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Reckitts Blue

BOOKS

(continued from previous page)

and after. Because of the extremely human and personal way in which the Quakers work it probably gives a more intimate picture of the terrific dislocation, of human beings than much already published on the subject. It does seem that the best kind of relief work has a religious foundation, for it is work that needs great tolerance and patience—qualities too often lacking in official organisations.

The amount spent was £720,566—

no real indication of the extent of what was done in Great Britain, France, Palestine, East Africa, Gibraltar, Casablanca and Italy. The British Government sympathised to the extent of contributing £25,066, even if it, did gaol some active Quaker relief workers who refused to go to work on farms wherever else they were ordered. But the great advantage with the Quakers was that their name stood high in Europe and they did not have face suspicion



"We wondered if you'd change it for one that likes the television"

one that likes the televis

HUMOUR

THE TERROR OF ST. TRINIAN'S. by Timothy Sly and Ronald Searle; Max Parrish. English price, 8.6. MR. KHOURY, by John Bingley; Constable. English price, 12 6.

ALMOST any book of humour brings laughter to one person and boredom to the next. It is so unpredictable and individual a matter that a reviewer may be unwise to say more than whether he laughed or not. A girls' school should be funny enough, but in The Terror of St. Trinian's, Timothy Sly's story seems feeble and crude. Ronald Searle's illustrations have more strength and distinction, though cruelly ugly. The partnership produces a queer blend of savagery and banality.

From John Bingley's novel. humour rises like a fragrance. Mr. Khoury, a Syrian trader in a British island colony off the coast of Africa, is a memorable creation. His attempts at circumventing officials and wartime regulations make the plot. The delicious entertainment comes mainly from the author's style, from his kindly irony, and the way he keeps merriment simmering at an even heat. Gentle and not too obvious, it should be a good choice for anyone who is bedridden, depressed, travelling, or who simply wants something to read.

ON THE MAP

THE NEW ZEALAND GUIDE, compiled by E. S. Dollimore: Wise: 35 ... REED'S ATLAS OF NEW ZEALAND, compiled by A. W. Reed; A. H. and A. W. Reed; 12 6.

WISE'S successor to their Index to Every Place in New Zealand is a completely new work of over 900 pages. following generally the pattern of the Index, but including also "various additional features and improvements."

Among the new material is general information on climate, history, sport and the like, and a travel guide. The Index remains, of course, the most important part of the book-a mountain of facts of interest to every New Zealander. Like a man who loves words using a dictionary, anyone using this book is likely, if he doesn't keep his wits about him, to find his search prolonged by the interesting things he encounters on the way-useful facts about distances from this point to that, and the other, fascinating and surprising historical data. curiosities-who, for instance, could even imagine there being more than one

Rangitoto in the world? It is not surprising in such a big work that the information is not always accurate but there seems little excuse. for example, for putting Greymouth in Westland County. Some mistakes might have been noticed (two versions of the highest point on Pitt Island and of the length of the Otira Tunnel) if cross-references had been properly worked out. These would also make the book a handier tool. information The about the Tunnel scattered under several headings

is a bad example of lack of co-ordination. Future editions would be the better also for a good map. Even with these faults, however, this is a valuable work of reference.

Reed's Atlas also is a useful work for New Zealanders. Its main features are a series of very clear, large-scale maps showing roads and railways and the principal centres of population and geographical features, and many maps on special subjects, from the usual temperature and rainfall to hydro-electric stations and meat export works, air routes and the Southern Heavens. The Publicity Division has supplied "A brief account of New Zealand." An illustrated section which is a supplement to the library edition (there is a school edition at 7/6) does not really add very much to its value. ---F.A.J.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THE THREE CHOIRS CITIES, by Bryan Little; Batsford, English price 9/6. Another well-illustrated volume, about Worcester, Hereford and Gloucester, in the "British Cities" series.

A PILGRIM'S PROGRESS, by Beverley Nichols; Cape, English price 12/6. A journey "through the lands of the spirit," in Which Mr. Nichols looks at some of the faiths embraced by the people of Britain.

BEDS, by Reginald Reynolds; Andre Deutsch, English price 15/-. An entertaining and amusing collection of information about beds, "with many noteworthy instances of lying on, under and about them."

JAPAN IN WORLD HISTORY, by Sir George Sansom; Allen and Unwin. English price 7/6. This book is based on a series of lectures delivered in Japan under the auspices of the Japan Institute of Pacific Relations and the University of Tokyo.

N.Z. LISTENER, MAY 15, 1953.