



Speedwriting Sweeps New Zealand!!

From North Cape to the Bluff, New Zealanders are enjoying the advantages of the Modern, Easy-to-Learn Shorthand. They have asked themselves the question:— "Why spend two to three years striving for efficiency in the symbol systems when one can acquire speed (120 words a minute) in Six Weeks?" You, too, can become a Shorthand-Writer in a minimum of time by giving one hour daily of your spare-time to this fascinating study! The "taking" of the most difficult matter becomes child's play. And the transcribing of your notes even after several hours presents no difficulties. You can command the high salary offered to competent stenographers without tedious attendance at night-school or business college. Learn by correspondence in the comfort of your own home.

Here are some excerpts from letters received from students:—

WELLINGTON: "On the whole I am getting a lot of fun out of the course. . . . I am enjoying it and would like to thank you for all your trouble, and especially the personal touch. That does make all the difference. . . . I am quite proud of my efforts as English is a foreign language to me. It just shows what can be done."

AUCKLAND: "I am very interested in the study of Speedwriting and am enjoying it very much; even now I am able to use quite a bit in my work." (After Lesson 3.)

WELLINGTON: "I find reading Speedwriting is quite a pleasure. I am so pleased with the course . . . the effort seems to diminish day by day."

WELLINGTON: "This is the best and easiest shorthand and it will do me."

WELLINGTON: "I feel I have come quite a long way in a short

time. I am very pleased about it and I wish to thank you very much for all your help."

PETONE: "I think Speedwriting is a wonderful study and only regret that I had not known about it sooner."

WELLINGTON: "Although only a new student of Speedwriting, I would like to say what a delightful study it has proved to be. It is simple to learn and the rules are easily followed. I am deriving much benefit and pleasure from my practice of this fascinating shorthand. I wish the Institute the success it so greatly deserves.—I am, 'A Very Satisfied Pupil.'"

DUNEDIN: "I have been giving all my attention to Speedwriting. . . . By following your directions I find I can write 100 words a minute very easily. I am only halfway through the course, yet I am now able to take dictation at the office."

BOOK REVIEWS (Cont'd.)

Home; and one that appears quite contradictory at first sight. How is it that one feels such an abundance of New Zealand in a story that draws its material mainly from the Irish Catholic minority? The answer is simply that the book takes the puritan spirit for granted; it is saturated with it. One remembers G. K. Chesterton's complaint about H. G. Wells: that because he was born into little Bethel, he supposed everybody else was, too. But in New Zealand the tradition that Chesterton represented has somehow become inextricably confused with that of little Bethel.

ENGLAND NOW

THE ENGLISH COUNTIES. Illustrated. By various authors. Advisory Editor: C. E. M. Joad. Odhams Press Ltd., through Whitcombe and Tombs Ltd. English price, 12/6.

THE ENGLISH HERITAGE. By Rex Well-ton Finn. Macdonald. English price, 12/6.

COPSFORD. By Walter J. C. Murray. Allen and Unwin. English price, 12/6.

[F I had a friend setting off to see England, I could think of no better speeding gift than the first in this list. True, it weighs about as much as a stout pair of walking shoes, but it would prove almost as useful to the tourist I have in mind—the one who will walk or cycle or ride a horse about England with time enough to travel at no more than five to seven miles an hour. For such a traveller *The English Counties* would take the place of road maps (there are 36 maps included, mostly pictorial and on a scale of five miles to the inch); it would take the place of many guide books, histories, picture books or tourist folders. Each writer is an expert on his particular county—S. P. B. Mais on Oxfordshire, Richard Church on Kent, R. H. Mottram on Suffolk, and a couple of dozen others on their chosen subjects. The chapters are, of course, most varied; some are more historical than others; some include more folk lore, others more field and forest lore, and others more hard statistics than their companion pieces. There are 280 photographs, 82 line drawings; a few of the photographs are disappointing, but many are magnificent, and all have something to tell the stranger, something that will set the displaced Kentishman or lakeland dalesman dreaming and remembering. And to make the puny price of 12/6 seem even more ridiculous, there is a sprightly, good-humoured, and most winning introduction by the editor—C. E. M. Joad.

As a book—that is, as printed paper with pictures all bound and paged—*The English Heritage* is a more pleasing achievement than *The English Counties*. But there it ends. The author sets out in a longish preface his views on a tourist's need of historical background—and then adds a new preface to this, the second edition. He planned it "for the tourist or holiday-maker, in the hope that as a companion it would add to his enjoyment of any district which he might visit." But there would be no room for it in any ruc-sac of my acquaintance; and I couldn't happily recommend it as an addition to the luggage in a 30 horse-power touring car with petrol to burn. Companion? No. All right to flip over the pages looking at the very good photographs, 30 of them; but a mortification of mind and eye to read sentences beginning, "Not always can we say with certainty . . ."

or ending, "Caxton was a typical product of his period, for it is during the Tudor age that the learning of the centuries came to England."

The third book, *Copsford*, is so delightful it seems a pity to overtop it with bigger and heavier affairs. It is the book that is most pleasant to handle and to read. Mr. Murray found a cottage that had been empty for 20 years; there were rats and rat-holes, spiders and cobwebs, window holes with no glass, floors with great gaps, grass growing in the doorway—but it was a cottage, empty, remote enough from the nearest farm and village, and to it Mr. Murray could and did escape from his sordid London room. He escaped for a year to work and to study the wild plants and animals round silent Copsford.

This is a book for a herb-gardener; but it is also a book for anyone who has the smallest hermit-instinct; and it is also a book for anyone who will enjoy a gentle story of solitariness with an even gentler story of love scarcely seen in the background. The photographs are excellent beyond comment.

—J.

HERALDRY AS A HOBBY

INTELLIGIBLE HERALDRY. By Sir D. Lynch-Robinson, and A. Lynch-Robinson. Macdonald, London. English price, 18/-.

THIS lavishly illustrated and amusingly written compendium suggests the possibility of a hobby of a most alluring kind. Many elderly people—and some others—take pleasure in coping with difficult crossword puzzles, and that, certainly needs both knowledge and ingenuity. Heraldry is not less exacting; it can provide problems at least as difficult, and incidentally as full of historical interest. It is ever so much cheaper than collecting stamps or coins; it can be pursued *ad infinitum* without exhausting its possibilities, like chess, with no need for an opponent. Of course one can try one's hand at carpet slippers.

It would not take long to memorise the technical terms and directions in the first few pages of the manual, checking by the illustrations; then borrow or steal an old Burke or Debrett—no matter how ancient. Among many hundreds of coats there are plenty of simple ones that you could decipher with what you already know, and the descriptions are there to check by. There can be no difficulty in seeing how to proceed on the same lines. Of course, so short a book as this must omit much that can be found elsewhere. There are many very rare charges, the fermail for instance, borne only by Leslie in the United Kingdom, and at most by two families on the Continent in different forms. In time an enthusiast would consult Fox-Davies and Boutell, or that encyclopaedic authority, Rietstap's *Armorial Général*.

But don't suppose that *Intelligible Heraldry* is elementary. More than half of it is taken up with all sorts of recondite information connected with heraldry; leading cases—the authors are barristers—dealing with the little-known subject of name change; the technique of jousting; the art of designing and the technique of executing heraldic book-plates; and much of importance to historians. Thus the enormous development in England of marks of cadency throws

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