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## I'LL SOLDIER NO MORE M. K. JOSEPH

This Aucklander's first novel has been enthusiastically received in London and New Zealand.

Unforgettable . . . a book for all adult readers.—N.Z. Free Lance.

Better (in my opinion) than any of the other war novels written by New Zealanders.—Anton Vogt, broadcasting.

This is soldiering as thousands of my generation knew it . . . the smell of it was in my nostrils, the taste of it in my mouth.—London "Evening News."

Sincere, full of sharp detail.—"Manchester Guardian."

Available from all booksellers, 16/6

Published by PAUL'S BOOK ARCADE,  
Hamilton and Auckland.



## THE BALANCE OF NATURE

The New Zealand Forest Service's programme of planned forestry calls for the services of research entomologists. Their knowledge of the life-cycle and control of forest insects and diseases, which they study constantly, enables these scientists to check any insect species or any fungus that becomes active to the detriment of forest health. It may be that a disease-causing insect population increases dangerously in a forest area. An adverse change of this kind in the balance of nature must be corrected in order to forestall a possible epidemic outbreak of disease among the trees. A method of combating a too-numerous insect population is to liberate another insect to prey upon it. It is the task of the Forest Research Institute to specify the type of insect parasite needed, procure it—perhaps import it—and rear it in sufficient numbers for liberation in the affected area. In ways like this the Institute's scientists work to keep our forests sound by keeping nature in balance.

## Forestry is forever

Inserted in the interests of forest protection  
by the New Zealand Forest Service.

FFLS

## Books

# IT'S COLD OUTSIDE

*MEN AGAINST THE FROZEN NORTH*, by Ritchie Calder; Allen & Unwin, English price 16/-. *NORTH OF SIXTY*, by Colin Wyatt; Hodder & Stoughton, English price 17/6. *NANSEN: A FAMILY PORTRAIT*, by Liv. Nansen Hoyer; Longmans, Green & Co., English price 30/-.

(Reviewed by D. W. McKenzie)

RITCHIE CALDER is a first-class journalist with far more than just an eye for a good story. He has already written wise and lively books based on travel in the jungle and the desert where he is concerned with what men are doing in pioneering new ways of life and using new techniques. In *Men Against the Frozen North* he applies this approach to the Arctic. It is less informative than his earlier books only because the area he describes has been so often written about, and written about so well. He is excellent in discussing the position which the Eskimo must hold in development of the Northlands, of the efforts of the Canadian authorities to segregate him, and of his relations to European techniques. But even more interesting is his description of the life of members of Air Force teams in the North, and the contrast between them and the old "bush-pilot." The aeroplane and its manifold uses has transformed the formerly inaccessible wastes, but one new development Calder describes is that of the helicopter, which just squats down as bad weather approaches, to take off again when it clears—unlike the aeroplane which when weather troubles approach must search, sometimes in vain, for a landing ground. This is a book at once informative and exciting.

Colin Wyatt is a man who visits the Northland to write a book, because he is a professional author who makes a living from writing, and he wants to make enough to continue his hobby of painting (so he confesses). Like Calder, he hitch-hikes by aeroplane around Northern Canada (authors doing this must surely outnumber the local mosquitoes). So he writes a book about the Eskimo, a well-written book, an interesting book, but oh! one has read it so often before, and done so much better. It's all about the noble savage and the dastardly white culture, while scorn is heaped on the Missions to whom card-playing is a sin. It's all well-deserved, of course, but none of it is new, and Wyatt doesn't really convince us that he's doing anything more than writing a good book; the flame of inner conviction doesn't light up.

There may have been more remarkable Norwegians than Nansen, but if so I haven't heard of them. His daughter writes a movingly frank and realistic biography of him. He was a strange figure to his daughter, godlike yet human, remote and austere, yet suddenly full of schoolboyish charm. I must confess I hadn't realised the vital part that Nansen played in the separation of Norway from a reluctant Sweden, and the story of the tense negotiations is a fascinating one. Nansen's preoccupation with the Arctic, which was a field of research to him and not just a field of adventure, contrasts oddly with his marriage with the beautiful singer Eva Sars, and the strain and almost break-up of the marriage emerge, though not quite clearly, in the daughter's story. It is a pity that Nansen's second marriage is barely mentioned; one would have liked to have heard more of it.



FRIDTJOF NANSEN

"Overrode nations and governments"

Nansen's great work for refugees in the League of Nations, however, is described from the personal angle. The extraordinary man over-rode nations and governments when people were at stake, but the casual mention of official blunder after official blunder makes one sick in the stomach at the folly of mankind. It is sad reading.

This is the kind of book I might imagine the daughter of an earlier Viking like Eric the Red might have written, of a father with his eyes on far lands and his head in clouds of thought, his mind and his fingers busy with a thousand and one tasks, but unable to see that a 17-year-old girl needs more than one dress.

## MOSTLY HOMICIDE

*LANTERN HILL*, by Barbara Worsley-Gough; Michael Joseph, English price 13/6. *CORK IN THE DOGHOUSE*, by Macdonald Hastings; Michael Joseph, English price 12/6. *THE SOFT TALKERS*, by Margaret Miller; Victor Gollancz, English price 12/6. *THE LIGHTNING'S EYE*, by Richard Savage; Museum Press, English price 12/6. *THE KILLER WIND*, by Robin Hiscok; Arthur Barker, English price 12/6. *LADY KILLER*, by William Hardy; Hamish Hamilton, English price 12/6.

YOU may find the mystery of the murder in *Lantern Hill* less interesting than the variety of characters and avocations. Barbara Worsley-Gough's leading figure is a magnificently beautiful Irishwoman with a super-Trilby voice, who commands a great public with "pop" songs. She has no musical subtlety, but her voice reminds one of Big Ben. This half-gorgeous, half-vulgar creature, egotistical, amoral, racy and reckless, but kind in spots, is surrounded by a crowd of assistants and hangers-on, some of whom are calculated to make a reader pray that whatever young John or Mary takes up, it won't be the arts! Barbara Worsley-Gough writes exceptionally well, with colour and wit. The murder motive goes back to Hitler, so you will realise something unusual in sleuthing is involved.

Montague Cork, the middle-aged insurance director and amateur detective, won my affection from the start. *Cork in the Doghouse* may not be his best book, but surely it is the most original, for the heroine is a Staffordshire bull-terrier, a breed claimed to be the most formidable fighters in the dog world.

N.Z. LISTENER, JULY 25, 1958.