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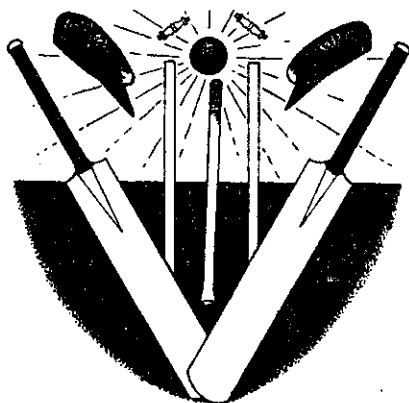
LONG INNINGS, the Autobiography of Sir Pelham Warner; George G. Harrap and Co. English price, 15/-.

ELUSIVE VICTORY, with F. R. Brown's Team in Australia, by E. W. Swanton; Hodder and Stoughton. English price, 12/6.

CRICKET WITH THE KANGAROO, by G. F. McCleary; Hollis and Carter, London; Dymock's Book Arcade, Sydney.

(Reviewed by A.M.)

"PLUM" WARNER does not rank among the greatest players (though he made stacks of runs in the best company), but his position in the game is unique. He was born in the West Indies and is partly Spanish. Before he had played in a test match, he was invited to captain England in Australia, and his team recovered the Ashes. When nearly 47, he led Middlesex to victory in the county championship. Probably no other man has played cricket in so many countries, or written so many books about the game; sixteen are listed here besides this one. In his retirement he has kept very close to cricket, and he is said to have taken Lord Harris's place as the most prominent of the game's Elder Statesmen, recognition of which has come in a knighthood and the presidency of the M.C.C.



That *Long Innings* should cover much history already dealt with in other books was unavoidable, and it is good to have the connected story of a life devoted to cricket, with a very brief interval for the law, and a record of war service. The autobiography is a history of cricket over 60 years. Sir Pelham was born into the golden age of English cricket, when the amateur reigned in his glory of prowess and status, and test match selectors had a choice of good fast bowlers. In his story there is too much social chit-chat about his travel and wide circle of friends, but skipping is easy, and here and there are real plums. His love of dancing leads him to recommend it as good for cricket. Having sat for hours at times watching cricket in New Zealand and England, without seeing a batsman leave his crease to attack, I agree that all cricketers should be taught to waltz.

Technically well equipped, with a mind of his own and a clear muscular style, E. W. Swanton, cricket correspondent of the *London Daily Telegraph*, makes a good job of reporting the tour of the English team that did not recover the Ashes but broke the "longest sequence of success in the history of cricket," before Australian crowds that positively longed for English victory. The most interesting chapter is the first, in which Mr. Swanton reviews the tour, and considers the conditions of the game in Australia and the disposition of Australians. He took the trouble to see city club cricket, which is the nursery of the game, and compares it with the English set-up. I commend this chapter especially

to all interested in cricket trends and policies. The action pictures are admirable.

Cricket With the Kangaroo is a high-light history of Anglo-Australian cricket by an English enthusiast old enough to have been inspired by the visit of the Australian team of 1878. For the record, which runs to 1948, he draws partly on his own memories. Here you may read of the origin of the Ashes; of Spofforth's methods; of "Ranji's" first test; of C. T. Studd, cricketer and missionary; of Jessop to England's rescue; of Trumper's "amazing genius," and so on. This last makes it clear why old hands rank Trumper as the greatest Australian batsman and why he was loved as a man. It is a book for old men in the chimney corner, and to show youngsters that there were strong men before Agamemnon.

TREES OF THE FOREST

NEW ZEALAND TREES, by J. W. Matthews, illustrated; A. H. and A. W. Reed; 12/6.

THIS book, an identification guide to the commoner trees of New Zealand, is addressed to those people who are without the benefit of a basic botanic training but who still find pleasure in the study of the native trees. As the editor of *The New Zealand Gardener*, Mr. Matthews is well known to hundreds of New Zealanders; and as the writer of daily gardening notes and half a dozen popular books on gardening he is certainly known to many thousands more — one of his books, the *New Zealand Garden Dictionary*, has sold 25,000 copies. In this latest book, *New Zealand Trees*, he has chosen 38 of our bigger trees—one from each of the main genera is the rule, with exceptions for beech and pine, represented by two and three species respectively. The generous-sized book presents a tree to an opening, the illustrations on the left, the description on the right. The illustrations are reproduced by special permission from the celebrated drawings in Kirk's *Forest Flora*, published in 1889. As Mr. Matthews says in his introduction, the drawings are in almost every case remarkably true representations of the subjects discussed; where this is not so Mr. Matthews makes clear the failings.

As the book is arranged in alphabetical order it opens nobly with *Agathis australis*, the New Zealand kauri; and continues through 80 pages of fascinating information to end with a short botanical glossary, lists of Maori and common names of the trees, and a full index. Greed makes me wish that the book had been twice or three times its size, and that the specific as well as the generic names of the trees had been explained in all cases. As it is, *New Zealand Trees* is an excellent book to give anyone, beginner or semi-expert, interested in the forest. It remains only to hope that Mr.

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