

THE ZB Book Review for February 14 will be an all-New Zealand session. Alan Mulgan is to review "Katherine Mansfield Selected Stories" and "New Zealand Short Stories," both edited by Don Davin; "The Life and Times of Sir James Wilson of Bulls," by L. J. Wild, is to be discussed by Dr. G. H. Scholefield; and "New Zealanders with the R.A.F.," by Wing-Commander H. L. Thompson, will be reviewed by Sir Keith Park (above).



the point of extinction. He hasn't succeeded in inhibiting I. F. Stone, who brings to the task of castigating the follies of United States foreign policy the gusto of an old-fashioned school matron giving a bilious child a good dose of Gregory powder. It is ironic that when the articles reprinted in this volume were collected Stone regarded Truman and his associates as the major menace, the menace provided by ignorance and inadequacy. Today Truman himself is under fire retrospectively by the same witch-hunters who have done so much to enfeeble United States public opinion. Stone, like most radicals, sees the faults of his own side much more clearly than those of their opponents. But in spite of occasional wrong-headedness, frequent stridency and an excess of belligerency, these astrigent articles, with their gift of corrosive irony, are the most heartening evidence of America's surviving political vitality since Adlai Stevenson published his campaign speeches. —David Hall

FISHERMEN

SHARK-O! by P. Fitzgerald O'Connor; Secker and Warburg, English price 15. — *UNDER-WATER HUNTING*, by Dr. Gilbert Doukan; Allen and Unwin, English price 16.

THE author of *Shark-O!* already had a successful novel to his credit during the period covered by this book. He lived on an island in the Hebrides, and had a small motor launch which he used for local pleasure trips. A chance telephone call from an old acquaintance started him on a shark-hunting expedition in that same small launch. This first trip did several things—it proved the practicability of handling these large creatures from so small a boat, it fired O'Connor with enthusiasm for shark-hunting, and it gave him sufficient experience to plan the following year's expedition.

The story of this planning is expertly told and maintains the tension at a pitch which tempts the reader to skip, in his eagerness to follow the action. Even more exciting are the parts dealing with the hunting, chasing, killing and processing of the sharks. At the same time the descriptions of the scenery and the characterisation of the crew read far more like thrilling fiction than a factual account of a commercial fishing operation. Economics of various aspects of fishing are dealt with; the wastefulness of using only the three-quarter ton liver of a five-ton shark, the greedy methods of herring and mackerel fishing, which so soon deplete the waters, and the organised poaching by fleets of foreign vessels. *Shark-O!* is a delightful combination of entertainment and education.

Dr. Doukan has produced what is by way of being a text-book on an entirely

different form of fishing. He describes the gear and techniques used in the comparatively new sport of underwater fishing, in which the sportsman equipped with goggles, breathing tube and harpoon gun, swims under water and stalks his prey. The long catalogue of descriptions of various fishes, coupled with the somewhat stilted and pedantic translation, make this book rather heavy going for anyone but an enthusiast.

—B.C.

PRINCE OF DENMARK

CONSCIENCE AND THE KING, a study of *Hamlet*, by Bertram Joseph; Chatto and Windus, English price 12 6.

THEY are still trying to read the riddle. The latest attempt, a brave one, goes back to the Elizabethan context. Mr. Joseph says that we cannot understand *Hamlet* unless we take notice of Renaissance attitudes. The heart of the matter, he believes, is Hamlet's dealings with the ghost. If the phantom is genuine, the prince can avenge his father with a free mind; but if it is an evil spirit, leading him towards a crime, his soul will be in peril of damnation. Doubts are resolved in the "mousetrap" scene, and any delays after that are explained as proper hesitations. The King cannot be killed at his prayers, for instance, because an Elizabethan would believe that a man who died in that posture would go straight to Heaven—the last thing that Hamlet wants for his uncle.

