

book which is worth something, because it attempts to deal, even if rather conventionally, with real problems, social, personal and moral." —David Hall

TOMORROW AND TOMORROW

HERE AND NOW, No. 1, October, 1949, 2/-

[T] recently became known, amid sounds of suppressed excitement from Auckland, that a new monthly journal was being planned. Now it is here, and if it is not received everywhere with full enthusiasm it will at least have the goodwill of people who believe that there is much room in New Zealand for independent writing. More than a first issue may be needed before the value of the journal can be judged. The intention apparently is to develop the idea of an open forum. "We hope in future issues," says the editorial in phrases which, as on so many other pages, have a strong tincture of Mr. Fairburn, "to publish articles by Nationalists and Labour Party supporters, Roman Catholics and atheists, prohibitionists and alcoholics, pacifists and militarists, voluptuaries and ascetics, the saved and the damned . . ."

This declaration may express good intentions, but the cautious reader may wonder if discussion for its own sake can be a sufficient reason for publication. Papers which have long and healthy lives usually stand for something definite—something that can be supported or opposed with equal fervour. A correspondent seems to have made this point in a letter to the Editor: "I think a magazine should have its core somewhere, in literature, or politics, or some special interest or idea and expand from that core. Otherwise you get a digest." If there is a core, it is not yet visible, though it may begin to appear in later numbers. In the meantime the production has a strong flavour of Auckland, a flavour which may or may not recommend it to readers who live in less fortunate parts of the country. The first issue has some bright writing, though the desire to be provocative is perhaps a little noticeable. And the proof-reading is not as good as it should be in a periodical which is to come out only once a month. Nevertheless, readers will look forward with interest to the next appearance. In spite of the name given to the infant, which could be taken as a challenge to the fates that in the past have cruelly interfered with such ventures, it is to be hoped that *Here and Now* will be with us tomorrow—even until the fourth issue, when contributions will be "paid for on acceptance."

M.H.H.

WARTIME EXPERIENCE

GERMAN RAIDERS IN THE PACIFIC, by S. D. Waters; PRISONERS OF GERMAN, by D. O. W. Hall; PRISONERS OF ITALY, by D. O. W. Hall. War History Branch, Department of Internal Affairs.

THESE three additions to the "popular series" of war history bulletins are written concisely, and the illustrations are admirable. The bulletins are intended to be supplementary to the campaign and service volumes which are to appear later. They make use of material, supplied by people who took part in the events described, which helps to preserve the personal moods of wartime experience. Readers who might be intimidated by a full history will find them a useful approach to something bigger, though the scope is wide enough to permit the series to stand on its own as a record of events which normally would receive incidental treatment from historians. Literary and technical standards are so high that readers should welcome the announcement that suitable binding covers may later be available.

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