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BOOKS

(continued from page 12)

state of shock. One witness reported seeing a master-sergeant ride with his head down, furiously pedalling his bicycle and firing a .45 pistol into the air. Some naval gunners likewise were more intent on throwing something back than on aiming carefully at any of the 253 attackers. The result was that Honolulu proper was hit by only one Japanese bomb, but by no fewer than 40 U.S. naval shells. For the destruction of 18 ships and 188 aeroplanes, the Japanese paid with only six submarines (five of them midget) and 29 aircraft.

By nightfall, American gunnery had improved. While the Japanese followed their unaccountable decision not to press

the attack and headed homeward, the U.S. Navy shot down an entire flight of its own carrier-based aircraft. An army sentry fired so persistently at his relief that he was finally left alone to stand duty all night.

The book suffers in coherence from its fragmentary method of compilation and its neglect of the interesting question of responsibility. But it has the large virtues of documentary realism: it is crammed with memorable incident; it includes Japanese accounts of the action; and it is generously interleaved with revealing photographs from sources on both sides. A most readable account, for the non-specialist, of the blow which knocked America, fighting mad, into the 20th century.

—A.S.F.

WANDERING NOVELIST

FOLLOW MY DUST! A Biography of Arthur Upheld, by Jessica Hawke, in collaboration with Arthur Upheld; William Heinemann, Australian price 22/6.

IT is pleasant to be able to agree with something on a dust jacket without looking into the book. Having reviewed here some of Arthur Upheld's detective stories, I am one of those readers who, as the publisher says, want to know who is this creator of that highly original, European-aboriginal Australian sleuth, Detective-Inspector Napoleon Bonaparte. Now the curiosity is satisfied in a real-life story even more exciting and romantic than fiction.

Son of middle-class parents in the English Gosport, Arthur Upheld went to Australia in his teens, in 1910, and almost immediately settled in the deep country, where he easily accepted people and conditions. By the time he was of age he was salted in salt-bush. He pushed a bicycle by hand loaded with gear and pets, and wandered about, working and loafing. He helped to cart wool by mule-waggon to Broken Hill, and passed the first motor-car to take that route; tended cattle and sheep; patrolled long stretches of rabbit fencing with camels; lazed with a companion in a boat down the Darling; and generally soaked himself in the scenery and life. There were five years with the A.I.F., including Gallipoli.

Inland Australia entered into Upheld's very bones. To him the great cities of Australia are "the jungle," and the distant "bush" the only life for a man. As a boy he had scribbled novels, but he let writing go till a discerning back-country woman saw what his wandering spirit lacked, and encouraged him to resume. While cook at an out-station, where he had a room of his own, and in a camel-dray on lonely fence patrol, he wrote novels that won him recognition. Jessica Hawke and Upheld give us an impressive collection of inland types of men and women. Upheld took his detective from an educated half-caste tracker who became his friend and christened him "Bonaparte" because he (the tracker) happened to be reading a "Life" of Napoleon. There are good illustrations, but there should be a map to show Upheld's wanderings. —A.M.

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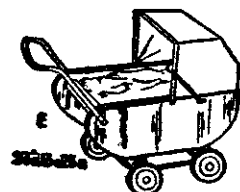
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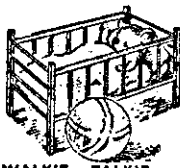
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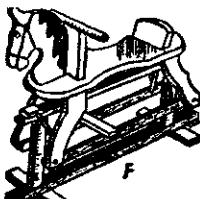
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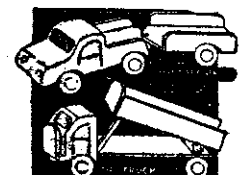
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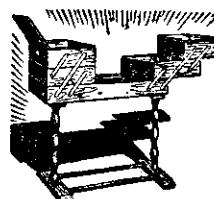
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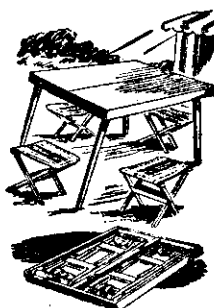
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