

times naive: service jargon and American slang may give artificial colour to a war correspondent's despatch, but they are out of place here.

No. 77 Squadron was formed in Western Australia in March, 1942, and moved with the war in the Pacific through Darwin, New Guinea, Los Negros and Borneo to the occupation of Japan. First in Mustangs and later in Meteor jets, its most successful role in Korea has been as a ground-attack squadron attacking enemy communications, strafing and bombing his troops and transport in close-support operations. Its Meteors were found too slow and clumsy to match the aggressive Russian MIGs.

—W.A.G.

PEGASUS POET

STARVELING YEAR, by Mary Stanley; No. 6, New Zealand Poets Series, Pegasus Press, 3s 6.

ONE must comment again on the suitability of these small and cheaply-priced books of verse brought out so attractively by the Pegasus Press. The most recent of the New Zealand Poets series is this first book by Mary Stanley, whose verse will be familiar to readers of *Poetry Yearbook* and other publications. It is no discourtesy to say that Mary Stanley writes like a woman, and so has produced poetry peculiarly her own, and though supported by a considerable intellectual scaffolding, by no means cerebral. Her themes are often domestic (a word much abused); but

SIX books are to be reviewed in the May 3 ZB Book Review session. Two are to be reviewed by John Reece Cole—"A Path-



way to Heaven," by Henry Bordeaux, and "Cecile," by Benjamin Constant; and two more, "Come Away Pearler," by Colin Simpson, and "Ralph Rashleigh," by James Tucker, are to be discussed by Mrs. Joyce Martin. Sarah Campton (left) is to review "Hear and Forgive," by Emrys Humphreys; and "The Superintendent in Fiction," by Peter Penzold, is to be reviewed by Eric Blow.

the anxiety of a mother for her child, or the love of man and wife, are related to a wider context of human separateness, mortality, and Christian religious belief. It is a sign of this writer's maturity that she often writes tenderly, but is never sentimental—

I wish
by every star, Orion, the Pleiades,
two centaurs guarding the Cross, by all
spells,
by incantation, to keep from harm my thief,
my little dancer on the tightrope of time.
And yet I know he will prick his finger, the
spindle
fall in the well, the impenetrable hedge
grow up
like a wall between him and his desire.

Rarely does one have the luck to review a book in which each poem is

so plainly a real event. Mary Stanley's style is sometimes over-compressed and convoluted; her images are drawn from many quarters, natural and mythological. But it is worth the labour to penetrate to the core of even her most difficult passages. At her best she is triumphantly simple, as in the verses beginning, "Husband, put down Spinoza, Pericles. . ." In this and similar pieces the poet's achievement is complete; and the reader receives, as it were, a blood transfusion.

—James K. Baxter

FALSE ANALOGIES

OF SOCIETIES AND MEN, by Caryl P. Haskins; Allen and Unwin. English price, 20/-.

THE author has also written *Of Ants and Men*. He should have stopped there, for while he clearly knows a great deal about termites, parasites, pterodactyls, honeybees, jellyfish and Eocene ants, he is not a social philosopher. His idea was to try to trace significant trends in the formation, growth and duration of human societies by considering parallels in the social development of living and extinct organisms. In his foreword he admits that there are "dangers of anthropomorphism and of false analogy," but the whole of his method is reasoning by analogy, and his illustrations are selected and limited. Also, without saying so, but by juxtaposing, for example, a very interesting section on parasitism in the insect world

with especially chosen examples of slavery in the history of man, he suggests comparisons, and adds that both are responses to environmental conditions common to societies the world over. Vanuevan Bush, in his introduction, sums it up: "This is not a scientific book—although it rests upon scientific data."

—W.B.S.

PRIVATE COLLECTOR

THE FAMILY AFFAIRS OF SIR THOMAS PHILLIPPS, by A. N. L. Munby; Cambridge University Press. English price, 15/-.

THE subject of this memoir was the greatest collector of manuscripts of the 19th Century. Even as a university student on an allowance of £300 a year (quite a sum in 1811) his book purchases ran him substantially into debt. The early death of his father left him free to indulge his interest, till in the end he became a formidable figure in the auction rooms, on one occasion outbidding the Dutch Government for an important collection of historical documents. After his death, the Government of Holland, determined not to be beaten a second time, secured from Phillipps's estate what were indeed important national archives.

Phillipps is one of a great group of private collectors, to whom scholarship owes a debt. Much of his collection is now publicly owned. This was hardly what he intended. Private collectors tend

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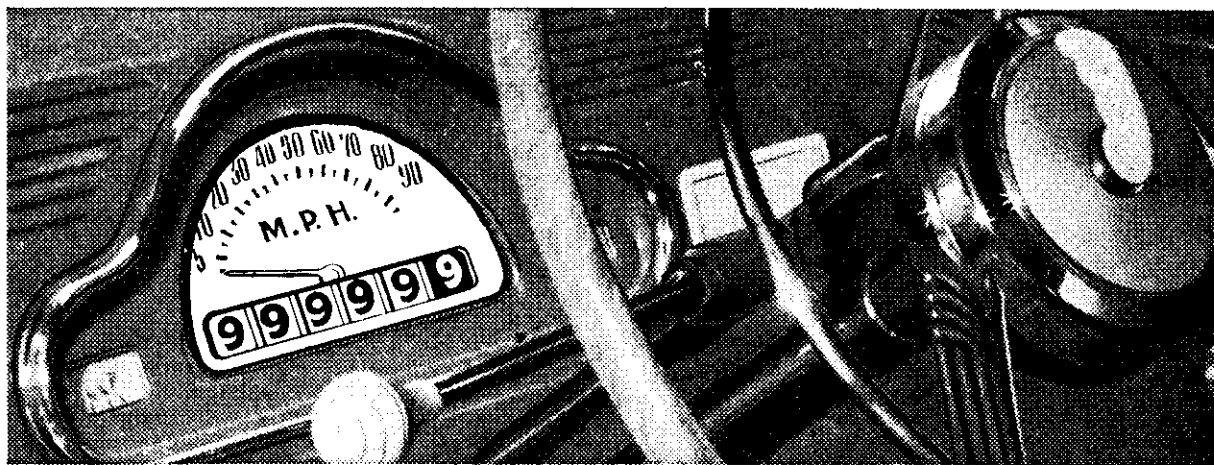


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