

# XMAS HOLIDAY SPORTSWEAR

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## SPORTS TROUSERS

Smartly tailored Sports Trousers ready to wear. State whether (a) Outbearer and side adjusters. (b) Tunnels and loops for belt. (c) Loops set down as illustrated. Sizes: 3 4 5  
Waist: 30in. 32in. 34in.  
Sizes: 6 7  
Waist: 36in. 38in.  
GABARDINE. Colours: brown, pearl/grey, gabardine/grey.

**84/8**

Plus 8d, postage.

**PLAIN GREY WORSTED.** Colours: Medium grey and dark grey.

Tunnels and loops for belt:

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Outbearer and side straps:

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Plus 8d, postage.

**WORSTED.** Colours: Grey with blue or red stripe.

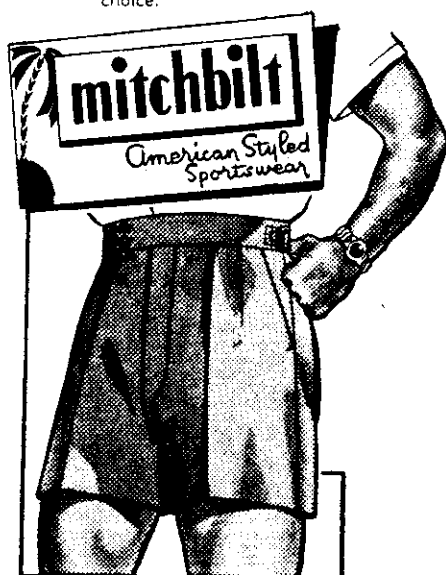
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## English Worsted SHORTS

Sizes: 3 4 5  
Waist: 30in. 32in. 34in.  
Sizes: 6 7  
Waist: 36in. 38in.

Smartly tailored **ENGLISH WORSTED.** Colour: Medium grey only.

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## TWILL SHORTS

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White **20/9**

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Light-weight Rayon Gabardine. Colours: Fawn, grey, blue, cream, white.

Sizes: 6 5/8, 6 3/4, 6 7/8, 7, 7 1/8.

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## BOOKS

# Consider Mount Egmont

*MOUNTAIN OF MAORILAND* by A. B. Scanlan; Thomas Avery & Sons Ltd., New Plymouth. Price, 25/-.

**T**HOUGH an indifferent title gives the key to an occasional weakness in the text, this book must primarily be judged on the excellence of the 49 plates that show Mount Egmont in all seasons. Mr. Scanlan has considerable ability as a photographer, and to judge by the exciting photographs of the summit in winter he is also a very competent mountaineer. He has the imagination to use his camera to record a diversity of mountain impressions, and with them to do full justice to the attractions of height, depth and distance. Whether his mountain rises from pasture lands in winter, or is crowded on its summit with summer trippers, it holds attention. Accessories to its beauty, such as Bell's Falls, the effects of shadows on ice, gradations in tone on the snowy crater floor, or a truly magnificent long shot of New Plymouth from high levels, are all photographed with a sense of the dramatic worthy of alpine photography at its best.



The pages of introduction are adequate without being distinguished. Some interesting history is omitted, such as the feat of three men who in 1907 walked from New Plymouth to 8,000 feet on Egmont and back in under 20 hours. The captions are the weakest links; those such as "Nature's Barrier," "Castles of Ice," "With Winter Coat" have a banality that is belied by the fresh vigour of the illustrations. Though unthinking exuberance may condone phrases like "the placid utilitarian touch" or "a screaming maelstrom," these ugly or purple passages should have been left to conventional tourist literature. Mr. Scanlan will have no need to glance back if he applies to his writing a mental self-discipline as essential to success in literature as to the fusion of courage and endurance in mountaineering under conditions when the rocks are glazed with ice and the wind rises to the force of a gale.

The process engravers and printers have given their best to the plates, and the publishers are to be commended for producing a book of dignity unoffended by ornament. Even more strength could have been achieved by placing all the blocks so that the book need not be turned sideways to examine the illustrations. It is a pity that no map is included.

—John Pascoe

## THE BIG BIRDS

*PYRAMID VALLEY*, by Roger Duff; Association of Friends of the Canterbury Museum, Christchurch. Price, 5/-.

**I**N spite of a recent rediscovery of the Takahe or Notornis there can be little doubt but that the giant Moas of ancient New Zealand are as properly extinct as the dodo of Mauritius. But that is no reason why they should be forgotten; and how nearly they can be brought to life again is shown by the attractive and inexpensive book here noticed. The

recipe seems to be a generous landowner, energetic and organised excavation, museum technique and study, a lively imagination, a facile pen, sympathetic artists and photographers, an enterprising producer and printer, and a far-sighted Association of Friends to back the venture. Roger Duff has had all these ingredients at his disposal in the venerable Canterbury Museum, and the result is good.

The Pyramid Valley swamp in North Canterbury in which the bones and other remains were first examined in 1939 has proved to be the most valuable in a long history of Moa excavations. Their late discovery has made it possible to disinter them with critical care, to analyse the deposit and everything in it, and generally to build and test theories about how the birds lived and how they met their death. Most of them foundered in a slowly drying shallow lake over which a treacherous crust had formed, and their bones remained compact enough to hold samples of undigested food packed in with gizzard-stones, and even shells of eggs formed and ready to lay. The story of the excavations is told in detail, and the scientific results are skillfully blended into a narrative which maintains the quality of a good thriller. There are no exact answers to all the questions that can be asked about Moas and other extinct New Zealand birds, but a great advance in our knowledge has been made at Pyramid Valley and more is to be expected. The reader of this book can at least be assured of being up-to-date.



A word should be added about the illustrations, which are profuse and well-selected. Diagrams are effectively used in a time-scale and photographs cover the topography of the country, the excavations, the activities of the excavators, and many of the more striking specimens. There is particularly good use of photography in the case of some of the massive skulls, helped by such arresting captions as "Dinornis . . . probably required as much grass per day as a bullock." Someone should have restrained the exuberant cover artist from giving the dying Dinornis a neck like a swan, but that is only a minor blemish in the best popular book to date on the Moas.

—R.A.F.

## FOR ALL SHAKESPEARIANS

*SHAKESPEARE SURVEY 2*, edited by Allardyce Nicoll; Cambridge University Press, 1949. English price, 12/6.

**T**HIS second issue of the new "annual survey of Shakespearian study and production" (jointly sponsored by the University of Birmingham, the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre, and the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust) more than confirms the hopes raised by last year's *Survey 1* and establishes the series as an indispensable aid to all teachers and genuine students of Shakespeare. This volume is uniform in style with the first issue, is handsomely illustrated and well printed and indexed.

N.Z. LISTENER, NOVEMBER 18, 1949