

Zealanders, so hospitable and so charming. But for God's sake don't talk to them about art!"

Why did the expatriate, Frances Hodgkins, say this of her homeland? It was because New Zealand was part of her. She dearly wanted to be recognised back home. Recognised and perhaps justified. For, like many others who have left home to go abroad and who depended for help partly on the people left behind, she felt guilty—guilty because she loved her mother, her sister and her brothers, guilty because she had left the group. Long after Europe had acclaimed her and the British Government had granted her a special pension, New Zealand was cold and even hostile to her. She died in 1947, and among her last fragments of conversation were the words, "New Zealand is, at last, beginning to recognise me." All the poverty and the toil and the following of strong urges within her, all the homesickness and the conflict between self-expression and family loyalty were justified, there were signs that the group would have her back.

Mr. McCormick deserves our thanks and congratulations. In *The Expatriate* he has given us a full study of Frances Hodgkins and New Zealand. In the supplementary volume he has painstakingly assembled the facts relating to the ownership of Frances Hodgkins's works in New Zealand, the record of her exhibitions, and other basic data supported by four enlarged plates and 32 reproductions in black and white. *The Expatriate* will, of course, have the wider public, but both works will be indispensable to those who in the future will want to write about Frances Hodgkins and her times.

And let us not forget that Mr. McCormick's fine work could not have been possible without financial assistance and encouragement from the Auckland City Council, the Department of Internal Affairs, the New Zealand Literary Fund and the University of New Zealand.

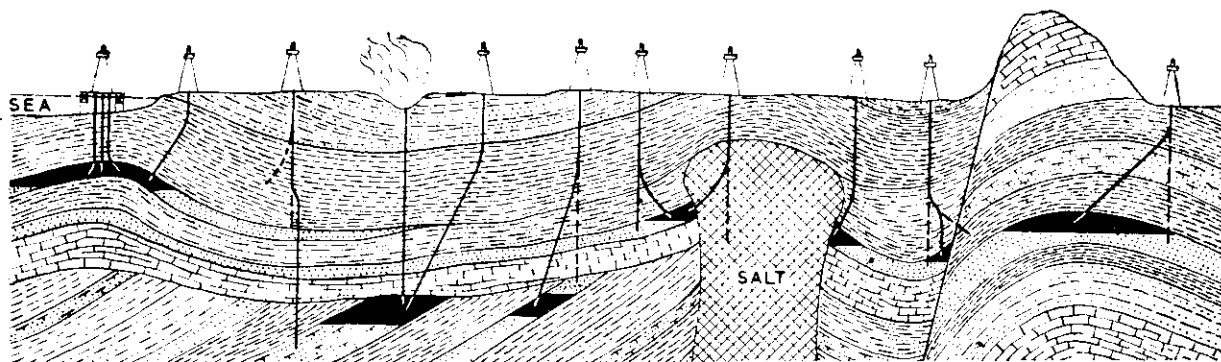
THE EARNEST AGNOSTIC

THE ROOT OF THE MATTER, by Margaret Isherwood; Victor Gollancz Ltd., English price 13/6.

SINCE Mr. Gollancz first began to offer the fruits of his spiritual progress to "Timothy" and to the modern intellectual world, the firm of Victor Gollancz Ltd. has been employed (along with strictly temporal publishing activities) in laying the foundations of a new Church. For the sake of brevity one may call it the Church of Inbetweeners. For it is based upon the natural wish of every agnostic to retain the benefits of religion without the pains of actual religious commitment; and it aspires to lead our intellectual pugilists out of the ring where they are clinched so savagely with the World, the Flesh and the Devil, to a permanent and enlightened ringside seat.

