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BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

struggles to get recognition for his experiment, and a trial trip with a companion in the Mediterranean. He finally set sail alone from the Canary Islands, and 65 days later arrived at Barbadoes, with his emergency rations still sealed in their tins.

This book gives the exciting story of the exploits of an extremely brave man. Dr. Bombard's technical report on the experiment will undoubtedly prove of great value to mariners. —B.C.

TOO CONCISE

A *CONCISE HISTORY OF MUSIC*, by William Lovelock. D.Mus.: G. Bell and Sons Ltd., English price 12/6.

ALTHOUGH Dr. Lovelock seems to have approached the writing of his history armed with musical common-sense, he has allowed his assignment to get a little out of hand. "Conciseness" takes the form of saying too little about too much. Travelling in just over 200 pages from the ancient Greeks to the present day leaves the author hardly enough space to elaborate his ideas, and for the most part the journey becomes littered with facts and names all of which can be found more conveniently and just as accurately in a pocket dictionary at half the price. As a jumping off spot for wider reading, Lovelock's history might suggest directions, and as an examination crammer it would probably come in very handy; but it is no substitute for the more considered study which should give background and perspective to the living music. —O.J.

THIRTEEN ARTISTS

THE IMPRESSIONISTS AND THEIR WORLD, introduced by Basil Taylor. Phoenix House Ltd., through A. H. and A. W. Reed, N.Z. price 21/-.

THE introduction, although brief, sets out clearly the fundamental values of Impressionism. It is followed by biographies—condensed in table form for easy reference—of the 13 artists represented in the book. Then come the 96 plates, half in colour, and all of them beautifully printed. Admirers of individual artists may regret some omissions; but the best selection must pass over somebody's favourites; and this one seems to be admirably balanced.

Reproduction is superb at its best, and seems elsewhere to be weakened only by the demands of the artists. This is a handsome book.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

MOTORING CAVALCADE, by W. J. Bentley. Odhams Press, through Whitcombe and Tombs, 20/-. A comprehensive story, fully illustrated, of motoring in the past 50 years.

EARLY MELBOURNE ARCHITECTURE, Oxford University Press, Melbourne, Australian price 40/-. A

TO BE WRITTEN ON ASBESTOS

PLANETARY stranger, pause. Here lived in shade of Tellus' laws Her sweetheart and annihilator, A savage and splay-footed creature Who craved the Beautiful Vision Yet could not rule his sex or reason. A baffled but divine conceit Here expired in self-defeat. He was capable of love. Grieve; the angels also grieve. —James K. Baxter.

The Best of Plato

Socrates: Wouldn't you say that the soul is immortal and never dies?
Glaucon: Indeed, I would not.

WHAT kind of a man is best qualified to govern society, and what is a just society? What would be the position of women in the ideal State? How should people be educated for living in a just society? What kind of men make the best lawyers and doctors? What is the nature of justice? And, finally, is it true that the soul or spirit of man is immortal? These were some of the questions discussed by Plato in his book *The Republic*, written more than 2000 years ago. As an act of homage to his old teacher Socrates, Plato put his reflections into the mouth of Socrates, who is represented as expounding his ideas in imaginary discussions with a number of friends and acquaintances.

A series of six *Platonic Dialogues* selected from *The Republic* will be broadcast from 2YC, starting at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 5. The selections have been made by H. Hudson, Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at Victoria University College, who contributes an introductory talk.

Plato expresses amazement, Mr. Hudson says, that men who have had no special training should be considered fit to govern in the interests of the State. He believes in what is called "aristocracy," which in his sense of the word means "rule by the best." He analyses the various kinds of government such as democracy, communism, and dictatorship. Nothing imperfect or defective will be tolerated in his ideal society, and those who are a liability to the State should be eliminated. Stability is to be ensured by a rigorous censorship of art and literature. Though there is much of value in Plato, many of the things he said could, Mr. Hudson believes, "be placed in a museum for strange and exploded ideas."

The best things of Plato are presented in this series of dialogues. The first is called "Is Injustice Profitable?" and takes place between Socrates and Thrasymachus, a rival teacher.

most interesting photographic record of architectural development between 1840 and 1888. It is a pity a similar venture could not be undertaken in New Zealand while some of the older buildings are still there to be photographed.

OXFORD TRAVEL ATLAS OF BRITAIN, edited by D. P. Bickmore; Oxford University Press, English price 10/6. A handy-sized atlas of special value for tourists.

TRAVELS WITH A TENT IN WESTERN EUROPE, by R. M. Lockley; Odhams Press, through Whitcombe and Tombs, N.Z. price 18/9. A travel book written in an easy style and with much attention to detail.

THE CONQUEST OF DEVIL'S ISLAND, by Charles Pean; Max Parrish, English price 10/6. A moving account of what was seen and done by Salvation Army officers in the penal settlement of French Guiana while they worked for its abolition.

HISTORIC BRITAIN, edited by Graham Fisher; Odhams Press, through Whitcombe and Tombs. A lavishly-illustrated study of people and places known for their significance in English history.

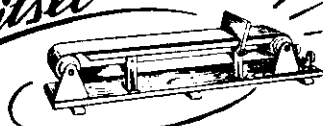
NATURE THROUGH THE SEASONS, Odhams Press, through Whitcombe and Tombs, N.Z. price 26/-. A study of the English countryside, with many illustrations in colour.

N.Z. LISTENER, APRIL 30, 1954.



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