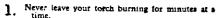
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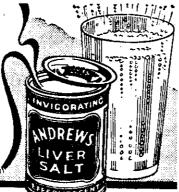
If you suffer from any of these complaints, there is one sure way to free yourself from their painful, poisonous grip. They are caused by germs which release deadly poisons in every part of the body. The first signs are vague pains in the joints and muscles. Sometimes the joints "crack" when flexed or bent. Pain grows more acute, until the burning, nagging ache becomes unbearable.

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#### BOOKS

## THINKER AND WRITER

THE WAITING HILLS: By M. H. Holcrott.
Progressive Publishing Society, Wellington

THE DEEPENING STREAM made Mr. Holcroft our foremost-I would myself say our first and only-literary philosopher. The Waiting Hills makes his position more secure. It is vigorous thinking and distinguished writing, though I do not always find it easy to follow. Sometimes I do not understand it at all, and I feel more strongly with the second essay than with the first that while Mr. Holcroft now writes with ease he still thinks with difficulty. It is not that I expect him to bring abstruse problems in every case within my own grasp; to think down or write down. He does neither, and I hope he never will. But he gives me the impression of a man under strain. Over and over again I feel that if he is not reaching beyond his grasp he is clinging to his holds with a kind of trembling desperation; an uncomfortable situation for the reader as well as for the author. On the other hand, who else but Professor Sinclairewho refuses to take himself seriously-

"New Zealand has few of the scars which "New Zealand has few of the scars which mark the graves of vanished cultures. There is no Troy, no Babylon to be excavated from our silent plains. No Stonehenge poses its enigma on a tussock ridge among the foothills. There is no work here for archæologists. While the Roman Empire was reaching out across Europe and North Africa, these islands were still undisturbed in the fruitful dream of the Kainozoic age only geologic time had left the Kainozoic age; only geologic time had left its ruins and ciphers among the rocks. In the sense that the world is not created for man until its physical vibrations are sifted through an interpreting brain, New Zealand was in the state of chaos."

can fill page after page with prose like

There is in fact, not a page in this whole book, and very few paragraphs, that could be buried in any other New Zealand book and not shine through, I take two illustrations. Chapter III, runs to 17 pages, and just escapes being a moral attack on gambling. If he could drop to complete ordinariness anywhere it would be here. But in the middle of it you find yourself reading lines like these:

"The workers are enclosed more than ever in small areas of specialised effort. It cannot be surprising, therefore, if they think of pleasure as an escape from too much complexity. They feel dimly that life is precariplexity. They feel dimly that life is precarious, that happiness is fragile, and that possessions are like sand in the fingers of a child playing on the beach. Yet if you tell them that simple pleasures are the best, you must be ready to meet the objection that simplicity is a challenge which tired or bewildered men are not equipped to meet. One of the most satisfying of all pleasures, for instance, is conversation; and in New Zealand this is an art lost many years ago when the first generation of colonists settled down to a tired old age on the properties they had shaped from virgin soil, or went home to England for a last look at the landmarks of youth and family."

Chapter V. is very short—scarcely 12 pages-but before you know where you are, you are marching to music:

"This, then, is the basic fact of our history— an age of silence. While the countries of Europe and Asia felt the movement of tribes and the growth of nations; while the classic and the growth of nations; while the classic civilisations were tumultuously taking their shape in the Mediterranean basin; while barbaric empires developed, with splendours of mythology and ritual, in the broad lands of South America; while the dream of spirit in nature was creating the colourful but passive culture of India: the islands of New Zealand were outside the mind of the world, intact and pure amid the flow of winds which brought only the sound and the distilled moisture of the sea."

It is true that Mr. Holcroft lacks humour, and because of that lack, seldom succeeds in keeping a safe distance from the pulpit. But good writing is worth a sermon or two.

-O.D.

#### NOT FOR GROWN-UPS

HOW LIFE BEGINS: By Milton R. Kent. A. H. and A. W. Reed, Wellington.

THIS is a courageous attempt to speak plainly about a subject that most of us are not clean enough to discuss at all. For it is not because sex is dirty that we remain silent about it: it is because we are dirty - so dirty that we can no longer talk about it simply. Milton Kent can. Her (surely not his?) science is shaky, even her syntax insecure, but only grown-ups will detect those things; and she does not address herself to grown-ups. She speaks to children -- any children old enough to read and young enough to have a natural and not a corrupted curiosity. She will shock the parents of many of them; but it is very unlikely that she will shock, worry, or mislead a single wholesome child, and if she does, it will be because evil was done there before she arrived.

#### MUSIC

THE DOMINION SONG BOOK No. 8. By Vernon Griffiths, Whitcombe & Tombe, 2s 6d.

THE Dominion Songbook No. 8 makes its appearance with 12 well-known songs and hymns, simply arranged for four-part singing with piano accompaniment, by Dr. Vernon Griffiths, Professor of Music at Canterbury University College and author of An Experiment in School Music Making. There are six popular hymn tunes (including "St. Anne," "Hanover," "Richmond," and the "Old 124th"), and six other songs (including "Annie Laurie," "The British Grenadiers," "High Barbary," and "High Barbary," "Loch Lomond"), and all these are arranged in Dr. Griffith's distinctive style with richly harmonised accompaniments. The collection has been made to solve the manpower problem of choirs which need easy parts for the few men they have left. In most cases, there is a unison singing of the first verse, then the forces split into three and four parts, with the tune in the bass, and some of the songs finish with a descant

The scope of the book has been determined by the fact that it is specially intended for the use of mixed choirs in the various armed forces, mixed massed choirs in universities, training colleges, and post-primary schools, and church choirs. Conductors of such groups will find that their own particular difficulties at the present time have all been taken into consideration by the arranger. Useful hints on securing the most effective results are printed inside the cover, and the music itself is clearly printed on generous well-spaced staves.

THE LYRIC COLLECTION OF SONGS. Arr. Kennedy. Black. Chas. Begg & Co. Ltd. 2s 6d.

KENNEDY BLACK, music master at the Southland Boys' High School and conductor of that school's choir,

(Continued on next page)