Miss Isherwood is a member of this congregation. She writes with evident sincerity, about what is perhaps the most difficult problem of all, the adjustment of religious education to the psychological requirements of a growing child. One admires her intention. But as the title of the book indicates, and its content confirms, her agnosticism is not neutral but militant. She quotes with complete aplomb St. Bernard, Ramakrishna, Keats, Hesiod, Adler, Eckhart and Charles Morgan, to support a syncretic programme of religious

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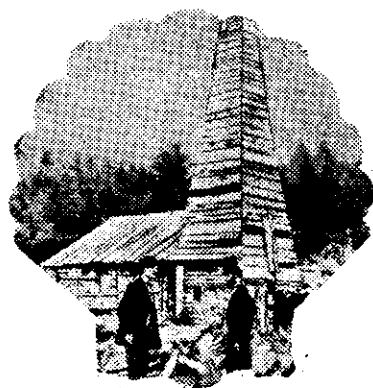


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Petroleum has been known to mankind from time immemorial. Through the ages it has contributed to the advance of civilisation. Noah's Ark was caulked with mineral pitch. The ruins of Babylon and other cities show to this day the way in which bitumen was used as mortar. Thousands of years ago the ancients in every continent scooped oil from seepages appearing on the earth's surface and used it for heating, lighting, road making, building and for preserving the dead. Gradually man learnt to dig shallow wells in places where natural seepages appeared. But not until advances in technical science gave him the necessary equipment could he go on to positive production of oil.

The First Drilling . . .

made for the express purpose of finding oil was carried out 95 years ago, in 1859, by Drake at Titusville in Pennsylvania, U.S.A. The enterprise was successful. It marked the beginning of the modern petroleum industry. With his primitive drilling rig, Drake



took two months to reach a depth of 69 feet where oil was found.

Since that historic day thousands of oil companies, operating tens of thousands of wells, have produced 16,000,000,000 tons of crude oil. It would take three and a half years for this vast quantity of oil to flow over the Huka Falls.

Behind this impressive figure lies almost a century of tireless labour, of disappointments and failures, as well as many fine successes. Thorough study of all problems related to the theory and practice of drilling, technical knowledge ripened by years of experience—gained at all points of the compass and under all climatic conditions—have contributed to these successes. Today oil well drilling has become a specialised branch of engineering.

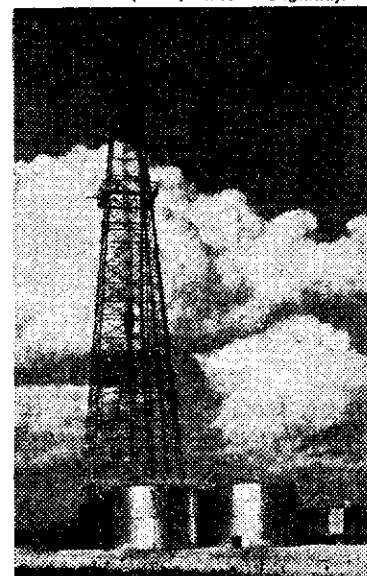
Over Eight Thousand . . .

oilfields and more than 500,000 producing wells serve the world. Some of these wells, when new, flow many thousand barrels a day. But most of them are small, pumping five, ten or twenty barrels a day. The world relies on the efficient recovery of oil from the small wells for the "hard core" of its needs. Every year nearly 50,000 wells are drilled. Many are "dry". In 1951, despite every care, in the United States alone, over 17,000 dry holes were drilled, representing 39% of the total new wells drilled in search of production. In Canada, one large oil company drilled 130 dry holes over a span of 28 years before discovering its first major field. In Ecuador, which showed great promise, £9 million was spent before the search

for oil was abandoned and the expenditure written off as a loss. Exploration is competitive, costly and hazardous. It is also necessary if world demand is to be fulfilled.

Shell has played its part in all these developments. Its equipment is ranked among the most modern in the world. In Louisiana it operates the world's deepest producing well, 18,568 feet—one and a half times deeper than Mount Cook is high. In the difficult Mississippi delta area, Shell is drilling by means of derricks mounted on floating pontoons. It is drilling in the open sea off Borneo and in the waters of the Persian Gulf. In the remote parts of the world its exploration teams search for new fields. With others, it has set itself the task of producing this liquid energy no matter how great the difficulties to be overcome—because oil is vitally necessary in our present-day society.

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Above: Improved drilling technique strikes oil in places which were formerly inaccessible. Left: Drake's well, 1859, Titusville, Penn. Right: The world's tallest oil derrick—204 feet—is operated by Shell.