

BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

persons are authentic and enjoyable. Sarah Campion, too, has backgrounds—of the Australian outback—more authentic than the action she places against them; but readers should not be put off by her almost intolerable introductory chapter.

—D. M. Anderson

NORTH ISLAND GOLDFIELD

THE AMAZING THAMES, by John Grainger; A. H. and A. W. Reed; 17 6.

ALTHOUGH the Centennial resulted in some mediocre local histories, other notable ones, such as A. D. McIntosh's *Marlborough*, set a high standard that was greatly to the benefit of New Zealand publishing. The flow of historical works is not at the flood, but today it is a strong current in our literature.

The Amazing Thames is a collection of newspaper articles that deserved inclusion in a book. The author should have expanded them. As the chapters stand they are jerky and episodic, and do not do full justice to the subject. A feature of the book is its diversity of interest. The central theme is the discovery of gold in 1867 with all its glamour and anecdote.

These stories are far more than literary tailings. The author writes simply.

His history is the more valuable for including the social background of Thames. Studies of such a respected figure as James Mackay, an explorer of Westland and warden of the Thames goldfield, and of hardy diggers contrast well with vignettes of the local headmaster, a magistrate, a missionary fallen from grace, and Maori warriors. The material is intensely interesting.

The book is well produced, and though the illustrations are coarse-screen newspaper blocks, careful printing has given them a surprising contrast and clarity.

—John Pascoe

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

GENERAL ENGINEERING WORKSHOP PRACTICE; Odhams Press, through Whitcombe and Tombs; N.Z. price, 15/9. The title tells all.

ASSASSINS AT LARGE, by Hugo Dewar; Wingate; English price, 12/6. A "fully documented and hitherto unpublished account of executions outside Russia ordered by the GPU."

LIFAR ON CLASSICAL BALLET, by Serge Lifar; Allan Wingate; English price, 26/3. A great dancer and teacher offers a treatise on training for ballet. It is intended for students, but patrons will also be interested. There are many excellent and graphic line drawings by Monique Lancelot.

ATOMIC AGE

SUPPOSE we should wake in some armageddon year

To find the morning skies
Full of sunsets, the cities and the stockpiles blown clear
Up in smoke, the jolted earth swinging polar-wise
On a new axis; would you tremble, my dear?

ALONE in your fashionable homestead on the estate,

You will saunter under the pines
When I am gone, to muse by the primrose arbour'd gate,
Arching your beautiful bow mouth at the headlines
Above the hills and simper at fate.

HOW shall we measure the azimuth of pain

Riding like a charred rainbow
Starkly the horizon with our love's poor span;
Or embrace on this hill by the last glow
Of happiness embered along earth's plain?

ACCORDING as we think by fits and starts

Of man in impartial phrases
And not in verbs, catastrophe fails to move our hearts;
The young gifted watcher gazing, only gazes
Noncommittally at distant parts.

AND so, dearly beloved, I must leave, cataclysm

Or no; (the mad earth
Avalanched like a snowball down some chasm
Of ether) since to wait on you is death,
And the fissure between us widens into schism.

NO love in conclave will a phoenix spring

From the ash of the poisoned atoll;
Only the eagle soars on a bronze wing,
And the fastidious dove tumbles from the full
Charged sky where eagles sing.

—Colin Newbury.

ALUMINIUM

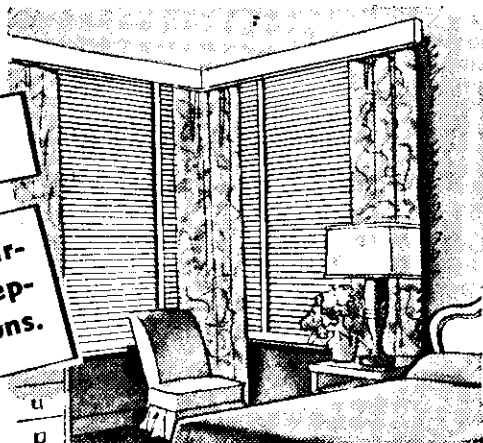
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