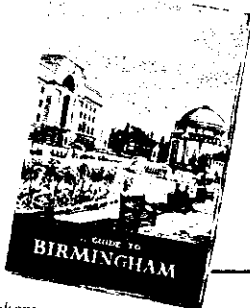


The LORD MAYOR of BIRMINGHAM

Alderman J. R. BALMER says

"I would like you to know more about the great City of which I am proud to be Lord Mayor. It is with pleasure therefore, that I invite you to send for a copy of the latest Guide Book which, profusely illustrated, describes Britain's Second City, tells something of its history, of its civic activities and of its great variety of trades."

Take the Lord Mayor's advice and mail the coupon for your copy of the latest guide to BIRMINGHAM, Britain's Second City.



To the Rt. Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Birmingham,
c/o The City of Birmingham Information Department,
The Council House, Birmingham, England.

Please mail copy of latest guide to

Name (BLOCK LETTERS) _____

Address _____

NZ

BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

education. There are many case histories embedded in her text to expose the stultifying effect of dogma upon the minds of children and adolescents. With this exposure, on a basis of simple observation, one must concur. But Miss Isherwood's sense of proportion fails her when she suggests that the spiritual devastation wrought by loss of faith can best be avoided by removing faith from the young, and replacing it with intellectual tolerance. Would any man willingly barter the power to say, "God help us," and mean it, for a dish of metaphysical porridge made from Indian grain, salted by Jung, and stewed in a clinic?

—James K. Baxter

THE TASTE OF SALT

SAILS BENEATH THE SOUTHERN CROSS, by P. A. Eaddy; A. H. and A. W. Reed, 17 6.

EVERY corner of New Zealand history is worth exploring; and it was sail, when other transport was unheard of, that opened up our hazardous coastline and the dark country beyond it.

In 1883 Mr. Eaddy (then aged one) arrived in the barque Clyde. Thereafter the Waitemata became his playground, then his Queen Street: blue water or dog-barking round the coast it was always home. Most of these salty reminiscences deal with coastwise shipping (though one of the best parts is the narrative of a 10 months' South Sea Island voyage). Sir Henry Brett's *White Wings* took us up to 1885, and this book carries on with the story of the sailing coasters, inter-colonials, scows and the cutter fleet. The catalogue of the ships is as complete as memory and research can make it. Mr. Eaddy knows his ships better than most of us know our neighbours, and he dips his pen deep in tar and paint. The ships are living things: one can only hope that in a fourth book the author will tell us more and more of the wind-mated men who drove them.

Reeds have built up a fine maritime list. This well-printed book, with 21 plates of old-timers, will be appreciated by all who watch white sails.

—D.G.

TASK FOR A NATION

NORTHERN AUSTRALIA, published by Angus and Robertson, Australian price 19 6.

THIS important volume contains the papers read, and the report of discussion of them, at the 1954 Summer School of the Australian Institute of Political Science. The sub-title is "A Task for a Nation," the task being the development of Northern Australia—a million square miles of territory occupied by only 100,000 Australians set over against the teeming millions of south-east Asia. The contributors include men with expert knowledge of the mineral resources, the pastoral industries and agricultural potentialities, the transport requirements of the area, and of the administrative, political, social and financial aspects of the problems of development.

In a short review one can insert only a couple of points. A proposal brought forward by Mr. J. N. Nelson, member for Northern Territory in the Commonwealth Parliament, is to alter the existing State and Territory boundaries to form a new State of North Queensland, with a southern boundary about Lat. 22° South and a west boundary to include the Barkly Tablelands; to add to South Australia the part of the Territory south of about 20° South Lat., which includes

the Alice Spring region; and to add to the remainder of the Territory the portion of West Australia north of Lat. 20° South. A suggestion designed to attract capital for the development of the Territory is made by Mr. W. A. Leslie, Chairman of the Northern Rehabilitation Committee. The proposal is that all territory north of the 26th Parallel in West Australia, the whole of the Northern Territory, and an area in Queensland to be defined shall be declared a tax-free area for a period of 20 years for all wage and salary earners, and that businesses, of whatever kind, shall have 60 per cent of their income free of tax, and the remainder also tax-free provided it is invested in the area.

This volume, of 250 pages, with its dozen essays, a score of relevant illustrations, and 13 excellent maps, provides in convenient form for Australians a comprehensive survey of an urgent and formidable task.

—L.J.W.

CANDLE ENDS

THE LORD OF THE FLIES, by William Golding, Faber and Faber, English price 12 6. THE ROOT OF HIS EVIL, by James M. Cain, Robert Hale, English price 9 6. BRIEF CANDLES, by Francis Gaiter, Hodder and Stoughton, English price 10 6. THE DARK WATER, by Margot Campbell, Arthur Barker, English price 10 6.

A GROUP of boys thrust down on a remote island in the course of some future war are left in *The Lord of the Flies* to work out their salvation. They set up a state; then undermine it. They hope to be saved (the allegory sits heavily there), and neglect the means of salvation. Virtue is in retreat, the naked will to power rampart, before the abrupt return to common sense with their rescue. This allegorical fantasy is brilliantly successful within its scope.

James M. Cain is known as the author of a rather sordid thriller. *The Root of His Evil* is a "straight" novel, about a waitress married by a rich neurotic as part of his love-war with mamma; she masters a difficult situation—a conventional competent, unexciting book.

Brief Candles is about two ghosts—one American, one British—who haunt their descendants touring France. It contains much arch humour, and its fantasy is generally rather feeble.

The setting of *The Dark Water* is in some scarcely definable part of the South Island back country. There are hints that Margot Campbell really knows some of the country background, but her grotesquely romantic story consists in manoeuvring the farm girl heroine into a position where it will be wholly suitable for her to marry an impoverished Scots peer. This can hardly be commended as a picture of New Zealand life.

—David Hall

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THE LANGUAGE OF PICTURES, by David Bell; B. T. Batsford Ltd., English price 25/-. The Director of the Glynn Vivian Art Gallery in Swansea explains "the words which the brush uses in the hands of a painter." An admirable introduction to the principles of art, suitably illustrated, and with a section of biographical notes on artists mentioned in the text.

MANUAL OF COMMUNAL HEALTH AND HYGIENE; prepared by the New Zealand Red Cross Society and published by Whitcombe and Tombs, 7/6. This little book is in two parts: "Public Health and Hygiene" and "Industrial Hygiene." In concise and easily accessible form it supplies information on such matters as preventive medicine, infectious diseases, nutrition, factory housekeeping, ventilation and heating.

N.Z. LISTENER, MARCH 4, 1955.

Keep away MOTHS with MOTHAKS



Don't let moths ravage valuable clothing... hang MOTHAKS in your wardrobe, have at least one in every drawer. Mothaks keep clothes moth-free and fresh. N.Z. Agents: J. L. Lennard Ltd., Box 1497, Wellington

1/3 FOR A BAG OF 8—ALL CHEMISTS