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Some mothers say this, some mothers say that... but there's one proven way to wash baby's napkins dazzlingly white in less time, with less effort. Wash them in **BLISS** and warm water. It is a fact that napkins washed in **BLISS** are absolutely safe for the most tender skin.

Yet it is safer and more satisfying because it washes cleaner with far less effort on your part. From today's napkins onwards, use only **BLISS** Liquid Household Detergent — available in a giant size economy bottle everywhere.

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BLISS is at its best with woollies. It gets them so clean, but keeps them so soft and lovable. It actually restores matted woollens to their natural fluffy texture. **BLISS** keeps baby's woollies downy and white and it's just as good for your woollies and all the woollens in the house. And that means blankets too! You'll bless the day you try **BLISS** — the sensational household detergent that supersedes soap.

'BLISS WASHES WOOLLIES SOFTER, FLUFFIER THAN NEW,' SAYS ELIZABETH



'BLISS CUTS GREASE COMPLETELY — LEAVES DISHES SPARKLING,' SAYS MRS. DOROTHY M.



'I GAVE MY HUSBAND A TIP ABOUT CAR WASHING,' SAYS MRS. L.B. 'PUT A LITTLE BLISS IN THE WATER AND WHAT A SHINE.'



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your hair*



FOR lovely lustrous hair, use Palmolive Oil Shampoo. Palmolive Oil Shampoo is mild, leaves hair soft, manageable. Enhances its natural colour. Doesn't dry hair or scalp. Ask for Palmolive Oil Shampoo at chemists or stores.

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Large bottle 3/—Sufficient for 14 Shampoos

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BOOKS

English Spoken Here

THE STORY OF ENGLISH, by Mario Pei; Allen and Unwin, English price 21/-.

(Reviewed by I.A.G.)

ENGLISH, spoken by 250 million of the earth's inhabitants is numerically the second language of the world. But no one (not even the 450 million speakers of Chinese) will convince the 250 million that English is other than the leading language. Mario Pei in this fascinating and well-written book tells its story in three parts, the past, the present and the future.

The past—the linguistic history of English—used to belong exclusively to the philologists. But one of the most interesting movements in recent years has been the popularisation of the findings of two hundreds of years of philology. Men and women, who are repelled by such terms as vowel-shift and mutation, will listen with rapt attention to the histories of words and sounds if they are presented with the minimum of technical language. Pei is a populariser and a good one. He has the background of philology for the job but he wears his learning lightly and his history of how our language came to be what it is, a mighty tongue with a word-hoard of a million words, is told with accuracy but with never a dull page.

Pei's section on the present is concerned with the many problems that puzzle thoughtful people everywhere. And the number of these thoughtful people is very considerable. Slang and its place, officialese and gobbledygook, the problem of dialects, the problem of "Standard English," the problem of contractions and many others are all given a fresh and sensible treatment. Pei is an American, and I suspect that English was not his first tongue. Speakers and writers on the English language whose original tongue was not the language they now use can have a great advantage over native scholars. They see—and sometimes solve — problems that the native speaker does not even notice. It is always well to remember that the best grammar of the English language was written by a Scandinavian.

In many ways the most interesting section is that on the future. The author considers the likelihood that English will eventually become a world language, faces fairly and squarely the difficulties, from politics to non-phonetic spelling, that tend to prevent its further spread, but in the end cannot help but be impressed by the momentum which seems to be increasing every day. But although Pei is forced by the evidence to come down heavily on the side of English, he sounds a note of warning which we should all heed: as English spreads over the whole world as a medium for commerce and administration, as it moves to new areas where a minimum knowledge is essential for successful living, an increasing responsibility is thrown on those of us in the British Commonwealth and America for whom English is a native tongue. It is for the native speakers of English (and speakers here include writers) to see that this remarkable tool of communication with its rich history and heritage does not suffer by their own handling. We owe it to our language to use words with grace and precision.

Any old language is not good enough, even if it appears to do the job. You can turn a screw with a chisel because you are too lazy to look for the screw-driver. But what happens to the chisel?

INSECT BEHAVIOUR

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF INSECTS, by Alonso Gaul; Victor Gollancz, English price 21/-.

GAUL loves insects. It is obvious, even when he speaks of their depredations, that he is more than a little proud of them. How they order their lives is obviously of intense interest to him, and somehow that interest is communicated to the reader. As one would expect, there are chapters on the relations of insects with man. Yet Gaul is at his best when inviting our interest in insect behaviour for its own sake.

On the dust cover the enterprising publishers have collected some of the oddities from the text. Grasshoppers' ears are on their front knees, for example; or a single square yard of earth may support more than 10,000 insects. They are sufficiently bizarre to attract the wandering attention, though they do the book an injustice. It is no collection of sensational oddities but a very readable attempt to examine the insect's world.

One is grateful, too, that Gaul will have none of the mawkish "humanising" of his subject that first cloy and then irritates in much recent biology. He trenchantly disposes of insect intelligence and of utopian insect society.

The enormous range of his subject matter probably accounts for an abrupt leaping from topic to topic. The chapter arrangement, too, is certainly not the best possible if an orderly presentation is desired. Nor is an index of two pages adequate when there are more species of insects than of all the rest of living things put together. The four pages of references, however, may serve as a useful guide to further reading. The illustrations, all by the author, are magnificent.

—J. D. McD.

ABORIGINAL LEGENDS

AUSTRALIAN LEGENDARY TALES, by K. Langloh Parker, selected and edited by H. Drake-Brockman; Angus and Robertson, Australian price 25/-.

THESE legends may be of interest to the student of anthropology, for their detailed word-of-mouth exposition of the habits of Australian aborigines and the

"BROADCASTING IN NEW ZEALAND,"

by Ian K. Mackay, is to be reviewed by Dr. W. B. Sutch in the ZB Book Review session on April 4.

The other books for discussion that evening are: "Cinderella No More," by Lionel Tertis (reviewer, Dr. Charles Nalden); "The Record Year No. 2," by Edward Sackville-West and Desmond Shaw-Taylor (Owen Jensen); "The Conway," by John Masefield, and "The Great Iron Ship," by James Dugan (Captain F. E. Tether).

N.Z. LISTENER, MARCH 26, 1954.