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## BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

*Inspectors* is a comic novel. Apart from one amusing episode at the beginning, however, it proves to be a serious conversation piece, with a psychologist and a pastor discussing belief, metaphysics, insanity and religion, and some oblique criticism of Nazi Germany. Interesting as a story and sound on character, it is most noteworthy for its stimulating and searching ideas.

Frances Winwar, who usually writes sugary treatments of historical figures, has been inspired by Napoleon to write a novel distinctly above her average. Not a distinguished book, and rather lush in places, this account of the Em-

peror by a friend gives a lively picture of the First Empire and a not unconvincing interpretation of Napoleon's character.

—J.C.R.

### THE WILL TO LIVE

*GIVE US THIS DAY*, by Sidney Stewart; Staples. English price 15/-.

THAT the author managed to survive three years of ill-treatment and neglect as a prisoner of the Japanese, while thousands of stronger men taken captive with him died, is a tribute to his faith and to his indomitable will to live. Fourteen thousand of the Americans and Filipinos captured in the Bataan peninsula failed to survive their captors' brutal treatment on the nine-day march back to a prison camp; 9000 more died in the next two weeks inside that dreadful compound; hundreds died later from disease or were murdered by their guards when they became too ill to move; hundreds more, starved, naked, neglected, were drowned or burned in the holds of ships bombed or torpedoed on the way to Japan. Mr Stewart tells their story without bitterness, explains his captors' way of life and, in the spirit of the Lord's Prayer, asks forgiveness for their crimes. But perhaps we can forgive too readily and forget too soon.

—W.A.G.

### JUNGLE NEIGHBOURS

*GORILLAS WERE MY NEIGHBOURS*, by Fred Merfield (with Harry Miller); Longmans, Green and Co., English price 18/-.

THIS book tells of adventures of 20 or more years ago in the French Cameroons where Merfield was a professional hunter. Most of his work was collecting animals for museums, either shooting them himself or buying dead specimens from the natives. He got 115 gorillas during four years spent with the "truculent Mendjim Mey tribe," where his young wife was first introduced to jungle housekeeping. Interesting details are given about gorilla family life, and descriptions of the horrible gorilla round-ups held by the natives. There is a map and several pages of photographs, but no picture of an adult live gorilla.

—L.J.W.

### Great Names in New Zealand History—No. 1 of a series



## ABEL TASMAN

BORN 1603 — DIED 1659

The enterprising voyage commanded by Abel Janszoon Tasman in 1642-3 was organized by the Dutch East India Company from Batavia to find new countries with which to trade.

In the ships *Heemskerck* and *Zeehaen* he sailed westward to Mauritius where he refitted. He then turned south to latitude 44 which he followed eastward until, after discovering Tasmania (which he named *Van Diemen's Land*), he came upon the west coast of the South Island of New Zealand on 13 December 1642. This is called *Staten Landt* in the belief that it was part of the land discovered by Jacob Le Maire in 1616. When, in 1643, it was proved to be an island, the Dutch Government realized that Tasman's belief was mistaken, and his discovery was then re-named *New Zealand*.

Some of Tasman's crew were killed in a Maori attack at Golden Bay. He made no attempt to land, but sailed north along the west coast, often out of sight of land, finally naming Cape Maria Van Diemen (after the wife of the Governor of Batavia) and the Three King's Island, where they anchored on the eve of Twelfth Night.

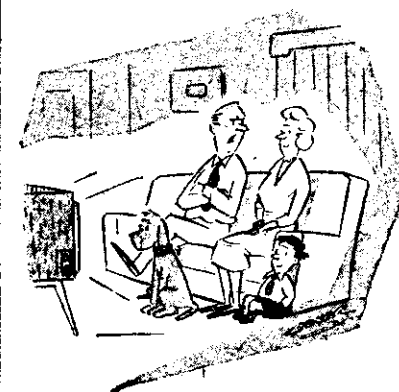
Sailing north again, he discovered a number of Pacific Islands before returning to Batavia.

*The Bank of New South Wales, which today provides banking facilities at over 1,000 points in New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, Papua and New Guinea, was the first bank in this whole vast area. It is therefore fitting that it should pay tribute to Abel Tasman and to all those whose names and deeds are part of the tradition of which New Zealanders are justly proud.*

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N.Z. LISTENER, APRIL 26, 1957.