

(comparatively) far south. Many will be surprised to know that there is colour, sound and movement that suggest the tropics on some of these islands.

Before Mr. Sorensen and others visited the area, when the islands were occupied as a wartime safety measure, most visits by scientific parties were very short: so that in a total of five years which Mr. Sorensen spent on Campbell Island, with visits to other islands, he was able to do much valuable work. This book, Dr. R. A. Falla says in a foreword, is the first good account of the birds and mammals of New Zealand's subantarctic.

Mr. Sorensen has the naturalist's enthusiasm for his subject (he describes himself, for instance, as "particularly fortunate" in being "permitted" to spend more than one term on Campbell Island), and he presents his material in a very interesting, non-specialist way. The book is illustrated with several maps and some excellent photographs.

—F.A.J.

THE FACE OF THE EARTH

THE EARTH'S CRUST, by L. Dudley Stamp; Harrap.

A DELIGHT in the beauties of the natural landscape is enhanced by an understanding of the processes which have produced it. Writers of books on the earth's face have frequently been leaders in the use of illustrations, and this book makes a fresh approach with a series of coloured plates of topographical models by T. Bayley. It would be difficult to praise too highly either these delightful models or the excellence of the work of the blockmaker and printer; to study them is a lasting pleasure. Unfortunately, the letterpress is in a different category. It is an astonishing record of illogical arrangement, of misused terms ("peneplane" of marine erosion), of wrong definitions (e.g., eustatic sea-level change), of poor line drawings (glaciated valley), of misprints (depth of Gutenberg discontinuity 700 instead of 1700 miles in text and figure), and of just sheer mistakes ("the principal causes of earthquakes are underground movements of molten or semi-molten material"). The model maker has made a mistake in painting the model of river terraces in showing the older gravels lying on the younger. This is described in the text as "deliberate," which, of course, it is not, and as corrected on a later page, which again it

is not. The errors in the text, however, will matter little to a generation used to "looking at the pictures," for they are well worth looking at. —D.M.

IVY AND JANE

DARKNESS AND DAY, by I. Compton Burnett; Victor Gollancz. English price 10.6.

VOLUME THE THIRD, by Jane Austen; Oxford University Press. English price 8/6.

THE familiar Compton Burnett ingredients will be found in her latest novel, but worn with a difference. The skeleton in the cupboard (suspected involuntary incest) is successfully shooed away, instead of being brought out and given a permanent place of honour at the head of the table. The children—only two of them—instead of being an oppressed majority, are rather horrid and oppress their governess. Old Sir Ransom Chace talks of his age rather tiresomely; but where is the domestic tyrant, sucking everybody's life blood? A milder, more mellow spirit informs the epigrams which, as usual, volley back and forth interminably while we gasp for breath. The cloud of darkness which usually broods over Compton Burnett human nature is here at last dispersed.

This third volume of Jane Austen's juvenilia presents us with a grotesque short piece, *Evelyn*, in which people rush around giving each other, at first acquaintance, anything from a square meal to a house complete with heiress, and marrying or dying of broken hearts in a manner rather unfamiliar to Jane Austen devotees. The second longer unfinished fragment, *Catharine*, makes up for this nonsense. It is much more firmly constructed, and the encounters of Camilla and Catharine are a delicious forecast of the six great novels. But perhaps its publication was primarily an act of piety.

—David Hall

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

MANY people like to ride in trains, to watch them coming and going, and to read about them. Their interest can be served by *The Fascination of Railways*, by Roger Lloyd (Allen and Unwin, English price 12/6), a book which treats the subject with such loving care that technical information is assimilated almost as easily as the descriptive passages and platform reflections.

REVIEW OF REVIEWS

THE last ZB Book Review session for 1951 will not introduce listeners to any new titles, but will instead be a sort of review of reviews. Under the chairmanship of Roy Parsons, of Wellington, a panel of four well-known reviewers has been assembled. They are (travelling, for a change, from south to north through the main centres) John Moffett, Helen Garrett, Randal Burdon and A. R. D. Fairburn, and the task of each has been to pick and discuss what he considers the four best books from the ZB Book Review selection for 1951. We can say that three out of the four give first place to *The Kon-Tiki Expedition*, by Thor Heyerdahl (Mr. Fairburn resisted the temptation to discuss it), but second, third and fourth choices range much more widely, with a good deal of biographical and political material among the pickings. For full details, tune to one of the ZB stations or 2ZA on December 30, at 9.30 p.m.



Spencer Digby photograph
ROY PARSONS

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THE BBC HYMN BOOK—now provides a selection of hymns from various sources, suitable for broadcast services, available in one cover to any listener. Music Edition, 15/9. Words only, 7/6.

THE OXFORD CONCISE DICTIONARY OF MUSIC: Percy Scholes, 22/6. This new dictionary of music will be of interest to all music lovers.

MY INDIA—Colonel Corbett's third book. Truth is stranger than fiction. Also available, **MANEATER'S OF KUMAON** and **MANEATING LEOPARD OF RUDRAPRAG**, 13/3.

LLOYD GEORGE, by Thomas Jones, C.H., 26/3. Mr. Winston Churchill said of him: "The greatest Welshman whom that unconquerable race have produced since the age of the Tudors."

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