

His lack of strategic powers, his wilfulness in taking risks and in pursuing confused and incompatible aims, the false premises on which he made his miscalculations and then justified them, are all clearly shown in this absorbingly interesting study. Besides the naval archives, all the Nurnberg trial documents and evidence have been examined by the author, and he has also made use of other published material. He is always careful to point out the true value of his sources, and his arguments are considered and well presented.

—W.A.G.

## TRAVELLERS' JOY

**THE MILFORD COUNTRY and STEWART ISLAND**, by N. S. Seaward; both 2. 6.

**THE SOUTHERN ALPS**, by John Pascoe; 3. 6.

**CENTRAL OTAGO**, by J. D. S. Roberts; 3. 6.  
(All published by the Pegasus Press, Christchurch.)

THESE first four *New Zealand Holiday Guides* vary a good deal in scope, and indeed are addressed to quite different audiences, as the nature of the country often requires.

The Milford guide (which includes Manapouri and the Hollyford) is for the tramp without much experience and describes the main routes for the foot traveller in this enchanted region, covering some of the same ground as *Moir's Guide* but at a different level. *Stewart Island* will be very useful to anyone staying at Half Moon Bay and extends to all the excursions readily accessible from the settlement. Both these guides could be improved by fuller maps, and the tramp's food list in the former is scarcely adequate.

John Pascoe's treatment of the main mountains of the South Island from the Kaikouras to the Rangitata is a *tour de force* as exacting as many of his own journeys. The amount of accurate and useful topographical information packed into these 96 pages is astounding, and the 10 maps leave scarcely a corner of this vast territory untouched. Pascoe,

of course, is writing for the tramp and mountaineer and admirably serves their purposes, whether the ground is known or new. Much of the northern end of this country, the St. Arnaud and Spenser mountains, is little described in mountaineering journals.

J. D. S. Roberts's guide to Central Otago will help the ordinary tourist pushing the family car into these golden highlands. Queenstown is regarded as the cynosure of the district and is fully treated, but Wanaka is rather scamped. The notes on history and place names are interesting.

The Pegasus Press is to be congratulated on giving us such value for money. These booklets, each with its sheaf of excellent photographs, are designed for the pocket or the rucksack. We may congratulate ourselves too that this country is so rich in natural beauty. While we sit at home planning imaginary journeys, we can anticipate with watering mouths the pleasure of a visit to the ghost town, Bullendale, with its acre of wild strawberries, or the delights of Ulva and Thule, of Routeburn and Greenstone, of the More Rain Hut (an extended stay is indicated) and of the Cannibal Gorge.

—David Hall

## RIDER HAGGARD

**THE CLOAK THAT I LEFT**, a biography of Henry Rider Haggard, by Lilius Rider Haggard; Hodder and Stoughton. English price, 18/-.

THOSE of us who as boys thrilled to the door of stone closing on the treasure chamber with Gagool underneath or Umslopogaas holding the stair, learned later what a many-sided man was the author. Some of his New Zealand admirers saw him when he came here as a member of the Dominions Commission. This biography by his daughter Lilius supplements his own story, *The Days Of My Life*, and is written with more detachment than is common in filial tributes. Miss Haggard draws attention to streaks of weakness in the Haggard family. Rider Haggard's whole career was a romance. When, as an important civil servant, he raised the British flag in the Transvaal with his own hands, he was not yet of age. He witnessed the surrender to the Boers after Majuba. He was a farmer in South Africa and England, and a barrister. In his *Rural England*, an agricultural survey of 26 counties written before the first war, he pleaded for that regeneration of the countryside which later was recognised as vital, and as an imperialist he was equally practical in his vision.

Lilius Haggard skilfully weaves into her narrative the threads of these interests, those of her father's domestic life, and the activity by which he is best known. His first books made no stir. Then challenged to write anything half as good as *Treasure Island*, he sat down that day to begin *King Solomon's Mines*, finished it in six weeks, and soon found himself famous. Haggard had a genius for story-telling; at any rate what his friend Rudyard Kipling called his "daemon" drove him fast and far, to the delight of the world. *King Solomon's Mines*, *Allan Quatermain*, *Jess and She*, were all written within 14 months. His strain of mysticism—he believed in reincarnation—helped to give him an uncanny insight into strange ways of life.

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(continued on next page)

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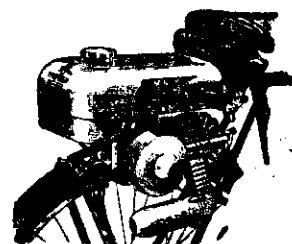


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L. C. M. SAUNDERS (above) will discuss Leo Schrade's "Monteverdi" in the ZB Book Review session on Sunday evening, April 6, when music and poetry will be the themes of the session. "A Seat at the Ballet," by Caryl Brahms, will be reviewed by Joyce Martin; Eugene Goossens's "Overtures and Beginners," by Owen Jensen. "The New Zealand Poetry Yearbook," edited by Louis Johnson, and "Verse, 1951," edited by Anton Vogt, will be reviewed by A. R. D. Fairburn