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## BIBLIOMANIA

can't be cured. Just let the patient have plenty of books which, be they new or old (but especially out-of-print), English or foreign, are best got from us. Write to us now before it's too late.

THE WAKELYS, C.P.O. Box 2656, AUCKLAND, C.1.

Lake Athabaska territory of Northern Canada. Mr. Munsterhjelm tells how he and a companion, Karl, made a living out of trapping mink, fox and muskrat and hunting caribou, bear and beaver, He gives a graphic account of an insidious sickness, "cabin fever," which creeps unnoticed upon people who are forced to live together for a long time in cramped quarters: "Karl and I had agreed to fight it tooth and nail if it attacked us. But that was easier said than done. . . Karl had a way of methodically stacking up tins on the shelf when he was cooking that made my skin creep. And if he lay on his bunk it irked me. 'Now the so-and-so lies there, doing nothing again.' If he was up and about . . Oh, yes, now he pretends to work like hell again, but he doesn't fool me." Fortunately, just when cabin fever was becoming unbearable six dog teams and their Indian drivers arrived, and the back of the malady was broken. There are no illustrations but a map shows the area covered. ---E.R.B.

## QUESTIONING SPIRIT

ANSWERS, by Walter Murdoch: Melbourne University Press, Australian price 13 6.

HE author was Professor of English in and later Chancellor of the University of West Australia; and his book is a collection of the answers to an assortment of 100 of the miscellaneous questions sent in by readers and discussed by Professor Murdoch in the Melbourne Herald and in a number of other newspapers in Australia and New Zealand. The questions are extraordinarily diverse, the answers pithy, and usually full of sense, wisdom and humour. Readers will share the author's wonder "how widespread the questioning spirit is in a modern community." Naturally, there is no attempt at classification and no index. I like best the answer to the question, "What won the St. Leger at Adelaide on 10.5.47?"

## MR. KAVANAGH'S HEART

WHY DIE OF HEART DISEASE? by Ted Kavanagh: George G. Harrap, English price 9 6.

[]AVING been cured of his own disorders by a course of treatment at Tempsford Hall (which appears to have consisted largely of fasting and drinking orange juice), Mr. Kavanagh of ITMA fame, is laudably anxious to enlighten other sufferers. In order to do so he has written this book, aptly and facetiously illustrated by C. W. Keeping. I find it hard to believe that we are all so saturated with poisons as Mr. Kavanagh would have us believe. Script-writing. apparently, does not induce brevity of expression, for everything said here could have been said in about half-the existing space. Being naturally superstitious, I regard the title of this book as a needlessly rash challenge to fate.

-R. M. Burdon

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

WHITCOMBE'S COMPLETE NEW ZEALAND GARDENER, by J. A. McPherson: Whitcombe and Tombs, 6.6. A new printing of a standard work for gardeners in this country.

THE WELL, by John Hereford; Hodder and Stoughton; English price. 12/6. A story of the Welsh hills, and of a well which miraculously brings health and happiness.

READERS who prefer real crimes to imaginary ones can examine three notorious cases in books issued in a Famous Criminal Trials series, edited by Stanley Jackson, and published by Odhams Press; N.Z. price, 3.3. through Whitcombe and Tombs. The titles are: Bywaters and Mrs. Thompson, by Ernest Dudley: Doctor Crippen, by Michael Gilbert; and John George Haigh, by Stanley Jackson,

## Ripeness is All

ALMOST every great writer in his time has had something to say about age. Among them are Shakespeare, who described it as "a lusty winter, frosty, but kindly," and Pope, who remarked, characteristically, that When men grow virtuous in age, they only make a sacrifice to God of the devil's leavings,"

Four latter-day writers whose views should also prove interesting are to be

heard shortly in a BBC programme entitled The Experience of Age. They are Bertrand Russell, Laurence Housman, Gilbert Murray and Walter de la Mare. Their ages at the time they recorded the programme for the Home Service ranged from 87 for the dramatist, Laurence Housman, to 79 for the poet. Walter de la Mare. The creator and narrator of the programme is a British - born Canadian, Ronald Hambleton, who will be heard linking together the talks he had with his eminent "subjects.

Bertrand Russell regards old age as a time

of serenity, but is aware of the risk of getting into a rut. Laurence Housman finds old age stimulating, but calmly awaits its close. Dr. Murray and Walter de la Mare both insist that it is important to old people to feel useful.

The Experience of Age will be broadcast by IYC at 8.0 p.m. on Monday, March 1, 2YC at 9.30 p.m. on Wednesday. March 3, 3YC at 8.26 p.m. on Wednesday, March 3, 4YC at 9.30 p.m. on Monday, March 1, and 4YA at 9.30 p.m. on Saturday, March 6.



Bertrand Russell, O.M.



Gilbert Murray, O.M.

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N.Z. LISTENER, FEBRUARY 26, 1954.