

THE BEST FIFTY BOOKS OF THE YEAR

The following Oxford Books have been selected:

ART IN MEDIEVAL FRANCE, by Joan Evans. N.Z. Price, 78/9. 282 pages of illustrations. A comprehensive picture of French medieval art.

THE NEW OXFORD ILLUSTRATED DICKENS: David Copperfield. 12/6. Entirely reset edition with the original illustrations.

THE OXFORD ILLUSTRATED TROLLOPE: Can You Forgive Her. Two Volumes. 37/6.

OF ALL BOOKSELLERS

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BOOK REVIEWS (Cont'd.)

Davis and one Michael Joseph Savage, probably not yet contemplating the possibility that one day he would be Prime Minister, used to wash out the brewery cellar, and the two of them would eat their lunch of bread and cheese and perhaps a pint of beer, on a beer barrel and discuss questions of the day. Unfortunately there are many other personal references that are of little or no interest to the general reader, and there is too much of the small change of daily life and travel.

However, with all its faults of inaccuracy and lack of selection, Mr. Davis's

book does re-create a society, and especially the dear dead days before (and indeed long before) the first world war. Dean Chandler does not exaggerate when he says it "jostles with life." All manner of men and women are here. Some of them just put their heads into the scene; others live. In politics there is the story of how Mr. Davis was appointed to the Legislative Council. It is rather piquant. One surmises that Mr. Davis wrote the book primarily for his family connections and his friends and acquaintances. Many of them will enjoy this jumbled fireside-yarning remembrance of things past, without being critical. The social historian, especially of Auckland, will find it useful. One sociological condition, to which Dean Chandler's introduction is a pointer, may be mentioned. The Davis family were brought up as orthodox Jews. Mr. Davis tells us how strict his mother was in the domestic observance of Jewish custom. But the family has had a host of Christian friends, including Roman Catholic and Protestant clerics.

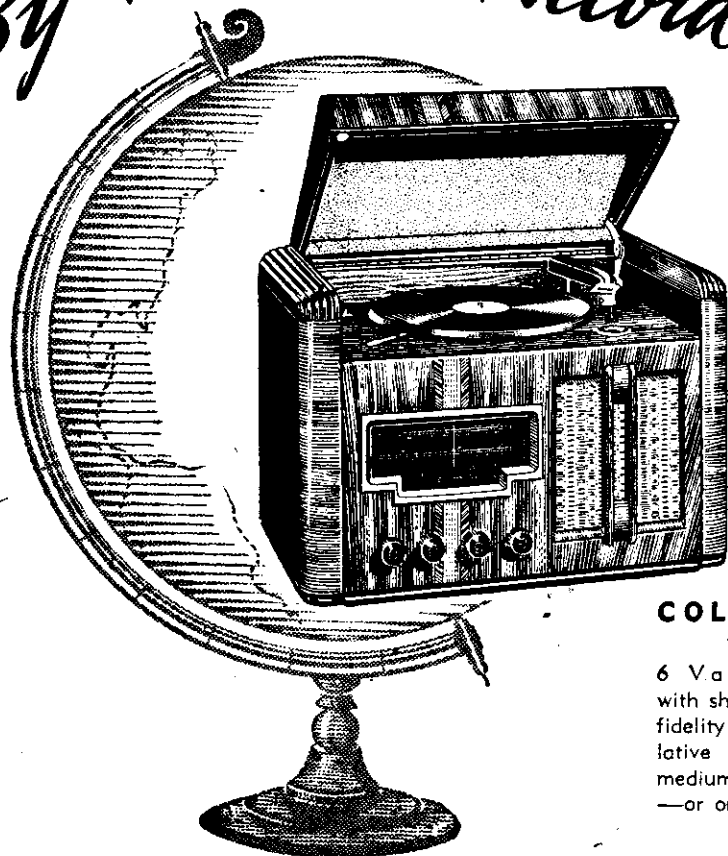
—A.M.

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A NEWCOMER to the ZB Book Review session on May 29 will be Guy Young (above), who will discuss "The Attic Pretenders," by Ernst Kreuder. Other books which will be reviewed during the session will be "Myths and Legends of Maoriland," by A. W. Reed (reviewed by Eric Ramsden), "Shackleton's Argonauts," by Frank Hurley (Bryan O'Brien), and "Driftwood Valley," by Theodora C. Stanwell-Fletcher (I. W. T. Munro). The chairman will be Norman Berrow.

N.Z. NATIONAL FILM UNIT

WEEKLY Review No. 402 from the National Film Unit released throughout New Zealand on May 20, contains the following items: "New Farms Beside the Wairoa," a study of the Maori Rehabilitation farm settlement scheme being carried out at Hurumua; "Sealing Lake Bed," which shows the work now being carried out at Lake Waikaremoana by divers; and "Mission Ship," in which Aucklanders see the London Missionary Society's new ship John Williams VI and attend a service on board.

NEW ZEALAND LISTENER, MAY 20