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BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

3, the New Hebrides; 4, the wide mid-mainland of New Guinea; 5, the fire-walkers of Fiji. The first section is characteristic Simpson narrative, covering the festivals of the beautiful Island of Mer, the ceremonies of the fertility Waitet, and a pleasant portrait of the native police sergeant, Kaikai. The sections on New Guinea amplify what Simpson has described in earlier books in the "Adam" series with much new material resulting from further travels and meetings with officers of the administration. A large part of the section on the New Hebrides deals with historical development and a criticism of the "two-headed, three-legged condominium"—which Simpson would like to see replaced by Australian administration. The account of the fire-walkers of Fiji is carefully compiled; it gives all the current explanations, but offers no solution.

As with other books in this series, the volume is beautifully illustrated with 12 colour-plates, many photographs and line decorations, and carries sufficient sketch maps.

—L.J.W.

TREASURE IN MANUSCRIPT

THE OLDEST MANUSCRIPTS IN NEW ZEALAND, by David M. Taylor. New Zealand Council for Educational Research, 42/-.

AT New Zealand book sales we occasionally come across that mysterious word "incunabula," which means "swaddling clothes," and which denotes works printed before 1500 A.D., when

Parking Metres

PERFUMES OF THE ORIENT

Buttermilk powder, artificially coloured green, is exported to Singapore. — Dairy Products Commission Bulletin.

SHIP me somewhere east of Suez
Where the smells are fit to kill,
And pour me a gin and buttermilk
With a dash of chlorophyll.

—R.G.P.

Parade of Variety

WITH many years of enjoyable listening behind them, New Zealanders have developed a strong affection for BBC variety programmes. Sometimes they are unwilling to give up an old love for a new, and occasionally they find that a programme which breaks new ground has a flavour which takes a bit of getting used to; but whatever their tastes variety is one of the great pleasures of listening. Variety fans have a chance to sample a number of different programmes in *BBC Variety Parade*, which is now being heard from ZB stations on Sunday nights, and will start from 1XH and 2ZA on Sunday, April 29. The series begins with an episode from *Meet the Huggets*, featuring Jack Warner and Kathleen Harrison, who have made a number of successful films about this friendly London household, and two programmes are included from *Archie's the Boy!*—the successor to the popular *Educating Archie*. *Hello, Playmates*, also represented twice in the series, is an Arthur Askey show which was awarded a National Radio Award for the most promising new radio programme of its year. Ted Ray will be heard in *Ted Ray Time* and, with Alma Cogan and the Stargazers, in *Workers'*

BOOK SHOP

IN the Book Shop session on Wednesday, April 25, Dr. Merrill Moore, of Boston, will give a talk on Katharine Mansfield and her reputation in America. Oliver Duff will review "New Zealand Birds," by W. R. Oliver; and Douglas Cresswell will talk about Mary Catherine Souther's "The Keeper of the Sheep."

printing was in its infancy. Mr. Taylor tells us that of the 40,000 surviving incunabula 181 are in New Zealand. How they got here is another mysterious thing, and Mr. Taylor was at first excited to discover each one. But he found so many that he decided to confine his researches to those writings in New Zealand which were done by hand (not printed) in the year 1500 or earlier. He found 76—47 in Auckland, 13 in Wellington, one in Christchurch and 15 in Dunedin.

This book describes and discusses the manuscripts in detail, reproduces some of the outstanding pages (particularly those having illustrations) and in a final chapter analyses an example of 15th century printing to provide a connection between the manuscript and the mass-produced book. Palaeography—the study of ancient written documents—is new to this part of the world, and as the author is a graduate of Canterbury College and of the Melbourne College of Divinity, we can rejoice that we have helped produce a man worthy of Sir George Grey's library and that we have a New Zealand Council of Educational Research with the wisdom and vision to make publication possible.

—W. B. Sutch

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

CHRISTIAN FAITH TODAY, by Stephen Neill; Penguin Books, New Zealand price 3/3. This new work, by a former missionary and teacher of theology, attempts to deal with the perplexities felt by modern man as he tries to come to terms with Christianity.

Playtime; Bernard Braden will return in *Between Times with Braden*; and two programmes by *The Billy Cotton Band Show* will win further admirers for this popular musician and showman.



BBC photograph

ARCHIE'S THE BOY
(and Shirley Eaton's the girl)

N.Z. LISTENER, APRIL 20, 1956.

For Chapped hands



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Amber 1/4

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Healing



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J6-6R

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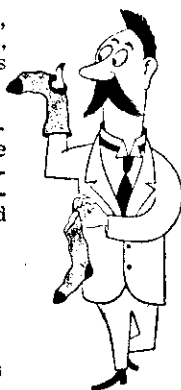
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