

# BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

"a book for everyone who can see magic in boyhood and shadows of eternity," is now available in a reprint. —J.R.C.

## HE LOVES HORSES

**THE WEEK-END BOOK** of New Zealand Horses and People, by O. N. Gillespie ("The Saint"), illustrated; published by the author, 7/6.

THIS cheerful book is something more than a week-end book; for the people for whom it has been written—the people who love horses and horse-racing—it will no doubt be an authority to refer to time and again. And if the people for whom it was written are as cheerful and lively as the author they must be a very cheerful company indeed; it is safe to say that they will be even more so after reading this book.

Mr. Gillespie knows a great deal about the thoroughbred industry in New Zealand, and he devotes most of his space to the horse as racehorse. But he also writes about hunting and hacking and pony clubs, and the last section is about the Queen's visit to races, studs and shows in this country.

There are many photographs of race-courses, horses, people and ponies; and a whole chapter of horse chestnuts and some advice about betting. I am sure

Mr. Gillespie's readers, the ones for whom the book was written, will hope that he will soon find time to assemble, as he has promised, "the army of recollections that marches, or saunters," about in his head. The recollections are so much more widely enjoyed sauntering about in a book like this one. —J.

## ANCIENT CITY

**WINCHESTER**, by Brian Vesey-FitzGerald; Phoenix House Ltd., through A. H. and A. W. Reed Ltd., N.Z. price 20/-.

COUNTY and city guidebooks are produced in large quantities in Britain. The demand for them comes not only from tourists, but from Britons themselves, who, though they may talk less of "the sights," have a deeper sense of the significance of the centuries of blood and sweat and tears and joy that have moulded the countryside and fashioned their dwelling places. A city, says Professor Trevelyan, is "not mere stones and mortar, tastefully compiled, but an appropriate and mournful witness between those who see it now and those by whom it once was seen." This is much more than a guidebook. Adequate space is naturally given to a description of the Cathedral and of the famous school founded by William of Wykeham, and the inns and taverns and curious old shops are not overlooked. But the chief interest for some will be the history of this ancient city which had its origins in Roman times, which cherishes the legend of King Arthur

and the stories of Egbert and of Alfred, and which for centuries was the capital of England. There are ample illustrations, appropriate and beautiful. —L.J.W.

## NIGHTMARE

**ONE**, by David Karp; Victor Gollancz, English price 12/6.

THIS is quite a well-told yarn about the destruction of a personality by the State, somewhere, sometime. It is advertised on the cover as worthy of comparison with *Darkness at Noon* and *1984*; but though comparison is invited it is a much less impressive book. The explanation is simple. The College professor, bearing the "taint of individuality" where such things are no longer permitted, does so only on the author's say-so. He is never made real, so that there is little to destroy. The beginnings, his wife and family, his work at College, are naive in the extreme.

It is a pity that the author carries so little conviction in terms of feeling, because he can write about ideas. The best chapters, on what can only be termed an inquisition, are beautifully done. But it is a sad commentary on our times that the clever dialogue owes so much to actual inquisitions, on both sides of the Iron Curtain. A Yahoo nightmare begins to bear the marks of realism, as background to the daily news.

"There's nothing as something as one . . ." says the American poet, E. E. Cummings, who understands and

loves the individual better than David Karp does. Karp has the correlative: nothing can destroy one more skilfully than the monolithic state.

—Anton Vogt

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

**THE COMPLETE BOOK OF CAT CARE**, by Leon F. Whittey; Victor Gollancz, English price 18/-.

AN excellent handbook with all the information needed to understand cats, to keep them healthy, and to cure them when good treatment fails to save them from illness or accident. According to Compton Mackenzie, who writes a foreword, it "will remain a standard work as long as people keep cats."

**SPINIFEX WALKABOUT**, by Coralie and Leslie Rees; Australasian Publishing Co. and George G. Harrap, Australian price 19/6. A breezy and informative description of a hitch-hiking journey in the northern parts of Australia.

**THE PAPACY**, by John P. McKnight; McGraw-Hill Publishing Co. Ltd., English price 21/-. A "new appraisal." Nearly half the book is given to a very full study of Pope Pius XII.

**SHEAR NONSENSE**, by John W. Brimblecombe; A. H. and A. W. Reed, 9/6. Light-hearted sketches of farming life in New Zealand.

**NOW TO THE BANQUET**, by Isabelle Vischer; Victor Gollancz, English price 13/6. Gossip about food, with occasional recipes.



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