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FIJIAN WAY OF LIFE

BY
G. K. ROTH,

M.Sc. (Cantab.), B.A. (Liverpool), (Colonial Administrative Service)

In his preface to this book, Sir Ronald Garvey, K.C.M.G., M.B.E., Governor of Fiji, has this to say:

"I commend the FIJIAN WAY OF LIFE to all those who seek knowledge and understanding of these engaging and absorbing Melanesians of the South Sea Islands. For those joining any Department of the Government of Fiji it has a special significance and a special message."

Illustrated — Select Bibliography — Index

Of all Booksellers, 21/- N.Z.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
WELLINGTON.

BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

of the Labour and Conservative Parties of Great Britain together with some supplementary glimpses at history. The author explicitly says that he is not writing of principles or policies, and it is clear from his sententious statements that he has little understanding. One can be grateful that he has kept to organisation only, for the book, within its limits, could be useful as a reference work to the foreign journalist anxious not to make mistakes in describing the working of Britain's major parties. The author shows how the leader of the Conservatives makes decisions on policy, how the Labour Party Conference makes similar decisions, how the trade unions can outvote the constituency branches of the Labour Party (this is explained with approval), and how Parliament registers decisions made elsewhere.

Mr. Ivor Thomas was a Labour M.P. from 1942 to 1949, when he joined the Conservative Party. This apparently is his qualification for authorship of this book. He says it needed to be written because the last book on the subject was published 50 years ago. The need is still there, and when the book is written it is hoped that it will be done by a political philosopher who can relate the party system to the theory of the State.

—W.B.S.

MARTYRS AND PILGRIMS

GOOD ANGEL SLEPT, by Robert Greenwood: Hodder and Stoughton, English price 12 6. *THE HOLY FOOT*, by Robert Romanis: Andre Deutsch, N.Z. price 9 6. *THE FOOLISH IMMORTALS*, by Paul Gallico: Michael Joseph, English price 12 6.

SHOP each day and all day long. Friend your good angel slept, your star suffered eclipse. It was Browning: she quoted it to him when he wasn't much more than a grocer's boy. "Anybody can make money," her father had told him, quoting nobody. "All you have to do is think about nowt else from morn to meet." It was the latter prescription he followed, in the end. The star eclipsed was his aspiration to be a painter, to be a success in a world not of shops. But married to a girl who was not the one who quoted Browning, his paintings abandoned to the attic, nagged by competition and an acquisitive woman, he knew, when they made him mayor, that "he had won success in a world he didn't value."

Good Angel Slept is a story of frustration: and Mr. Greenwood, knowing his Yorkshire, tells it in a manner reminiscent of Hugh Walpole and Howard Spring.

The Holy Foot, declared Giacomino, a missionary friar, was not holy. It was, he declared, the foot of some pagan statue, some Bacchus, some Priapus. The population of the mountain village was aghast: it was, they declared, the foot of St. Stephen. Giacomino was a solitary voice, crying out against evil, and in the war that followed, with the sirocco blowing, they hustled him over a cliff. Then someone dug up the rest of the pagan statue. Repentant, the villagers made the shrine, intended for the Foot, into a memorial of his martyrdom:

HOUSE OF RETIREMENT

*ON the porch that quivers with the echo of the tui
The budgie cries from its grill.*

*In the windows where the yachts billow in with the sunset
The plaster-dog sits on the sill.*

*And the white rooms adventurous with wafts of seaweed
Are larded with chlorophyll.*

—Elsie Locke

it was peasant economy. Almost as many tourists and pilgrims came to the martyr's shrine as would have come to see the foot. It is a simple story simply told: the author's view of human relations is as uncomplicated as his narrative. The village of Sant' Antonio steals the scene.

The Foolish Immortals are not a little improbable, also. Mr. Gallico takes his group of type characters on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in search of the secret of the longevity of the ancients. He takes them, one might say, on a trite pilgrimage towards a Mecca of the superficial and the sentimental. Mr. Gallico does not always manage to avoid bad taste. —M.D.

MATERIALS OF HISTORY

DOCUMENTS AND SPEECHES ON BRITISH COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, 1931-1952, edited by Nicholas Mansergh for the Royal Institute of International Affairs: Geoffrey Cumberlege, Oxford University Press, 2 vols., English price 84 -.

PROFESSOR MANSERGH'S recent survey of *British Commonwealth Affairs (1931-1952): Vol. 1, Problems of External Policy (1931-39)*, succeeded the famous work on the same subject for the inter-war period by Sir Keith Hancock. The present documents are intended to illustrate this volume and the one that is to follow, and excellently they appear to do so. They are also in time to serve as basic material for the unofficial Commonwealth Relations Conference being held at Lahore in Pakistan this March and attended by both these scholars. The disappearance of the structural unity of the Commonwealth into sovereign—some of them republican—parts makes information about it so much harder to come by as it is increasingly important to have. New Zealand is fairly represented here on constitutional, economic, defence, foreign policy, Commonwealth co-operation, United Nations, and Colombo Plan themes. If there are any lines more moving in all these 1300 close-packed pages than Mr. Savage's noble "We are only a small and a young nation, but we are one and all a band of brothers," spoken on the outbreak of the war, they must be those of Mr. Mackenzie King acclaiming in 1944 the British Empire as "a model of what we hope the whole world will some day become," in words used by Mr. Churchill as Under-Secretary for the Colonies 37 years earlier.

—W. F. Monk

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM IN BRITAIN, 1918-1951, by D. E. Butler: Oxford University Press, English price 21/-. Electoral legislation since 1918 and the general working of the system are explained in a book intended primarily for students.

HAPPY HIGHWAYS, by G. V. Portus: Melbourne University Press, Australian price 30/-. The autobiography of a man whose full life has carried him from a cadetship in the New South Wales Department of Mines to academic honours in political science and history. His interests have also included the W.E.A. movement and sport, and he writes of them briskly.