

The New Zealand Scene

work is being shown at the Helen Hitchings gallery in Wellington, is a painter of outstanding merit. The characteristic of his work that strikes one immediately is that he has assimilated modern European painting, digested it and made it part of his own individual self. There is no imitation of the tricks of style of

RIC LEE JOHNSON, a col- other painters; a practice we see often lection of whose recent with the meretricious purpose of giving a startlingly modern look. Johnson's modernity is the means he employs to interpret the New Zealand landscape.

> The quality of an artist is his vision, and his worth and purpose lies in his ability to record and transmit it successfully. Vision is more than what falls on the brain by a casual glance of the eye. It is the realisation not only of

> > of all those unseen powers and forces which account for what is seen. The "Maori House" is an almost straight record of a scene but with an added character as vital as a human being in its decrepit and shabby de-

The "Cliff Face, Piha" still retains the record of a locality, but with more emphasis on the unseen power of the sea to destroy; the blind inhuman wrestle of storm and water that sculpts a cliff face to a stone gro-

"'Twas Brillig" is a

ABOVE: "Maori House, Pakanae Settlement"

what strikes the eye but

tesque.

fine rendering of a scene too common in this country. The burnt-out stricken monsters of the forest trees writhe and twist their ghastly limbs. In life they had been trees, perpendicular and gripping the earth, growing upward and outward. Now their roots and limbs are throat and head uplifted, legs and hoofs in mad career. Not trees, or fallen trees, or animals, but monstrous objects outside the range of natural things.

Much of Johnson's work is watercolour or pen and watercolour. It is a revelation of how watercolour can be successfully used in ways other than for sweetly pretty peaceful landscapes. This country is angular, wind-swept and eroded. Johnson has grasped and crystallised some of its many aspects, from its water-worn pebbles to its gaunt spaces. The best of his work should become a national possession in the permanent collection of our galleries.

-E. C. Simpson



WRIGHTS

Coal Tar Soap

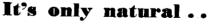
Shaving Soap Liquid Shampoo, Shampoo Powder N.Z. Agents:

S. A. Smith & Co. Ltd., Albert St., Auckland

IUUO MEN'S BRAND NEW ALL + WOOL ENGLISH NAP NAVAL DRESS COATS ENGLISH NAP NAVAL DRESS COATS
With adjustable Belted Back. Storm Cutts
and Collar. Full fitting Showerproof and
extremely warm.
Extra heavy weight
Retail Value £11/15/-TO CLEAR; 79/6 (3, 4, 5, 6, 7) All Post Free. Money refunded it not absolutely satisfied These coats will C be the final re-lease from the War Assets Their availty is such that many are still in use after 20 years service. The shade at Navy is perma-nent, being in-digo dye.

PRICE & DEMPSTER LTD.

39 Albert Street, Auckland (Top of Swanson St.), Branch, 196 Symonds Street (Above Tram Zone)



. . . for the little chap to want to copy Daddy - busy in the garden - planting. watching things grow—always happily occupied, he's seldom bored or fretful. But should some minor upset put him out of sorts, then Mother naturally turns to Califig to restore regularity, bright eyes and sunny nature. This kindly, pleasant laxative contains the juice of ripe figs with an extract of sonna. Purely vegetable and naturally nice.



Another product of Scott & Turner Ltd., Andrews House, Newcastle-on-Tyne, England.

"CLIFF FACE, PIHA" (pen and watercolour)