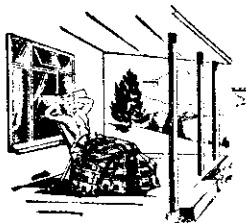


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## BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

assessment of her art, although she placed a more positive value on the second comment.

"I don't go in for slimming," she is quoted as saying. "My hips are part of my personality." This personality had its troublesome side, whether it was from the jealousy of fellow artists or, more particularly, from the men who inevitably popped up to divert her from her art. It probably all started with that first kiss by an amorous diplomat, while Marguerite was still at convent school. Unable to cope with the situation she went into the garden and wept. There she reflected on the facts of life in the best traditions of reliable books on the subject by observing the approach of a bee to a rose. Little Marguerite, as she tells us, returned to her classwork with swollen eyes. The other girls "knew the answers to the lesson perfectly, but, I wondered, what was the answer to the lesson of the bee and the rose?"

Madame D'Alvarez never really found the answer but the story of her quest is not without interest.

—C.J.

### FIRE AND SWORD

*THE CORNER STONE*, by Zoe Oldenbourg; Victor Gollancz, English price 15s.  
*SCOTLAND'S BURNING*, by Nathaniel Burt; Victor Gollancz, English price 12s. 6d.  
*THE TWO TOWERS*, by J. R. R. Tolkien; Allen & Unwin, English price 21s.  
*THE FURY*, by E. V. Timms; Angus & Robertson, Australian price 16s.

THE world of the middle ages—the 13th Century—is presented to us skilfully and attractively in Zoé Oldenbourg's novel, translated from the French. In her satisfying book we see the age of faith in all its rich paradox, the old crusader leaving his possessions to set out again for Palestine as a penniless pilgrim, the minor nobleman greedily acquiring property and power, and his son, after vain pursuit of chivalric love, seeking refuge in a monastery. The devotion and the cruelty, the piety and the crime, the dynastic marriage and romantic love, appear side by side in a narrative full of strength and colour. Of course, it is the most villainous character whose tomb (selected and paid for in anticipation) is a work of art.

*Scotland's Burning* is a well-constructed novel about an American boys' school where the atmosphere of a boarding school with its artificial scale of values

and its heightened emotionalism is well portrayed. There is even a heady whiff of scandal.

The second part of J. R. R. Tolkien's imaginative heroic saga follows hard upon the first. The effect becomes massive, although not even his excellent and simple style can do much more than garnish the labels placed on most of the people—human, elf or indeterminate—the same old goodies and baddies; and many a savage orc, like a Redskin, bites the dust.

The same simple labels are employed by E. V. Timms in his novel of gold-mining days in Victoria, except that he has created one attractive character, the orphan girl from the outback farm. Much Australian history—Eureka Stockade and all that—is laid on with a careless trowel.

—David Hall

### TOO MANY BENDS

*ROUND MANY A BEND*, by Austin Lee; Jonathan Cape, English price 12s. 6d.

AUSTIN LEE is one of the ex-clergy determined to entertain us. He has been a curate, a vicar, a chaplain, a chef, barman, schoolteacher and editorial assistant. The sort of jobs that any New Zealander takes in his stride he makes much of (his family divides the world into Decayed Gentry and Rising Gentry). He says he was an unsatisfactory parson "from the ecclesiastical point of view" because he was allergic to shams, humbug, hypocrisy, cant and all the things organised religion thrives on. Ah, well, the C. of E. has been doddering along ever since Henry VIII's time, and will perhaps survive the loss of Mr. Lee just as the R.A.F. did when he deserted in 1940 and went to Exmoor "living under an assumed name." The best part of the book is when he taught at a modern Dotheboys Hall. In its way the whole narrative is rattling good fun and it rattles on for 221 pages. Mr. Lee sounds like a conceited ass.

—D.G.

### TRAVELS IN GOOD COMPANY

*THE FOUR CORNERS OF NEW ZEALAND*, by A. H. Reed; A. H. & A. W. Reed, 25s.

THIS is an omnibus volume carrying the separately published and already noticed stories of Mr. Reed's travels on foot to and about the North, South, East and West points of our coastline. As I read, and looked at the maps and the fine photographic illustrations, I found myself travelling comfortably—without aching shoulders or empty stomach or tender feet—with this amiable wayfarer, listening to his stories of the early history of places and people, and to his lay sermons, and profiting in many ways from his enormous capacity for making friends.

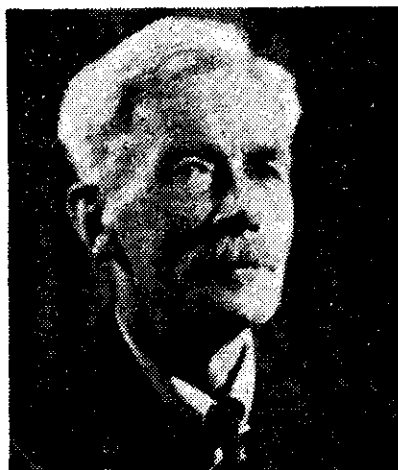
The most remarkable of these trips is the journey, in company with nephew A. W. Reed, "further West"—from the West arm of Lake Manapouri, over the Murrell Pass (3500 ft.), to Dusky Sound. But for a man of 74 years this arduous walk was, surely, valorous rather than discreet.

—L.J.W.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*THE ONE REMAINS*, by Stewart Perowne; Hodder and Stoughton, English price 20s. A report on Jerusalem, written by a man with a wide knowledge of its history and special problems.

*THE FARAMUS STORY*, by Frank Owen; Allan Wingate, English price 8s. 6d. The grim story of Anthony Charles Faramus, whose wartime adventures and sufferings reached their climax at Buchenwald.



A. H. REED

"Valorous rather than discreet"

\* follow the trend  
\* smoke  
\* WEST END



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