

## NEW BOOKS REVIEWED

### THE STARS

*THE STORY OF ASTRONOMY.* By Arthur L. Draper & Marian Lockwood. George Allen and Unwin Ltd., London.

MOST of us approach the subject of astronomy with awe, or steer clear of it altogether. This book, however, by two curators of the Hayden Planetarium, is something of a revelation. The authors trace their fascinating story from the views of the ancients to our modern conceptions of the nature of the universe, including Einstein's theory of the abolition of absolute space, but do it all so simply that laymen need have no fears at all. The subjects discussed range from the early theories of the shape and limits of the universe to such topics as meteors, comets, nebulae, star-clusters and sun-spots. The arguments for and against the existence of intelligent life on other planets are laid before us, and would-be space travellers are discouraged, at any rate for the present: "We to-day look about us with an easily discernible air of self-congratulation for our own cleverness in understanding the universe, in as far as we do understand it. Then is the moment to remember that we have achieved what understanding we have only by building upon the work and understanding of the consecrated and devoted servants of science who have preceded us."

In the very beginning observational astronomy was closely linked with the fictions of astrology, but it was accurately observational, and many conclusions, astonishing even to us, were arrived at. Thales of Miletus, for example, one of the fathers of Greek astronomy, taught that the stars shone by reflected sunlight, that the earth was shaped like a great sphere, that the year contained 365 days, and even succeeded in predicting an eclipse of the sun which occurred in 610 B.C. This is remarkable enough but it is not an isolated case. Almost as remarkable were the observations and conclusions of great thinkers like Pythagoras, Hipparchus, Aristotle, Galileo, Newton and Copernicus. Much of the work of these men was speculative, but the since proven accuracy of many of their theories (with which we are made familiar in these pages), though formulated with the assistance of such crude and elementary instruments, is an amazing tribute to the brilliance and clarity of their thinking. We need only compare Galileo's "Optick tube," which had a magnification of about 4,000 times to realise the handicaps under which the early devotees laboured.

The modern astronomer has many ingenious instruments to assist him and the authors explain these and their uses—the spectroscope which translates the messages of light to enable us to determine the composition of heavenly bodies, the camera which discovers them where the eye fails, and the interferometer which enables diameters of stars to be measured. We are also shown by means of lucid and interesting description and many fine photographs, as if through the eye-piece of the telescope itself, some of the most amazing phenomena of the heavens—Mars with its "canals," the Moon with its mountains and craters,

and so on. "The Story of Astronomy" should do much to popularise interest in a most fascinating and stimulating subject.

### WHY PAY INTEREST?

*A NEW ECONOMIC PLAN FOR NEW ZEALAND.* Issued by the Economic Reform Association, Dunedin.

MOST of us when we borrow money, think that we must pay for it. But the anonymous author of this pamphlet thinks that we are donkeys. He has a simple plan for abolishing interest completely on all existing and future debts, mortgages, liabilities of every kind, and substituting for it a system of periodic instalments in repayment of capital at the same percentage rates. He suggests that from a given date, all debtors and mortgagors shall begin to repay at, say, five per cent, and thus completely escape their liability in 20 years. Creditors for the next 20 years will thus have time to adjust themselves to the loss of their capital, but old people, widows, and helpless dependents will continue to receive thereafter, until they die off, an annuity equal to their original interest, but with a limit of £500 a year. It is necessary to read the pamphlet to find out where the money for these payments will come from.

The writer admits that this plan cannot apply to our Overseas Debt, and also says quite frankly that "there can be no solution of the interest problem that is easy and pleasant for everyone." His plan, however, has the merit of being simple and easily understood, and it recognises (which some plans do not), the plight of those who depend on interest for their income. When the millennium comes, it will perhaps be considered seriously.

### EXHIBITION OF PRINTING

*THE LISTENER*, in its book-reviews, has more than once remarked on the good printing characteristic of the Caxton Press, of Christchurch. The Caxton Press has in a very short time made a name for itself for its very fresh and intelligent work in book production and "jobbing"—so much so as to earn the commendation of a man like the late Eric Gill, the great engraver and type-designer. Those in Wellington who are interested in such work—and printing is an art so close to our everyday lives that we should all be interested—can see an exhibition of it now in progress at Modern Books (12 Woodward Street, Wellington, C.1) and a very stimulating exhibition this is. It includes samples of all sorts of the Press's work, books and announcements of books, type-specimens, ecclesiastical printing, leaflets and letter-heads, and so on. The total effect is very cheering in a dark world; for it shows what can be done by taste and discrimination and hard work backed by comparatively small resources in type, and while the Press can do brilliant and exciting things with Gill's Perpetua, and extremely pleasant things with Caslon, it can do also quite agreeable things with so undistinguished (almost abominable) a type as Century; witness its candid and amusing catalogue. The exhibition will run till March 15.

## LADY CECILIA SMILEY "DIGS FOR VICTORY"



—but despite being out in all weathers she keeps her skin glorious with Pond's two creams.

Lady Cecilia Smiley loves open-air life and has taken up farming as her war work. She has dark hazel eyes, brown hair and a gloriously smooth milk white skin.

#### QUESTION TO LADY CECILIA SMILEY:

Don't you find that long hours out in the open are very hard on your complexion, Lady Smiley?

#### ANSWER:

Yes, I do. But in spite of being out in all sorts of weather my complexion is every bit as smooth and soft as it used to be, and my entire thanks goes to Pond's two wonderful creams. Even before the War I discovered that Pond's creams did more for my complexion than elaborate beauty treatments.

You can have the same beauty care as the World's loveliest and most distinguished women.

For thorough skin cleansing, use Pond's Cold Cream every night and morning and during the day, whenever you change your make-up. Pat it on generously, leave it on a few minutes, then wipe it off with cleansing tissues. Pond's Cold Cream removes every bit of dust

and stale make-up . . . keeps your skin flawlessly lovely. Then use Pond's Vanishing Cream as a powder base and skin softener. This fluffy, delicate cream holds powder smoothly for hours, and it protects your skin from the roughening effects of sun and wind.



Sold at all stores and chemists in 9½d tubes for your handbags, 1/0½ and 2/1 jars for your dressing table. (Prices including Sales Tax.)

**FREE!** Mail this Coupon to-day with four 1d. stamps in sealed envelope to cover postage, packing, etc., for free tubes of Pond's Two Creams—Cold and Vanishing. You will receive also five samples of Pond's "Glare-proof Face Powder."

POND'S DEPT. (Z.4), P.O. Box 1495, WELLINGTON.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_



**BICYCLES LAST LONGER**

SAVES WEAR AND REPAIRS — LUBRICATES — CLEANS — POLISHES — PREVENTS RUST

**3-IN-ONE Oil**

LUBRICATES — PREVENTS RUST

