

criminals' origins to the scaffold. Burgess, the leader, Sullivan and Kelly, were offenders transported to Australia; Levv, a free immigrant, drifted into crime in New Zealand. Burgess was exposed to the full cruelties of the penal system, and Halket Millar suggests that this may have been a factor in sinking him to the depths of his infamy. At any rate, "he became a criminal of the most dangerous type, boasting of his deeds as bushranger, robber and murderer." He was at least four times a murderer before he came to New Zealand.

The trials at Nelson, reported here at length, have exceptional interest. Sullivan saved his skin by confessing, and then Burgess confessed to try to save the other two. In view of his history, Burgess's command of English in his statements, which included eloquent professions of repentance, was astonishing. The execution scene, with its prolongation by protestations and appeals, was truly awful. Dreadful as were the crimes, this may well have been used by opponents of capital punishment.

—A.M.

#### ADAM IN NEW GUINEA

ADAM IN PLUMES, by Colin Simpson; Angus and Robertson, Australian price 25/-.

"THIS is Mr. Simpson's third "Adam" book; in it he returns to New Guinea. Thirty years ago the central portion of New Guinea was thought to consist mainly of a mountain mass. In 1933 the Bismarck range to the east was pierced by prospectors for gold and the great upland plateau areas of the Bena Bena-Wahgi-Mt. Hagen region, with a relatively thick population of natives possessing a distinctive culture, were discovered. Before World War II a good deal of exploration was done and missionaries entered the field. Since the war exploration and development have gone on apace, industries such as sugar and coffee have been started, and, thanks to the practical vision of Sir Edward Hallstrom, sheep-farming has been introduced for the benefit of the natives.

Mr. Simpson tells the story in two parts. The first, of 108 pages, describes the country and people as seen through the reports of the Leahy brothers and others in 1933. The second part, of 150 pages, describes what the author saw in 1953, together with the observations of missionaries and anthropologists. There is a fine chapter on the Birds of Paradise and other species indigenous to

New Guinea, whose decorative plumes used by the natives suggested the title to this volume. The book is graphically written, backed by abundant references to authorities, and made more attractive by 16 colour-plates, 28 pages of photographs, and numerous line-drawings.

—L.J.W.

#### POETRY FOR CHILDREN

ALL DAY LONG, an Anthology of Poetry for Children, compiled by Pamela Whitlock; Oxford University Press, English price 21/-.

PAMELA WHITLOCK'S anthology of poetry for children has the great virtue of freshness. It can include Yeats without "Innisfree"; it recognises that Hopkins can be suitable for the young; and it makes such welcome discoveries or rediscoveries as Morton's "Dancing Cabman," De La Mare's "Daybreak," Dorothy Wellesley's "Horses" and Gogarty's "Sung in Spring." There are felicities of arrangement in the various sections—in the bringing-together, for example, of "Lepanto" and Hardy's "Trafalgar," with Day Lewis's "Watching Post" and, an extract from Martyn Skinner.

None of the selections are in bad taste, and only a few are trivial; but not all are equally happy. Rose Macaulay's "Baffled," for instance, is a sinister poem and strikes me as singularly unchildish; and so does the close-hauled metaphysic of Traherne's "Salutation." Several of the poems have that condescending "happiest-days-of-our-lives" attitude which children, I'm sure, find most irritating. As Professor Day Lewis has remarked, a child wants "a poem which will accord with his own kind of fantasies about life or support his fragmentary knowledge of it."

For what kind of "fantasies" and "knowledge" is this book designed? In spite of some vigorous sections, the general tone is set by gentle, romantic-Georgian, rather elegiac poetry of the kind which makes the English appear, deceptively, to be a nation of bird-watchers. As one reads, a picture appears in the mind, of the child who will read this book; and it is precisely the demure and charming young lady whom Joan Hassall has drawn for the cover. So I do not mean to be uncomplimentary in describing this as an intelligent anthology for older girls. For boys (and some girls, too) a companion-volume would be needed with the emphasis reversed, much of the rural-contemplative poetry replaced by the heroic and adventurous, with much stronger infusions of, say, Belloc, Kipling, Campbell and the earlier Auden and Day Lewis, for a start.

—M.K.J.

#### BEYOND SCIENCE

MATHEMATICS IN WESTERN CULTURE, by Morris Kline; Allen and Unwin, English price 30/-.

THE apparent movement of science away from reality bewilders many. Kline offers little comfort to the disturbed, but he does show how it is happening. It is a necessary consequence of the advance of mathematics. He demonstrates how mathematics, in passing and without conscious intent, not only made modern science possible, but also reversed its direction not once but many times. All this as a subsidiary to the main stream of mathematical thought!

The book is not an introduction to mathematics as is Hogben's *Mathematics for the Million*. It is historical and philosophical in the manner of Dantzig's *Number*. No prior knowledge of mathematics is assumed. As the title indicates, (continued on next page)

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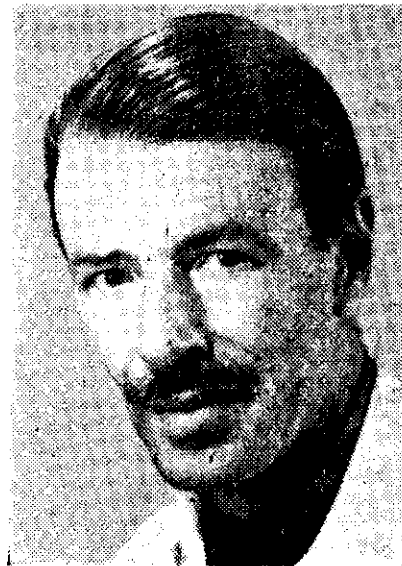
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