

An Aching Back

As most people know at one time or another, an aching back can be a great trial. Pains in the small of the back, joint and muscle pains and many other rheumatic symptoms, may be caused by sluggish kidney action leaving impurities in the system. Proper elimination of waste matter by healthy kidneys is as important a function as correct bowel action.

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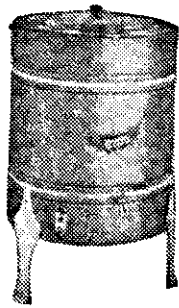


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BOOK REVIEWS (Cont'd.)

(continued from previous page)

ornaments. Martin, the owner of the land where Grant is digging, is numbed and shattered by experiences in Japanese occupied territory during the war, but finds his way back to reality, aided by Grant, through the live sanity of the mythology of the district. Mr. Gunn, attacking from the mythological angle, knocks a hole in materialism, and puts up a case for the reality and goodness of intuition. At times he writes true poetry, at others he strains after poetry and commits some rather dreadful atrocities. According to his publishers this is his ninth book, and one suspects that if his poetic potentialities had been strong enough he would by now have developed and disciplined his good taste sufficiently to recognise an atrocity when he writes one.

—G. leF. Y.

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

WONDER TALES OF MAORILAND. Stories by A. W. Reed, pictures by A. S. Paterson. A. H. and A. W. Reed, Wellington. Price, 10/6. **MISS KELLY.** By Elizabeth S. Holding, illustrated by Margaret Johnson. Michael Joseph Ltd., London. English price, 7/6. **BEYOND THE MARBLE MOUNTAIN.** By Hugh Gardner, illustrated by Kiddell-Monroe, Oxford University Press. English price, 6/- . **JOURNEY OF THE STAMP ANIMALS.** By Phyllis Hay, illustrated by Rosamund Stokes, Georgian House, Melbourne. Price, 10/6. **CASKIE WOODS.** By T. Nicolson, illustrated by Harold Freedman, Georgian House, Melbourne. Price, 10/6.

THIS is a mixed bag of "juveniles" of which A. W. Reed's *Wonder Tales* is easily the best present for a young New Zealander. Mr. Reed is a good storyteller and he has worked his traditional material up agreeably, interleaving the old Maori tales with pleasant little pictures of life in the days before the European came. Mr. Paterson's pictures, however, are not all so pleasant. His colour-plates are, in the main, good, but some of the line drawings are more reminiscent of Berhampore than the bush and most of the end-pieces are grotesquely at odds with the text.

Miss Kelly, the story of a sober little tabby-cat who could "talk human," is convincingly told by Elizabeth Holding, but is a little heavy with moralising overtones and at one point (when a circus tiger breaks loose) a little frightening for younger readers. One nine-year-old, however, found it engrossing. *Beyond the Marble Mountain* begins very well, in a sort of A. A. Milne vein, but the adventures of Bear, Goat, Owl and Ostrich are a little too protracted. Miss Kiddell-Monroe's drawings, however, are both beautiful and good-humoured. *Caskie Woods* and *The Journey of the Stamp Animals* would both have benefited by strenuous sub-editing.

FOREST BIRDS

FOREST-INHABITING BIRDS. Twenty-four Coloured Illustrations with Descriptive Letterpress. Published by the Forest and Bird Protection Society. 15/- to Members of the Society. 20/- through the Bookshops.

EVERYONE who likes birds will be glad to know that this album has been re-issued. Though the price sounds high, the plates are so good, and the text so interesting, that enthusiasts will not count the cost if they once handle the volume. There is the fact, too, that what the purchaser gets is not merely pictures of birds, and not merely notes about birds, but reinforcement of his

belief in the survival of our birds and through them of our forests. But potential buyers need not be afraid. There is no preaching, no fault-finding, no direct propaganda of any kind. Except for the melancholy "Cry of the Forest," by Leonard Cockayne, which is reproduced for the introduction, and a page-long preface, the text is straight natural history, birds and their ways and their haunts. It is of course unfortunate—unfortunate but inevitable—that the artist (L. A. Daff) had to work from museum specimens, which occasionally, but not often, look lifeless. The compensation is the perfection of detail, which the printers (Wilson and Horton) have reproduced faultlessly.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

COMPLETE HOME KNITTING (Illustrated). By Margaret Murray and Jane Koster. Odhams Press Ltd. English price, 8/6. (Our copy from Whitcombe and Tombs).

A WELL illustrated book of instruction and knitting patterns, obviously designed to help the British home-knitter make the most of couponed materials, but nevertheless a useful present for her New Zealand counterpart. Mothers with young families will have one fault to find. There are plenty of patterns for father (who comes last on the priority-list), but not a solitary cardigan or jersey pattern for a small boy between the ages of 12 months and 10 years.

FURNISHING ON A BUDGET. By Edna Horton Lewis. Georgian House, Melbourne. Price, 12/6.

A SENSIBLY-written guide to good taste in interior decoration which manages to avoid most of the extravagances usually found in such publications. A good deal of the advice can be followed by those with the medium-to-shallow-draught purses, but the problem of devising a décor at once artistically satisfying and child-proof appears to have been avoided.



NELLE SCANLAN, who will be chairman of the ZB Book Review session on Sunday evening, June 5. Books to be discussed are: "Autobiography," by Sir Patrick Hastings (reviewed by Keith Matthews); "Not at Home," by Doris Langley Moore (Mrs. Isobel Cluett); "England: The Mysterious Isle," by Paolo Treves (R. M. Algie); "Book of Bays," by William Beebe (A. E. Hefford).

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