

BOOKS

FICTION AND FACT

SENSATIONS

THE YANKS ARE COMING. A novel by John A. Lee. T. Werner Laurie Ltd., London.

IF you begin this book you will finish it, and not waste much time on the way. But if you do begin it, by which I mean begin it seriously—read, say, two or three chapters—you write yourself down a follower of Deadwood Dick, and justify Mr. Lee's assumption that there is at least one of us born every hour. Two of us are born every hour, perhaps three, or how would pedlars of sensations live? And how, Mr. Lee no doubt would answer, would anybody endure the silly, dull, disgraceful record of fact if the romancers did not periodically snatch us away from it? The Yanks do come; but so much has happened in the meantime that the arrival of a warship out of nowhere just when everything is lost, seems as natural as the fact that the hero has passed from adventure to incredible adventure without losing one little hair of his famous footballer's head and the heroine shared all these dangers and had one or two specials of her own without losing even her capacity to blush. But if the arrival of the ship is not enough to make you shout out as you read, it will make all the boys in the film audience stamp their feet and cheer when the Yanks arrive by celluloid, as you feel they some day will.

HISTORY MADE EASY

DICTATORS ALL: A PLAY IN ONE ACT. By Kingsley Brady. Printed for the author by Whitcombe & Tombs.

MR. BRADY has written this comedy to be performed as well as read, but it reads so easily that things may not turn out as he intended. Nero, Napoleon, Frederick the Great, Louis XIV. of France, Philip II. of Spain, Attila and Alexander are seen in the corner of a room in hell, where, when the curtain goes up, Napoleon is asking Nero to "stop playing that damned fiddle"; or if he can't stop, to play another tune (he is playing "The British Grenadiers"). Nero asks whether "Rule Britannia" would be acceptable, or perhaps "Hearts of Oak"—and you now have the atmosphere. What follows is history as it is usually taught in schools, but told in witty dialogue. You may not like Mr. Brady's historical twists—his for ever England-ism may seem to you no more logical, and a good deal less securely founded in some other ways, than Hitler's Aryanism. But he will amuse you even when he annoys you, and charge you only a shilling for the experience. And for this you will also get a refreshingly smart printing job, with a cover design by Russell Clark.

IN GREECE

CAMPAIGN IN GREECE: THE NEW ZEALAND DIVISION IN ACTION. Army Board, Wellington. Government Printer.

THERE is one thing wrong with this survey, and one only, the maps are clumsy and not very clear. They are clear enough (though not quite complete), area by area, but they lack the bird's-eye clearness that makes all the difference between a map that tells the story and a map that merely helps. The maps here are helpful, but you have to ask yourself at intervals where the land begins and ends, which are man-made

and which natural features, and how the land really lies.

In all other respects, it is an admirable record, full enough to be clear, not so loaded with detail as to be confusing. Above all, you *feel* the story. The narrator could be your own brother, your own son. This is what happened, as he remembers it, and this, therefore, is what you will wish to know. Some day no doubt, events will take different weights and values: the bombing will ease off a little, the roads widen, the noises subside. In relation to the battles that were to come, this was still only the prelude. But it was a pretty desperate struggle in relation to the odds—always two or three, and sometimes eight or 10, to one. In any case, it was the task the Division was given to do, this is how it did it, and this is how it appears in retrospect.

It is difficult to imagine how a better job could have been made of a campaign survey prepared for popular consumption.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

LETTERS: A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF LITERARY AFFAIRS. Edited by N. F. Hoggard. Vol. 1, No. 1. Handcraft Press, Wellington.

A BRAVE attempt, but beyond the Editor's powers. One raw but arresting sketch by D. W. Ballantyne, and nothing else of any value.

For Users of Libraries

THE Wellington Branch of the New Zealand Library Association offers a First Prize of ten pounds, and a Second Prize of five pounds, for an essay on the subject: "What's Wrong With Library Service in New Zealand?" The competition is open to all citizens of New Zealand.

Conditions:

1. Entries must not exceed 2,500 words, but need not reach this limit.
2. Typescript is preferred, but not demanded.
3. Each entry shall have a pen-name written plainly on the first page. The name of the author shall not appear on any entry.
4. Each entry shall be accompanied by a sealed envelope containing a slip of paper with the name and address of the author. On the outside of the envelope shall be written the pen-name.
5. All entries shall be addressed "Hon. Secretary, Wellington Branch, N.Z.L.A., C/o Country Library Service, Private Bag, Wellington," and shall be clearly marked with the word COMPETITION.
6. Entries must be in the hands of the Hon. Secretary on or before September 1, 1943.
7. A judge or judges shall be appointed by the Committee of the Wellington Branch, N.Z.L.A.

In arriving at their decision, the judges shall consider:—(a) The precision, depth and comprehensiveness of the analysis; (b) Clear, concise and forceful style.

Competitors should note that a critical analysis of the library service in New Zealand is asked for. They should, in the main, direct their attention to exposing faults in library service as it operates now, and only to a minor degree should they concern themselves with constructive proposals for change.



STAMPS

Sent on approval—state requirements

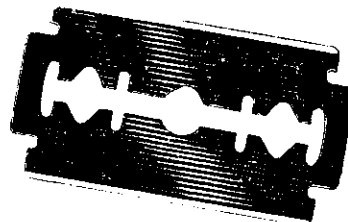
FINEST STOCKS IN NEW ZEALAND

Mention this paper

Old Friends

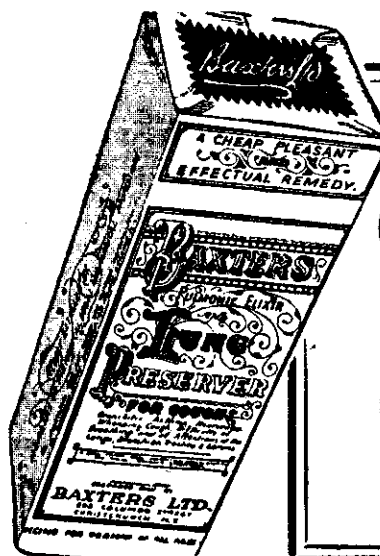
and New Faces

Men of the United States and New Zealand find much that is new about each other—and much that is familiar. If we are charmed, for instance, to find old turns of phrase in their speech, aren't they also pleased to find their familiar friend Gillette "down under"—still giving that same keen service that no Serviceman anywhere would be without.



Gillette

SAVES STEEL



Stop that Cough with BAXTERS

LUNG PRESERVER

The Time-Tested Remedy

Science approves

VI-MAX

for Breakfast

Vitalizing VI-MAX is made from selected wheats with wheat germ added to increase vitamin content. Scientific and health authorities recommend delicious, vitalizing VI-MAX for enjoyment, for vitality, and resistance to illness.

VI-MAX in 3lb Cartons, 7lb Bags, Coarse and Fine, made by makers of VI-BRAN and VI-MEAL, D. H. Brown & Son Ltd., Christchurch

