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TRIAL

EVEREST

THUS, to a passion icy as its slope Pursuing through the dread determined years, Countering menace with a crafty hope. And with axe cleaving the compelling fears, It makes submission like the man-taught seas, Or the wild lands that lean into his breast, And sovereignty puts off its pageantries As a new crown salutes the lowered crest,

It has conceded to a creeping fate And the august is mingled with the common-As when a man, for long accounted great, Is once caught stooping and proclaimed as human. There is a sigh, purging the pride of all, That Everest the adamant should fall.

-J. R. Hervey

BOOKS (Cont'd.)

of last century. It has little merit beyond its efficiency in making the flesh creep.

-David Hall

WEST AFRICANS

THE GAMBIA, by Lady Southorn; Allen and Unwin. English price, 21 -.

"DEAR loyal little Gambia" was the comment of the Chief Guide-Lady Baden Powell. This also is the comment of Lady Southorn, wife of a former Governor of the oldest British colony in West Africa, in her charming account of the history and present state of "the Gambia"-4000 square miles of territory along 300 miles of a great river, with no hotels, and a population of 250,000 Moslems, "simple peaceful villagers," mainly occupied in growing peanuts which provide 95 per cent. of the exports. On one page there is mention of the Busy Bees Girls' Club for African girls in Bathurst, in another place an account of the megoliths of Senegal and Gambia-the stone circles. But don't be deceived: Lady Southorn lives in the second half of the 20th century. She says, "The Gambia is backward in-

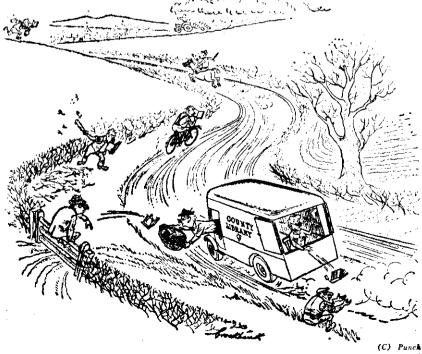
we owe to these people . . . There should be no half measures."

-W. B. Sutch

COUNTRY PARISH

TURAKINA, by Malcolm W. Wilson; Presbyterian Bookroom, Christchurch, 10-6.

A CHURCH building has been standing on the same site in Turakina for nearly a hundred years. This is the centre of a historical survey which moves outwards across the parish. It is a large parish-in one direction, up "the Valley," it runs more than 20 miles-and it has links with the early history of the Presbyterian Church in New Zealand and the province of Wellington. The first settlers were Scots who came out in the barque Blenheim, reaching Wellington on Christmas Day, 1840, Descendants of these families-Frasers, McKenzies, Mc-Farlanes, Fergessons, McDonalds, Mc-Donnells, McQuarries-are still in the district. The first church and manse were built in 1857; the second church, opened in 1865, is still in use. Mr. Wilson writes of the ministers and elders who helped to build the parish: and although he draws upon much material, historical and biographical, he holds firmly to his central theme and refuses to be weighed health, agriculture and education and the down by detail. This is a well-written reason is lack of money . . . it is a debt little book, of more than local interest.



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