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BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

when it becomes possible for all men to use books according to their needs and abilities." Mr. McColvin's mass of information is remarkably up to date, although the rapid developments in Cape Town have escaped him. Though he deplores our free and rental system, holding that library service should be entirely free, he places our services next after those of Great Britain and Denmark and Sweden, because of the excellent coverage, high standards of the major cities, and the fine work of the National Library Service. A few of his statements are mistaken; our rental collections are not all fiction; Palmerston North is not a subscription library; library work here began in Wellington (in 1841), not in Auckland; even if duplicated elsewhere, these do not detract from the argument. Mr. McColvin has caught the dramatic quality of modern librarianship as a means of civilisation.

—S.P.

BUSHRANGER

MARTIN CASH, the last of the Tasmanian Bushrangers, by Frank Clune, illustrated by Virgil Reilly; Angus and Robertson, Australian price 25/-.

HERE was a considerable element of good in Martin Cash, one of the best known of bushrangers. Transported at eighteen from Ireland for house-breaking, he rehabilitated himself in New South Wales; got into trouble, not entirely through his own fault, and went to Tasmania; was unjustly convicted there; broke gaol more than once, and took to robbery under arms; was saved from the gallows by a legal point; was moved to Norfolk Island; behaved well there; and died a farmer in Tasmania. His tombstone describes him as a brave but unfortunate Irishman. Cash was emotional and hot-headed, and much of his wrong-doing sprang from his devotion to the educated Englishwoman who shared his lot. He was ingenious and daring in his escapes from custody, and he and his associates led an exciting life on the run. Operating in Tasmania was a good deal more difficult than on the mainland.

From the published account of Cash's career, based on interviews with him, Marcus Clarke drew what Frank Clune describes as "some of his best material" for that classic, *For the Term of His Natural Life*. Mr. Clune charges Clarke with adversely distorting the character of John Price, Chief Police Magistrate at Hobart. As in his book on the Kelly Gang, Mr. Clune shows himself an industrious and methodical researcher, but he writes with the same repetitive moralising. Though the record is interesting for its excitements and pictures of convict and social life, it is questionable whether Martin Cash is worth 330 pages, and the resultant price.

—A.M.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

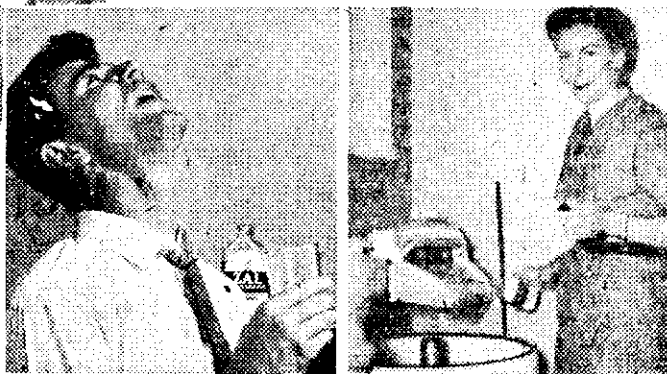
AND AFTER THIS? by the Rev. Harry N. Hancock; Longmans, Green and Co., English price 8/6. An interpretation of the Christian belief in life after death.

THE ORIGIN OF THE EARTH, by W. M. Smart; Pelican Books, English price 2/6. Professor Smart occupies the Regius Chair of Astronomy in the University of Glasgow; the book is based on talks to groups of soldiers during the last war. The result is a highly readable and yet authoritative work on what is the next most proper study of mankind—the world he lives in.

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