

truth from the tangle of legend, lies, and half-truths that are the story of Salvatore Giuliano, bandit, of Sicily. The facts, coldly, are that Giuliano was a black marketeer, a kidnapper, a murderer responsible for perhaps a hundred deaths. He was not "in business" for the money to be made from it, the author says in effect: he always had a cause to fight for whether anti-Communist, secessionist, or to improve the lot of the poor and oppressed. He formed a movement for the annexation of Sicily to the United States and commanded a contingent of the separatist army with the rank of colonel; Communism he discouraged firmly by massacre and murder; he executed usurers, spies, and once a dishonest post office official "in the name of God and Sicily." He dabbled ineptly in politics with hopes of a pardon and honour, and in his spare time was something of a poet.

To many Sicilians he was a romantic figure and Mr. Maxwell is perhaps too sympathetic. With the help of some excellent photographs it is easy to picture Giuliano as an eagle looking down on Sicily from his caves in the mountains, swooping down in a flash to right wrongs, despatch the bullying *carabinieri* or to rescue from their clutches his long-suffering relatives. In July, 1950, he was killed, ending at the age of twenty-seven a career of seven turbulent years. Who killed him? All Mr. Maxwell's researches have failed to find the answer; but "the arm of the Mafia," Sicilians say knowingly, "is much longer than that of the law." The result is an engrossing book, a fine study of the life and customs of an island in which banditry has always been a popular career.

—W.A.G.

IMPRESARIO

THE WHISPERING GALLERY, by John Lehmann; Longmans, English price 21/-.

NEW ZEALANDERS have a special interest in the English literary movement of the 1930s, of which John Lehmann was in one sense the centre as editor of *New Writing* in its various forms, for in Christchurch alone, says Mr. Lehmann—in the circle of young writers who found "a generous and enthusiastic patron" in Denis Glover of the Caxton Press—was there any comparable upsurge in the English-speaking world outside Britain. In this first volume of his autobiography he gives several pages to the Caxton group.

For all who were touched by the quickening impulses of that time and went on reading *New Writing* as a



JOHN LEHMANN
An impresario was needed

N.Z. LISTENER, JULY 13, 1956.

BOOK SHOP

In Book Shop on July 18, Robert Chapman, of Auckland, will talk to Sarah Campion about an important new book—"Geoffrey Dawson and Our Times," by Sir Evelyn Wrench.

Penguin through the war years, the second half of this book will be especially interesting. Some of it has been said before, as the author acknowledges, but I suspect that his *New Writing in Europe*, long out of print, is now little known anyway. The earlier chapters, recreating a now familiar childhood in a comfortable, cultured English family, will be less interesting to many who may nevertheless sympathise with Mr. Lehmann's wish to "possess his past." There will be sympathy for him, too, in the unresolved dilemma of his life—"Was I to be the impresario of other people's creative work, or a creative writer myself?"—and gratitude that at the time when an impresario was needed he wanted to do the job.

—F.A.J.

AUSTRALIAN EARTH

THE ROMANCE OF THE AUSTRALIAN LAND INDUSTRIES, by Robert D. Watt; Angus and Robertson, Australian price 30/-.

THIS book by the Emeritus Professor of Ariculture of Sydney University gives in reasonable space the story of the development of Australian primary industries from "An Unpromising Start" in 1788, with the foundation of a penal settlement, and the foundation of the wool industry by John McArthur (who arrived in Sydney in 1790), to the diversified production of today. Adequate coverage is given to almost every phase of settlement and development, including such topics as the introduction (1859) and "disastrous invasion" of rabbits, the role of the stud-breeders, the start of viticulture (1820), the romance of wheat and wheatbreeding, and some "Miracles of Science" such as the spectacular clearance, by an introduced caterpillar, of about ten million acres of land completely infested with prickly pear. Adequate notice is also given to outstanding people who played leading parts at various times in the development of successive phases of Australian farming.

There are adequate maps and a score of appropriate illustrations; but—a serious criticism—there is no index. Statistics are not as up-to-date as apparently they could be. There are some curious errors in the text; for instance, the Romney Marsh sheep in England is said (p. 146) to be "almost entirely confined to marshy country on the banks of the Thames." The reputation of Canterbury lamb from New Zealand was not built, as stated on p. 147, on the Southdown-Romney cross, though the reputation of "prime Canterbury," as a brand or type, is so maintained today. The origin of the name of the Corriedale breed is not mentioned, though it is admitted that the idea of evolving that breed occurred to "shrewd breeders in both New Zealand and Australia."

The book is very readable and valuable for reference, even without an index.

—L.J.W.

FLOWERS AND BULLETS

LAND OF THE MOON FLOWER, by Gerald Searrow; Elek Books, English price 18/-; *WE LIVE IN SINGAPORE*, by Donald Moore; Hodder and Stoughton, English price 16/-.

THE author of *Land of the Moon Flower*, a graduate of Cambridge and member of the Inner Temple, was

(continued on next page)

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