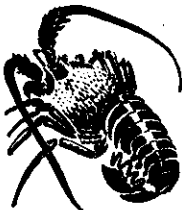


as good as twenty-five shillings. the Caxton Press, and Janet and Blackwood Paul could make them in New Zealand at the present time. All readers will hope that their boldness will pay. —O.D.

SEA SHORE AND SEASONS

LIFE ON THE SEA SHORE. Written and Illustrated by Dr. E. A. R. Ennion. Geoffrey Cumberlege, Oxford University Press. 3/-.
NEWS FROM NATURE. By Alec H. Chisholm. Illustrated. Georgian House, Melbourne. 10/6.

THE little book on *Life on the Sea Shore*, by Dr. Ennion, is No. 25 in a list of 29 Chameleon books for children. That, however, should not scare off adult readers; indeed anyone with an interest, either amateur or expert, in the creatures and plants of earth and water will surely read these 76 pages with a great deal of pleasure. How simply Dr. Ennion explains his polyps, his bristle worms, his shellfish family and his beautifully coloured shore plants—but he does not over simplify and thus mislead. His drawings, black and white and in colour, could grace the most magically illustrated of the newest expensive books for children; and again accuracy and simplicity are the first characteristics.



Mr. Chisholm's book, three times the price, three times the size, has for me only about one third of the charm of Dr. Ennion's. *News from Nature* is a reprint of 48 newspaper sketches on wild life published in Melbourne during the war. There are a dozen articles for each of the seasons; and round each article there is a good deal of the tedious wrapping that newspaper columnists sometimes use over-lavishly. But after the third paragraph, once or twice after the second paragraph, the subject appears—the strange orchids, the migratory birds, the fungi, the birds' nests, the wild flowers—and Mr. Chisholm is square on the note, simple, straightforward, and interesting. Most of the photographs are his own and some of them, particularly the ones of birds' nests, are quite beautiful.

There are typographical errors in this book which is on the whole disappointing for a post-war production. —J.

EUROPEAN RECOVERY

THE WEST AT BAY. By Barbara Ward. Allen and Unwin, London. English price, 12/6.

BARBARA WARD has the knowledge, in history and economics, which enables her to explain the reasons for Europe's decline and the conditions for recovery. She sees clearly that the issue to-day is not—as many Americans believe it to be—an eventual return to "normalcy," but the emergence of a new way of life, strong enough to prevent the spread of Communism. Western Europe can survive only if its economic systems can be integrated. American aid, the most generous gesture of its kind in history, will not equal 5 per cent. of national production by the Sixteen Nations in the period covered by the Paris Report: it is in Europe itself that the big effort must be made. "American aid is like the last cog in a complicated machine," writes Miss Ward. "Its absence may bring the wheels to a standstill, but its presence

does not guarantee that they will grind on. For that they need their own lubrication and their own power."

The interesting fact, revealed in a brilliant analysis of economic and political policy, is that the Americans are contributing to a recovery which, if successful, will establish the type of society to which in theory and habit they have been consistently opposed. Economic integration means control: there must be regulation and co-ordination if wasteful overlapping of effort is to be avoided. As Miss Ward points out, Western Europe is becoming the New World. The Americans may not fully understand the implications of Marshall aid: they may believe too easily that economic assistance will bring back the conditions for unimpeded trading. But they are committed to a policy which has a sort of historic necessity. Closer association between the western nations, in trade and defence, may promote the federalisation which some thinkers advocated during the war as the most rational way of overcoming the European dilemma. Their mistake was in believing that a system of this kind could be established by drawing up a constitution. The real nature of integration is to be found in trial and error and practical co-operation; and the nations have been brought to it, not by intellectual conviction, but by immediate problems in trade and strategy. The attempt may fail, for it implies a gradual curtailment of sovereignty. There is, however, no other way of meeting the challenge of Communism. Miss Ward has written a valuable book; and the surprising fact is that, in spite of the complexity of her material, she was able to produce it in six weeks.

—M.H.H.

AUCKLAND FAMILY BIOGRAPHY

A LINK WITH THE PAST. By the Hon. Eliot R. Davis, M.L.C. Oswald-Sealy (N.Z.) Ltd., Auckland.

MEN who have lived a life as long and varied as this well-known Auckland business man, and legislator, should be encouraged to write their reminiscences. New Zealand is weak in memoirs. But if they so decide, they should take two precautions: check their memories, and submit their manuscripts to someone with a literary bent, a knowledge of the period, and a capacity for candour. Mr. Eliot Davis did take advice about his script. Dean Chandler, of Hamilton, a friend of his, writes an introduction, and tells us he urged publication. One may take it, however, that Dean Chandler is not well acquainted with the middle period of Auckland history, and one suspects that he allowed his friendship to cloud his literary judgment. Mr. Davis trusted his memory far too much, with the result that there are a string of errors in fact, including misspelling of names. Even about his old school, which he remembers with affection, and to which he has been a benefactor, he is not always accurate.

The book would have been a much better one if it had been pretty rigorously edited, a process that would have cut out many trivialities. As it stands it reminds one of a couple of old cronies gossiping about their past. "Remember Bill Smith?" "Yes, he married Bertha Jones, and they're living in X. Fine girl, Bertha, wasn't she?" And so on, and so on. True, many prominent and interesting persons walk in these pages. Mr.

(continued on next page)



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(Signed) Noel Burrell.

* * *

Fencourt, Cambridge, 3rd Dec., 1947
Alfred Jenkins, 22 Manners St., Wellington.
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