

An Age of Specialists

PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE, by Roy Lewis and Angus Maude; Phoenix House, English price, 18s.

(Reviewed by L.J.W.)

THIS book is of interest to a far wider circle than that implied in the title; it is of interest to every taxpayer, for in New Zealand as in Britain or in any other welfare state the Government is the biggest single employer of professional people, and the public pay. This is the age of the specialist (one chapter is titled "We're all specialists now") and this country already sees something of the tendency, now far advanced in industrial countries, towards the formation of new professional associations, many of them taking on some of the colour of trade unions. In Britain, mere bigness of business has created, for example, a profession of management, which in the case of many of the nationalised industries has effected a complete divorce of ownership from control.

A good deal of space is given to defining a profession, and to discussion of such requirements as (a) a body of knowledge or skill acquired by study and training, and certified by examination, (b) a code of professional ethics and conduct accepted by the professional association as binding on all its members, (c) a high sense of duty towards the employer or client, and a concern on the part of the association to keep its members up to the implied contract with society to provide the best possible service. In this country, it may be noted, many professional associations, while laying down standards of knowledge required for admission, prefer the examining to be done by an independent body such as the University.

As the State becomes increasingly the employer of professional people, the community should become increasingly interested in the real cost; for as the State increases its social services it increases the demand for professional people without increasing the real income of the people employed. The ultimate result is a decline in quality and attempts at dilution. We see this in New Zealand in the dental service, in nursing, in the teaching profession, and in the use of "technicians" in various departments. "Thus does the State . . . mask a reduction in quality with a judicious spread of quantity."

But there are 274 pages in this book of close reasoning, ample documentation, and much wit as well as wisdom.

English language." But Hannah More's literary reputation has tended to obscure her greater importance in English social reforms at the turn of the century, and it is to this that her biographer has devoted most attention. Her writings served her purpose—to reclaim the masses from vice and irreligion.

In her youth she was a friend of the Garricks, Reynolds and Horace Walpole, and Garrick produced her drama *Percy*. But her religious and philanthropic sense deepened with age. She started, with her sisters, the Mendip Schools for the poor, and the Sunday school. On week days the pupils were taught "such coarse words as may fit them for servants," as she wrote to her friend William Wilberforce. At a time when the French Revolution had unsettled England she championed the old order and wrote dozens of penny tracts which circulated in millions, emphasising that work, piety and humbleness were the virtues. But if she became the spokesman for orthodoxy she was also, as this book points out, a great humanitarian, and played an important part in the reform of manners and taste of her time.

The author's researches into Hannah More's long career are based largely upon unpublished letters from her voluminous correspondence. The book is a little on the heavy side, but it contains fascinating side glimpses not only of the Blue Stockings, but of the evangelical movement and in particular of the crusading Clapham sect. Like them she tried hard to alleviate the misfortunes of the country's underprivileged. And if her views on education seem now to have been rather hidebound, she was not illiberal. In more ways than one Hannah was a symbol of her age.

—P.J.W.

GRAND JUSTICIAR

HUBERT DE BURGH, *A Study in Constancy*, by Clarence Ellis; Phoenix House, English price, 25s.

HUBERT DE BURGH was his own ancestor. From modest beginnings he became Grand Justiciar to King John. At one time he owned so many castles and estates throughout England and Wales that when dotted on a map they look like plums in a rich pudding. How he rose to this great position and many possessions is outlined in this book, which is written for the educated reader with an intelligent interest in history. It must be agreed however that most readers, educated or otherwise, know little of Hubert's life. Mr. Ellis is an historian who has given a lifetime of

ZB BOOK REVIEW

"NOW THRIVE THE ARMOURERS," by Robert Holles, will be discussed by Ronald Walker (below) in ZB Book Review on Sunday evening, June 28. There will be three other books for review in the same session: "My Life in Crime," by John Bartlow Martin (reviewer, S. T. Barnett); "I Was a Surgeon for the Chinese Reds," by Dr. Ernest Lippa (Dr. John MacCormac); and



"Invisible Man," by Ralph Ellison (David Wentworth).

N.Z. LISTENER, JUNE 19, 1953.

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