Mr. Joseph makes out a good case. Under his treatment, Hamlet ceases to be the man with the divided mind, and becomes instead the man of action, sane and resolute, who is restrained only by religious scruples. There are, however, the usual loose threads. Mr. Joseph ignores the fact that the ghost is seen by others at its first appearance, but is seen only by Hamlet in the third act, when he is with his mother. Can this be reconciled with the view that the madness is feigned throughout? There is still more in *Hamlet* than is dreamt of in any single philosophy. —H.

FOUR NOVELS

QUICK BRIGHT THINGS, by Isobel Strachey; Jonathan Cape, English price 10 6. *LADIES WITH A UNICORN*, by Monica Stirling; Victor Gollancz, English price, 10 6. *THE MAN WITH ONE HEAD*, by Fannie Hurst; Jonathan Cape, English price 10 6. *A STRANGER CAME TO THE FARM*, by Mika Waltari; Dymock's Book Arcade, Australian price 14.

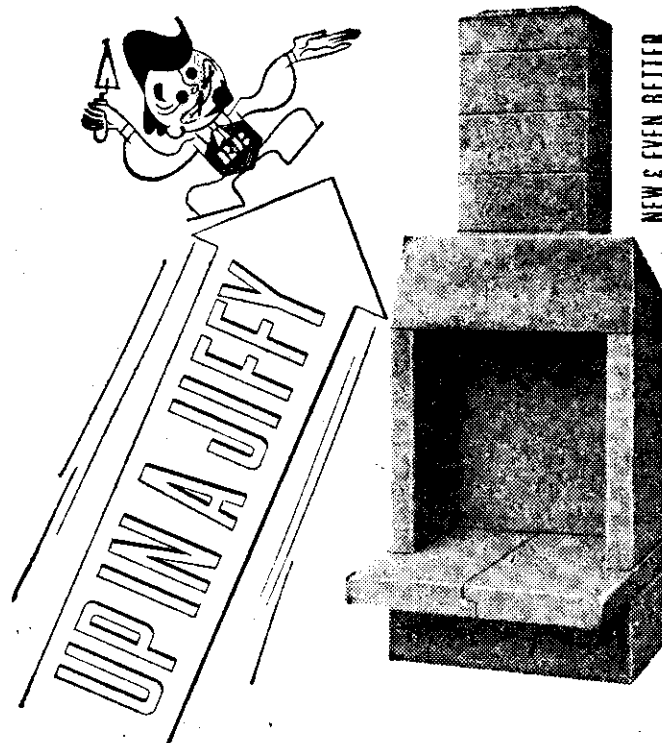
THE double standard always works two ways, being double-ended. Fashionable brittle novels are simply not good enough for us out here, since our healthy isolation has taught us, in literature as in life, the importance of living people. Thus the first three books of the above quartet can be fairly dismissed as of little more importance than the lava of a dying world.

Isobel Strachey's *Quick Bright Things*: divorcee mother and clueless daughter living fashionably on capital in London; mother fails to snare rich neighbour, daughter has fumbling affair with dim young man. At one point mother cries: "It is wicked of us to give a party with the price of gin so high!" Not wicked, just silly.

Monica Stirling's *Ladies With a Unicorn* describes the amorous and cinematic agonies of some females in Rome: promising start, weak ending, with a few shafts of wit between.

Fannie Hurst's *The Man With One Head* concerns a horribly typical American matron trying to keep scarlet claws upon her family while getting herself

(continued on next page)




Solve that chimney problem the easy way—with a B & B: its few pumice-concrete fitting pieces are up in a jiffy . . . you can do it yourself. Solve it the modern way, the best way, the cheapest way—with a B & B: a B & B concrete chimney saves you money, is absolutely fireproof and draws smoothly. A B & B is the job for you!

The new B & B's come in rounded edge design, neater than ever, and with provision for vertical reinforcement; in 3 styles—Range; Standard fireplace; Broad-line fireplace.



Ask at any reputable hardware store, or write or ring
B & B Concrete Co. Ltd., Crowburst St., Newmarket, Auckland.

RING 45-820 AUCKLAND OR WRITE FOR CHIMNEY CATALOGUE



Columbus

IS
COMING!

McGRAW-HILL