

FOR the Greymouth poet Duncan Hardie writing meditative verse has always been something of an emotional safety valve. "I've written verse since I was at primary school, and I've had quite a lot published in newspapers, in book form and in reviews," he says. Mr

Hardie writes copiously, often "just for the fun of it"

—sometimes he writes letters in verse. Last year one of his poems was selected as a test piece at the Greymouth Competitions—a meditative poem which he wrote some years ago on a beautiful summer's evening when he had gone for a stroll, "sat down on a hill, watched the sunset, and mused on it and admired it until I fell into a meditative mood."

Now in the furnishing business in Greymouth, Mr. Hardie is a family man who spent his early life in the Buller district. There he led the outdoor life,



DUNCAN HARDIE
Verse is a safety valve

taking part in most boys' activities and particularly athletics, football and scouting. Though as a boy he had a remarkable memory for poetry, he maintains that he was a "very ordinary scholar," as he preferred games to school work. He has worked in various parts of the West Coast, mainly at bush contracting, sawmilling, building construction, furniture-making and guiding at the Fox Glacier. In a radio portrait of Mr Hardie, to be heard in the 3YZ *Women's Session* this Friday (March 29) several of his poems will be read by Alice Bourke.

★

IF you had started at secondary school on the day of the Napier earthquake and had felt an earthquake also during the final prize-giving ceremony, it might have crossed your mind that fate was giving you a shove of some sort. We don't know whether those shocks had any special significance for George

Eiby, but a few years later he turned up at the Seismological Observatory at Wellington, where he's quite happy making a study of earthquakes his life's work. Listeners will hear the last of his three talks on earthquakes in the Main National Programme this Sunday (March 31).

"I've been interested in scientific work since my school days, though my main interest originally was astronomy," Mr

N.Z. LISTENER, MARCH 29, 1957.

Eiby told us. "I had been doing a physics degree at Victoria University College when I came to the Seismological Observatory. There I soon found that earthquakes were a worthwhile field of study." Astronomy is still a lively interest for Mr Eiby, however, and you'll often find him at the Carter Observatory on a Friday night, lecturing, pointing the telescope, or even taking the money at the door.

Mr Eiby has lived in Wellington most of his life, and felt those schoolday earthquakes at Wellington College. During the war he spent four years in the Air Force in Britain. Interested in drama from his university days, he took it up more seriously while overseas when he did some stage designing. When he came back home he liked what Wellington's Unity Theatre was doing, and since then has worked mainly with them. Altogether he has designed about 25 major shows, and lately there has been a bit of production as well. Mr. Eiby admitted he had also played a small part or two, which he regards as necessary experience; but he has no ambitions in this direction. Because of scientific observations he expects to have to drop out of theatrical activity during the International Geophysical Year. Films, he told us, are another interest, and have been for many years, and he was a member of the British Film Institute long before the Film Society movement started in New Zealand.

When we asked Mr Eiby about his book on earthquakes, soon to be published in Britain and America, he said it was written on something like the level of his broadcast talks. Actually, it wasn't started as a book at all, but grew from a series of pieces which he used to write on wet weekends. When Mr Eiby realised he had enough to make a book he wrote asking an English publisher if he would be interested in the material if it were "polished up." He was a bit surprised when the publisher replied he was interested in



National Publicity Studios photograph
GEORGE EIBY
From wet weekends, a book

it as it stood. Then the real work began—illustrations had to be arranged, proofs read, and so on. "It was much harder than writing a book," said Mr Eiby. Those illustrations, incidentally, went far beyond the negotiation of reproduction rights, for the author drew 54 of them himself.

ZANN RELIEVES DISTRESSING PILES

Pile sufferers. Use speedy, efficient Zann. 9d stamps brings trial treatment. Zann Pty. Ltd., (B. M. Appleton), Dept. C, 21 Grey Street, Wellington. P.O. Box 952.

Z3

ANDY AIDS TO BEAUTY



Sleeping Beauty Aid for elegant hands

After nightly applications of hand creams or lotions wear ANDY Sleeping Gloves. Light as a feather and easily washed, they are indispensable for all who aspire to elegant hands.

These are the Gloves you have heard about

Price 6/3 pair

From Chemists and Hardware Stores.

N.Z. Agents:

Gusscott Bros. Ltd., Wellington.

Andy SLEEPING GLOVES



The **WORLD'S BIGGEST** **SONG HITS**

★

OPEN YOUR PIANO and
PLAY THESE SONGS
PRICE 2/6 per copy

"A TOWN LIKE ALICE"

(A Song about the Picture)

"SMILEY" "SMILEY"

"WHATEVER WILL BE
WILL BE"

"HOT DIGGITY"

"SWEET OLD
FASHIONED GIRL"

"ALLEGHENY MOON"

"MY PRAYER"

"MORE" "ZAMBEZI"

"TONIGHT YOU
BELONG TO ME"

"IN THE MIDDLE OF THE HOUSE"

"GOD'S LITTLE CANDLES"

"MOSTLY MARTHA" "OH, MY PAPA"

"SHIFTING, WHISPERING SANDS"

DON'T FORGET—

**SMALLWOOD'S
PIANOFORTE TUTOR**

The World's Best Tutor—Price 6/6 per copy

ALL MUSIC SELLERS

Or Direct from the publishers,
J. ALBERT AND SON PTY., LTD.,
2-4 Willis Street, Wellington.

*For the change you need
and the change you'll keep*



FOUR SQUARE *Filters*

2/- for twenty

No shreds in the mouth . . . no filter in the flavour