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BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

Joseph Coombe, of Hatherleigh, in Devonshire, before sailing again for the South Seas to embark on his appointed enterprise in 1791. His bride, the subject of this short biography, accompanied her husband. After five years spent as first lady of a small and rather quarrelsome society she returned to England with King, whose failing health obliged him to seek more expert medical advice than was to be had in the new settlements. Two years later, however, he was appointed Governor of New South Wales, a position he occupied until 1807. He did not long survive retirement, but Mrs. King outlived her delicate, ailing husband by thirty-six years, and went back to Australia at the age of sixty-eight to spend the rest of her days among children and grandchildren who had made their homes in the colony.

Frequent quotation from a copious collection of private letters and diaries

gives this biography an authentic note, and allows the heroine to speak for herself; unfortunately, the author has not been content to leave it at that. Speculations as to what people may have said, thought, or even worn may be justified in moderation. When indulged in to excess they become mildly irritating. Nevertheless, *The Governor's Lady* presents a striking and wholly credible picture of early colonial life which makes it a welcome addition to social history.

—R. M. Burdon

DANISH SETTLEMENTS

FOREST HOMES, by George Conrad Petersen; A. H. and A. W. Reed, 15/-.

THIS is the story of the Scandinavian settlements in the Forty Mile Bush, and in particular of the largest of the Danish settlements, that at Mauriceville in the Wairarapa. The story is well worth the telling, not only as a monument to a group of non-British immigrants who, assimilated into our population, have contributed invaluable qualities to their descendants, but also as a reminder to the present generation of the grit and endurance required of some, at least, of our pioneers. The Danish immigrants for the Mauriceville settlement arrived in 1874. Those who paid their own passages got a section of 40 acres of standing bush free; assisted immigrants paid £1 an acre. All were debited with "costs of location" charges—about £35 per family—deducted from wages on public works, namely, opening and forming the road through the rain forest. Not one of them failed in his obligations either of payment or of land development. Contrast these conditions of land settlement with those on, say, the Rotorua area today! Let those who travel the road north from Masterton through Mauriceville and Eketahuna remember the Danes.

The book is fortunate in its author, son of a Danish immigrant of 1875, who married into an immigrant family, and born and brought up in the settlement while many of the pioneers still lived. The book is well illustrated and carries a locality map and a plan of the original township of Mauriceville. —L.J.W.

NOTHING IMPOSSIBLE

LION WITH BLUE WINGS, by Ronald Seth; Victor Gollancz, English price 16/-.

THIS is the story of the Glider Pilot Regiment from 1942 to 1945. The book opens with a description of the scene in a glider during the attack on Sicily and then, through the familiar flash-back technique, we are taken back to the beginning and shown all the steps which led up to this attack.

There were many difficulties to be overcome, not only technical but personal. The Glider Pilot Regiment was something of an orphan, unwanted either by the Army or the Royal Air Force. The way these difficulties were overcome is a lasting tribute to the personalities of some of the pioneers and proof that the Regimental motto "Nothing is Impossible" was no idle boast.

The body of the book is written for the non-technical reader, but there is an appendix which gives details of training and organisation methods.

—B.C.

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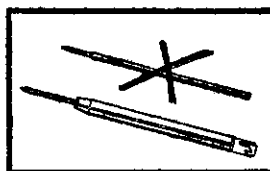
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