met Mr. Runyon's guys and dolls, and our lives would have been so much the more limited. But Mr. Bentley is not himself a creator, except possibly in his drawings. His style, his ideas, and his sense of form have an undergraduate imprecision which would be welcomed in the chaotic welter of a Capping Mag, but do not make a happy impression in a book to themselves. *Ballet Hoo* is a mixture of knockabout humour, gangling satire, and straight information and criticism. The mixture does not mix. Serge Pantz, Michael Youpushoff and Irina Fallova could be charming characters, but, separated only by paragraphs from living people like Fokine, Baranova, or Margot Fonteyn, they do not convince or amuse. This is a pity, because some of the drawings do both. If Mr. Bentley could write with the



I. L. THOMSEN, Director of the Carter Observatory, who will review "The Heavens Above," by J. B. Sidgwick, F.R.A.S., in the ZB Book Session at 9.15 p.m. on April 3. Other books discussed in the session will be "The Man-Eating Leopard of Rudraprayag," by J. Corbett (reviewed by Bryan O'Brien), "Stone of Destiny," by Iorri Idriess (Anton Vogt), and "Ten Days Wonder," by Ellery Queen (Norman Berrow).

same precision as he draws, he could claim equality with Thurber, but he seems content to remain an undergraduate, and there is no place for him at High Table.  
—G. leF. Y.

## NEW ZEALAND FROM WITHIN

THE NEW ZEALAND GEOGRAPHER. Published by the New Zealand Geographical Society. Printed by Whitcombe and Tombs.

THIS magazine is the half-yearly organ of the society. The contents comprise signed articles, reviews, criticism of geographical material appearing in contemporary publications and outlines of the affairs of the society. The last appear, partly as notes in the body of

## NEW EDITOR FOR THE LISTENER

M. H. HOLCROFT, the well-known essayist and former editor of *The Southland Times*, has been appointed editor of *The Listener* to succeed Oliver Duff, who has reached the retiring age. Mr. Holcroft was born in Rangiora in 1902, and was educated at the Elmwood School and Christchurch Boys' High School. At the age of 19 he went to Australia, where he earned his living for five years as a free lance journalist before returning to New Zealand to become sub-editor of *The Weekly Press* in Christchurch. In 1928 his first novel was published, and when *The Weekly Press* ceased publication he went to England. There he continued to write novels, worked as a free-lance journalist again, and travelled widely on the Continent. In 1930 he returned to New Zealand and continued to write fiction and literary essays, many of which appeared in the *Christchurch Press*. In 1937 he became leader-writer on *The Southland Times*, and he was acting editor of that paper for three years during the war. He became editor in 1946, a position which he held until his resignation in 1948.

Mr. Holcroft's association with UNESCO began in 1946, when he was appointed a member of the interim committee to prepare a constitution for the National Commission for UNESCO. In 1948 he was made a member of the Commission, and he represented New Zealand at Paris last year at a meeting of the Social Sciences section of UNESCO, and later at the Third General Conference of UNESCO held at Beirut.

In all he has had seven books published. His three novels appeared in England between 1928 and 1931, and in 1940 his long essay *The Deepening Stream* won first prize in the essay section of the Centennial Literary Competitions. The essay was published in New Zealand by the Caxton Press, and several of his other literary and philosophical essays were later collected in two volumes called *The Waiting Hills* and *Timeless World*. In 1946 a collection of essays entitled *Encircling Seas* appeared, and a W.E.A. lecture delivered by him was recently printed under the title *Creative Problems in New Zealand*.

the magazine, partly as a supplement. The practice of having all work signed is an excellent one, and there is an obviously deep sense of responsibility. An opportunity for discussion would add to the usefulness, but perhaps this is a matter for branch meetings, which are well reported in the supplement.

The magazine is well produced, copiously illustrated and the more important articles are available as reprints. The issue under review carries interesting material on the outlying islands of New Zealand, a superbly illustrated if rather romantic account of coal mining in the Buller district, and one article which leans rather heavily on a commercial brochure.

As the principal article states, however, the magazine aims primarily at a recognition of the relations existing between the study of geography and the needs of the community, and only incidentally at the more scientific aspects where geography impinges, for instance, on geology.



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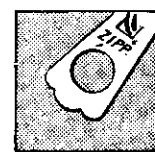
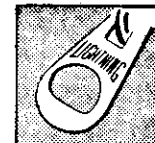
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