

(Continued from previous page)

poetic drama," there is only one word in his tribute that is absurd. It is not great by any test at all, and it is very unlikely that Stewart himself thinks it is. But it is interesting; arresting; in many respects memorable. Even its absurdities—Ned Kelly in the middle of a hold-up making a speech of nearly two pages, four policemen going to bed and to sleep with the bushrangers not far away outside—even these are given a kind of poetic justification in the text, whatever the effect might be on the stage. The truth seems to be that Stewart sat down and wrote a poem about life and society and resurrected the Kellys to "put it across." Although it is not a great poem, it has its authentic moments, and Ned and Byrne are authentic enough not to be easily forgotten.

#### HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

**THE NEW ZEALAND GARDEN DICTIONARY.** By J. W. Matthews, F.L.S. Price 6/- and **WARTIME GARDENING IN NEW ZEALAND.** By W. Philip Carman. Price 1/- Both published by A. H. and A. W. Reed.

**W**ARTIME scarcity and the high price of vegetables have sent thousands of New Zealanders back to the land—even if it is only a small plot in the back garden. To dig and delve has become both a patriotic duty and a practical method of saving money, and to those whose gardens are inclined to grow "quite contrary," as well as to those with more experience who want to get greater variety and output from their soil, these books of reference are recommended.

*War-time Gardening* does not pretend to tell you about everything you can grow in a vegetable garden: its purpose is to compress into 30 pages as much information as possible about making the most of limited time and space.

With its 200 pages, its charts of manures and fertilisers, lists of insects, pests, blights and spray treatments, and its alphabetical array of flowers, plants, vegetables and fruits the *Garden Dictionary* is vastly more comprehensive. It will probably amaze some amateurs to discover that so many different things to eat, smell, or simply look at can be produced by putting seeds in the soil of New Zealand. And if you study page 54, you will even discover which vegetable (mushrooms, 1 hour 20 mins.); and which fruit (bananas, 1 hour 45 min.); is the quickest to digest, and which is the slowest (cucumber, 4 hours 45 mins.; fig seeds, never).

#### FOR LITTLE GIRLS

**OVER THE HILLS: A BOOK OF VERSE FOR CHILDREN.** Written by Nancy L. Harvey; illustrated by M. Lovell-Harvey Oswald-Sealy (N.Z.) Ltd., Auckland.

**T**HIS little book, we are assured in a covering note, has been written, illustrated and published in New Zealand. No doubt it has been, but that does not make it an all-New Zealand book. Perhaps it was not intended to be, though in that case it is odd to emphasise its New Zealand origin. It is, in fact, a "sugar and spice and all that's nice" book for little girls anywhere, and the illustrator has decorated it accordingly. So Elizabeth, seeing the pretty "party" cover, said: "If I had that book for my own, I'd keep it in my best drawer." "I'd wrap mine in pink paper," said Pamela-Ann. Somebody knew what little girls are made of.

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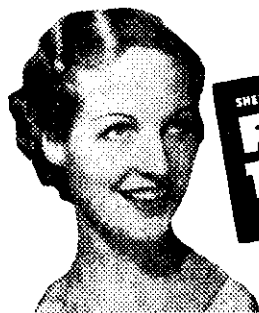
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