

## Sketches from the Academy Catalogue, N°3



Only easy-to-use Academy patterns are designed especially to suit the special New Zealand figure type. See the smart new styles available at leading stores everywhere.

3464

3467

Academy  
PATTERNS

A25-3

the patterns designed for you



Ah! **BISTO**  
makes the meal!

Serve meat, poultry and game with plenty of BISTO gravy. Only BISTO can make delicious gravys so easily, so economically, in double quick time.

Trade enquiries to A. A. STICHBURY LIMITED, 27 BLAIR STREET, WELLINGTON

## BOOKS

# G.B.S. and Stella

BERNARD SHAW AND MRS. PATRICK CAMPBELL: THEIR CORRESPONDENCE, edited by Alan Dent; Victor Gollancz. English price, 21/-.

(Reviewed by P.J.W.)

**B**EATRICE STELLA CAMPBELL was half Italian, and none of her contemporaries had her gift for portraying passionate and tempestuous women on the stage. She was 47 and Shaw 55 when they first met to discuss his new play *Pygmalion*, in which he had written the part of Eliza for her. Their correspondence covers a period of 40 years, and unlike the Shaw-Terry correspondence, which Shaw himself described as a literary affair existing only on paper, these "wicked" letters are often very real in their emotions. Shaw was not too old to clown and play the fool with his "darlingest Stella," and he could be witty or merely literary as the mood took him. But he was also not too old to be deeply moved.

These letters reveal a true and enduring friendship: their wills may have clashed, as they did over the question of who should play Higgins to Stella's Eliza, but temperamentally they were close kin. At the end of their angriest quarrel over professional matters Shaw could reply, "I know it is all vile, and that I see too far ahead to make any woman happy. But we great people have no need of happiness." "Oh, forgive these blasphemies," he concludes, and a little later she writes: "Most dear man of brass, full of grindstones and things." Indeed, the man who could write from Germany, "Stella, Stella, all the winds of the north are musical with the thousand letters I have written to you on this journey," may have been just playing a game of love. But the letters which pass between them at emotional crises—Stella's bad car accident, the death of Shaw's mother, the death of Stella's only son in the war—come deep from the heart.

A note of acrimony creeps in towards the end in the inglorious wrangling over Stella's desire to publish his letters in her memoirs. But at the last, when Stella is forgotten by the world while his own fame leaps on, he writes again with the old tenderness and soft memories. The letters have been well and unobtrusively edited and contain much good conversation. But their chief value, apart from their great theatrical interest, is in the revelation of Shaw's character. If anything, they diminish his stature: the unscrupulousness and supreme egotism obtrude too much. His concern is always for himself and for money rather than for literature or art. But whether he is mocking or tender, savage or witty, he is all of a piece, a great playwright with a great fondness for the beautiful and talented women who brought his plays to life on the stage.

## EDUCATIONAL PIONEER

ACHIEVEMENT IN EDUCATION, by Lynda Grier; Constable. English price, 30/-.

**T**HE life of a man who devotes himself to the reform of education tends to run to a pattern. He spends the first period of his life crying in the wilderness and treading on people's toes.



MRS. PATRICK CAMPBELL  
"We great people have no need of happiness"

Around middle age, if he is unlucky, he slides into oblivion. People say: "So-and-So? I thought he was dead." A couple of centuries later he may or may not be revived in a monograph. If he is lucky (the trodden toes having been converted or, more likely, having died off), he secures a position of some influence. His ideas become common property and he becomes an elder statesman of education, respected on Royal Commissions more now for his knight-hood than for the ideas of his youth.

The life of Sir Michael Sadler, the subject of this workmanlike biography ran much to pattern. After taking his degree he settled down for ten years to fruitful pioneering work in adult education. For eight more years he gloried in the title of Director of the Office of Special Inquiries and Reports in what later became the English Ministry of Education. There he produced a series of research jobs of first-rate quality. Then he fell foul of the politicians, who engineered him out of his job, and his next six years he was in the wilderness, free-lancing on educational reports and sustained by a part-time Professorship of Education at Manchester. At the age of 50, with a first-rate record of publications, middle age and oblivion seemed the next step. But the University of Leeds had the wisdom to offer him its Vice-Chancellorship, and the rest was, professionally, plain sailing. The Royal Commission, the knighthood, and finally the Mastership of an Oxford College followed in appropriate order.

Sadler was an educational pioneer who lived to see his ideas in action. His influence on adult, university and secondary education was considerable, and Miss Grier's book pays tribute without adulation or over-writing. —I.A.G.

## TRADE UNIONS

THE GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH TRADE UNIONS, by Joseph Goldstein; Allen and Unwin. English price, 25/-.

**T**His book caused a flurry in the United Kingdom when it was published last year. It is easy to see why. It analyses one of the biggest trade unions in the world—the Transport and General Workers' Union of the United Kingdom, which has over a million members—to find out to what extent members take part in union activities or in the formulation of policy, whether

N.Z. LISTENER, MAY 1, 1953.