

the fact that in most cases the original French text accompanies the English translation, and by the inclusion at the end of facsimile reproductions of the letters. On the other hand, the editor's comments, his biographical notes on the six Queens, and his analysis of their characters and their relationships with Henry lack nothing in liveliness: they are at least as rich in "human interest" as the letters themselves.

—G.M.

LAKELAND SCENERY

THE ENGLISH LAKES, by Alfred Furness and Dr. W. V. Harker; Allen and Unwin. English price, 30/-.

With exultations, at my feet I saw
Lake, islands, promontories, gleaming bays,
A universe of Nature's fairest forms,
Proudly revealed with instantaneous burst,
Magnificent, and beautiful, and gay.

WHEN William Wordsworth wrote those lines from *The Prelude* he was living at Dove Cottage, Grassmere, a picture of which is included in this collection of 76 excellent photographs about the Lake District, "our highest flight of English scenery." The pictures vary from a number of shots of Windermere, Grassmere, and the other lakes themselves, to the castles, crags, cultivated areas and cottages which have helped to make the region so inspiring to poet and patriot alike. It has been said that one cannot fail to take a good photograph of Lakeland scenery, but this collection captures atmosphere too—mist and lowering sky as often as sunlight and spring blossoms—and the result is doubly pleasing. Each photograph is accompanied by an appropriate quotation. The whole range of British poetry is drawn upon (though Wordsworth and Shelley most of all), and there are brief topographical and historical notes in many cases. The book, which is handsomely produced, in glossy paper throughout, is the first of a series to be entitled "Immortal Britain."

—P.J.W.

SECOND INSTALMENT

THE OXFORD JUNIOR ENCYCLOPAEDIA, Vol. III (Mankind), General editors, Laura E. Salt and Geoffrey Bompfrey; the Oxford University Press, Geoffrey Cumberlege, London. English price, 30/- net.

IT is difficult, after noticing the first volume of the *Oxford Junior Encyclopaedia*, to find new words in which to express the same feelings of satisfaction at this continuing evidence of the ability of editors and contributors. But, if anything, appreciation grows with acquaintance; and that combination of lucidity, simplicity of style and liveliness of manner which was the most vivid impression of the first volume is even more to be welcomed when applied to such subjects as Mass, Matter, Time, and Space, where familiar concepts have been bent, compressed or otherwise pushed out of their traditional shape by the impact of higher mathematics and atomic physics.

Volume III. (the second is still in preparation) is subtitled "The Universe" and covers in some 500 pages the physical background of life, from the commonplace facts of geographical environment to the complexities of the space-time continuum. The original decision of the editors, not to "write down to children" has not been lost sight of, but nowhere do they presume specialised knowledge on the part of the reader (as so many encyclopaedists are prone to do). Where the subject is abstruse, the entry deals with it more or less *ab initio* and many of the longer entries (such as those on Relativity and

the Atom) are models of clear and concise exposition. A good deal of art has, in fact, been pressed into the service of science, and there is even an occasional leavening of humour—under the heading Time, the entry begins "It is easier to measure time than to understand it"; a Shakespearean quotation adds wit and point to a description of the industries of Copenhagen, and Chicago is summed up in a sentence by Carl Sandburg.

Here and there the proof reader or researcher seems to have nodded momentarily. The range of the Palomar reflector is given as 100,000,000 light years—substantially lower than the figure claimed for the big telescope by its Californian owners; New Zealand locomotives are still described as American type "with bells," and Weston Martyr's name has been misspelt in an incidental reference to him on page 222. Such slips, however, serve to indicate the book's vast compass. Once again the work of Helen Mary Petter, the illustrations editor, requires special mention. The book is prodigally illustrated and reproduction is of an unvaryingly high standard. The inclusion of five excellent watercolours (one of them "Hut Point and Mount Erebus," by Dr. E. A. Wilson) in the total of eight colour-plates is especially pleasing.

—J.M.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

HOLIDAYS and Happy Days, edited and introduced by Oswald Blakeston (Phoenix House, London. English price, 10/6), is a pleasant collection of papers on holiday-making, mostly in odd ways, written by several hands. The kind of holiday ranges from travelling through England on a canal boat to flying over the Caribbean, from watching cricket to browsing in book shops. Mr. Louis Marlow contributes an essay—brightly written, but in intent quite serious—in defence of holiday love-making. Truly we have come a long way from the Victorian attitude to sex.

—A.M.



R. D. DICK (above) will review S. S. Crawford's "Sheep and Sheepmen of Canterbury" in the *ZB Book Review* session on November 6. Other books (and reviewers) will be "Second Dog Watch," by "Main Royal" (Forbes Eadie); "The Crooked House," by Agatha Christie (Norman Berrow); "Ben Hall, the Bushranger," and "Free and Easy Land," by Frank Clune (F. W. Cropley). The chairman will be Bryan O'Brien



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