

this can also be seen from the deaths from tuberculosis (30,000 Egyptians die of it every year) and from the fact that three-quarters of the rural population have bilharzia, a very debilitating disease carried by the snails in the canal waters.

Three out of four Egyptians over the age of five can neither read nor write. This, as the author shrewdly remarks, is because education, like industry, lacks a market. If Egypt could develop industries which could find markets in north-eastern Africa, if the landlord class could be overthrown (that is, if there were a social revolution), if the administration could be rid of corruption, if the economic power of the merchants could be eliminated—then, suggests the author, there need not be chaos in the Middle East.

The book is a careful analytic survey (without going deeply into analysis which would get the writer into hot water) of the last century and a half of Egyptian history with up-to-date descriptive chapters on resources, agriculture, industry, transport, finance and the balance of payments. It ends with a plea for the Western world to recognise that it is the middle class which should be trusted in Egypt, and carefully explains that the present army dictatorship is one of the middle-class and not of the land owners.

—W.B.S.

## MUCH FIGHTING

**SWIFTLY THEY STRUCK**, the story of No. 4 Commando, by Murdoch C. McDougall; Odhams Press, through Whitcombe and Tombs Ltd., New Zealand price 15/-.

HERE is more fighting in this little book than in many war memoirs twice its size. The author's troop of No. 4 Commando, of which he was a section commander and sniper officer, landed at Ouistreham in the first wave on D Day, captured a coast-defence battery, and was in action continuously for 82 days and nights holding a sector of 6 Airborne Division's bridgehead over the River Orne. When the commando was relieved its losses represented more than its original strength; nine men were left of the troop's original 63.

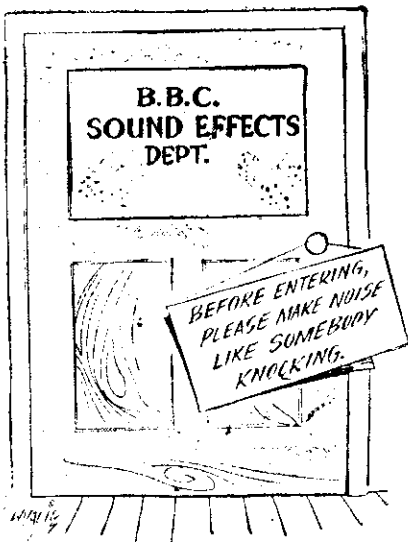
It is hard to imagine the author as a sniper; he is six feet five and built in proportion; but even his strength was taxed by the commandos' 90-pound rucksack and their strenuous training. He tells his troop's story in straightforward, functional prose, and makes the narrative even clearer with good maps and battle photographs. If in his descriptive writing he tries too hard and sometimes fails, he more than makes amends in his account of the landings in Normandy and at Flushing, in his descriptions of sniping patrols and night attacks and of enemy mortar bombardments planned to strain nerves and rob men of sleep. He makes good use also of the humour of the British soldier, laughing usually at a comrade in difficulties or at himself, and tells some amusing stories of the troop's "characters" and their adventures.

—W.A.G.

## OVER THE BORDER

**THE NATURE OF HUMAN PERSONALITY**, by G. N. M. Tyrell; Allen and Unwin, English price 12/6.

IN 1946 G. N. M. Tyrell published *The Personality of Man*, a careful examination of the factual side of psychological research. His new book, written in the last years of his life, moves on from the evidence—or uses only what is needed for immediate purposes—and



(C) Punch

attempts to explain its significance. He believes that the real boundary of the world is not in space-time, or in the ultra-microscopic region of protons and electrons. "There is no boundary intrinsically existent in the universe. All is continuous *ad infinitum*: but the way we are ourselves constructed limits what we perceive and forces upon us the necessary illusion that we perceive the whole."

An analysis of messages alleged to have been received from earlier investigators, including F. W. H. Myers and Edmund Gurney, is used to explain the crudities and distortions of "paranormal" communication. There is a chapter on apparitions, fully documented, and a study of mental attitudes which loosens the ground of some scientific prejudices. Most people, says Mr. Tyrell, reject an experience to which their minds are not adjusted. The unfamiliar is feared as a threat to the security of the senses, perhaps even to instinct. Some people, however, turn to it readily, but protect their instinctive outlook by drawing it into "the field of the normal"—an ingenious argument to explain the naivety of spiritualism.

Sceptical readers will be left at the end with some unanswered questions; but they will notice with interest that this is one of the few books written in recent years by men of real intellectual attainment on a subject not very popular with scientists and philosophers.

—H.

## SHEEP STATION REPRINT

**TE WAIMATE: Early Station Life in New Zealand**, by E. C. Studholme; new and revised edition; A. H. and A. W. Reed, 30/-.

THIS is a welcome reprint, with what the publishers describe as "a few important and necessary modifications," of what promises to be a classic of pioneering sheep-farming. The farming of the Studholme family stretched from Southland to Raglan, but "Te Waimate," round which the town of Waimate grew, was the main centre of their activities, industrial and social. In her original foreword, Mrs. A. E. Woodhouse tells us it is one of the four stations in South Canterbury "that have passed in unbroken succession from father to son since being taken up by white men." E. C. Studholme, who wrote the book, was the son of the first settler. In her new foreword, Mrs. Woodhouse notes that July, 1954, was the centennial of this famous property, and she pays an obituary tribute to the author. E. C. Studholme's account of the arduous and endurances of sheepfarming in the early

(continued on next page)

1954

# HEALTH STAMPS ON SALE MONDAY

The boy on this year's Health Stamps is gazing up at Mt. Aspiring (in the Southern Alps, 9975 ft.) and looking up to greater heights for health and happiness. Since their inception, the Children's Health Camps in New Zealand have restored health and happiness to nearly 40,000 boys and girls. The Health Camps depend on their share of the proceeds of the sale of Health Stamps to provide the funds to keep them going. Hurry! Be among the first to buy a liberal supply of 1954 Health Stamps.

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Use the 2d (Purple) HEALTH STAMPS on newspapers, magazines and Christmas Cards.

Use TWO 2d HEALTH STAMPS on all letters where the normal 3d postage applies.



## THE 3d HEALTH STAMP

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Use the 3d (Blue-grey) HEALTH STAMPS on accounts, invoices and Post Cards.

Use TWO 3d HEALTH STAMPS on Inland AIR MAIL LETTERS.

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