

# BOOKS

(continued from page 19)

appreciation of English costume and a heightened interest in modern dress, so that, even as Dr. Cunningham, he gazes on his kind with the inward eye of speculation.

—C.M.B.

## SWEET ODOURS

*CARTS AND CANDLESTICKS*, by Alison Uttley, illustrated by C. F. Tunnicliffe; Faber and Faber. English price, 8 6.

ALISON UTTLEY has written 12 chapters about the country of her childhood; written them simply, sincerely and lovingly. There is no forcing or contrivance here; she describes her book best herself with a phrase on page one: "... a powder of pollen and seeds and sweet odours of the lanes."

She brings out curious bits and pieces of information: the legend that the baby son of James II was a pretender, inserted into the bed of the queen in a warming pan; a piece about the salamander, "a romantic utensil ... with a wrought iron head of oval shape and a thick handle about a yard long with a ring for hanging it up at the end." It was left in the kitchen fire till red hot, and used to light other fires and in cookery, in place of a grill, to brown the dishes when they came out of the oven.

Yet, in spite of the diversity of material, this is not a messy book stuffed with protruding rubbish like an untidy bird's nest. It has unity and is smoothly serene. Childhood in the country must have been happy for Alison Uttley.

New Zealanders can note differences in outlook with advantage. It is not easy to imagine a New Zealand child content, as she was, to sit on a distant hillside under an oak tree, "looking down over many fields and copses to the little green patch like a pale handkerchief where the white-clad cricketers played, like diminutive clockwork toys." She did not know who had won the game till the servant boy came back with the milk cart next morning. Few New Zealanders could subdue their competitive spirit to such an extent.

So she goes on her diverse way, talking about parcels and singing games and



W. S. WAUCHOP, chief librarian of the General Assembly Library, who will chair the ZB Book Review session on October 2. Books to be reviewed are "Comes the Reckoning," by Sir Robert Bruce Lockhart (reviewed by Kenneth Melvin); "Happy the Land," by Louise Dickinson Rich (I. W. T. Munro); "Ink in My Veins," by Cecil Hunt (John Moffett); and "Famine," by Liam O'Flaherty (Frank Sargeson)

spring water, country words, country customs, country food; of observed childhood magic, the musical notes of a dripping tap and the shape of the drops as they broke off, the life which seeps into inanimate things when they have stood in their household patterns for years on end, kettle steam with a rainbow in it. One reads about these details a chapter at a time, not realising till the end that the unity of the whole is the unity of life close to earth, the mother of life.

Mr. Tunnicliffe's rather craggy illustrations are most suitable and add to the charm of the book.

—G. leF. Y.

## Better Listening for Gisborne and Wanganui

FOUR new radio stations — 3XC Timaru, 1YZ Rotorua, 1XH Hamilton, and 1XN Whangarei — have been established this year by the NZBS, and the official openings of another new station, 2XA Wanganui, and of new studios with a transmitter of higher power for 2XG Gisborne, will take place this month. The Gisborne station (formerly 2ZJ) was operated originally under contract for the NZBS. Now its technical equipment has been replaced by the latest type and its power has been raised from 0.25 k.w. to 2 k.w. The staff has been increased to cope with the extended hours of broadcasting, which will be the same as those observed by other local-coverage stations.

The official opening of 2XG's new premises will be held on Saturday, October 15 when, as has been the case with other similar stations, the programme following the formalities will

be contributed by local artists. Tahu Shankland, formerly of the staffs of 2YD, 2ZA and more recently 2ZB, has been appointed station manager.

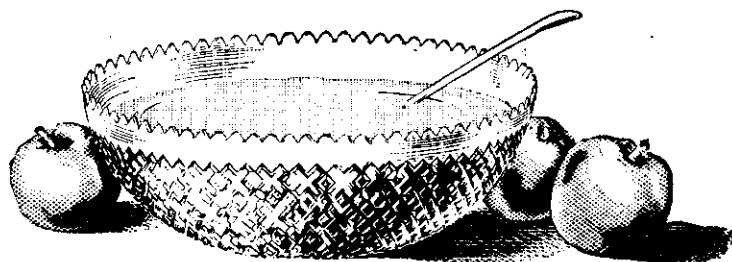
On Saturday, October 22, Station 2XA Wanganui will be opened. This will be the last of the 2 k.w. stations to be established under the current expansion plans of the NZBS. It will also be the first of the new 2 k.w. stations to have incorporated in its studios a stage and auditorium for audience participation. Local artists will provide the initial programme. The station manager will be Eric Lawrence, who has had 12 years' experience of broadcasting work; and before that was a radio operator in the Mercantile Marine.

In each case the station will be opened by the Minister of Broadcasting (the Hon. F. Jones), who will be introduced by the Director of Broadcasting (William Yates).

N.Z. LISTENER, SEPTEMBER 23, 1949.

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