

THE WORLD'S SUMMIT

NEW ZEALANDERS AND EVEREST, by L. V. Bryant; A. H. and A. W. Reed: 3 6.

(Reviewed by John Pascoe)

THIS timely booklet will be of great interest to the general public of New Zealand. It is written by the man most eminently qualified for such an important task. "Dan" Bryant was in the thirties perhaps the greatest leader of an active guideless generation in the Southern Alps, and his friends rejoiced at his inclusion in the 1935 British Everest expedition. So well were his qualities of unselfishness, technical skill and cheerfulness appreciated that they laid the foundation for the inclusion of other New Zealanders in subsequent expeditions.

Bryant has produced a valuable summary in true perspective. He introduces the lay reader to the difficulties of the Southern Alps that train men for greater tests overseas and explains that our loose rock, intricate icefalls and swift rivers need initiative and resource. Heavy swagging and high camping in bad weather are also said to be experiences that prove valuable in the Himalaya.

An excellent account of early Everest expeditions, with the emphasis on ex-



L. V. BRYANT

He has served New Zealand well

ploration, is followed by his own memorable achievements, related clearly and modestly. From the back numbers of the *New Zealand Alpine Journal* he is able to sketch the stirring Himalayan history made by Scott Russell in the Karakorum, Bill Packard on Annapurna IV,

Earle Riddiford and his splendid team on Mukut Parbat in the Garhwal. He also refers to the successful Tararua party recently returned from Nepal.

The drama of the new route to Everest from the south honours the names of Hillary, Lowe and Riddiford. The story of the final success of the 1953 party with Hillary on the summit and Lowe in close support is necessarily brief, but serves as a good introduction for the forthcoming expedition book by Sir John Hunt. Throughout his narrative Bryant is explicit and concise, and there are no technicalities to confuse the layman. The booklet is supported by a good map and by 22 magnificent photographs whose blocks are of fine quality. The proceeds of the first edition are promised to the "Hillary-Lowe Everest Fund" to assist further New Zealand expeditions to the Himalaya, and it is safe to prophesy that the booklet will have a wide sale here and overseas. Bryant has served New Zealand well.

TWO BOYHOODS

IN THE CASTLE OF MY SKIN, by George Lamming; Michael Joseph. English price, 15. THE BICYCLE RIDER OF BEVERLEY HILLS, by William Saroyan; Faber and Faber. English price, 12 6.

THE exotic world of the British West Indies has never been so well described as by the astonishing group of novelists and poets of the past decade—Edgar Mittelholzer, Roger Mais, Ralph de Boissiere, Samuel Selvon and George

Lamming. In this autobiographical account of his boyhood on Barbados George Lamming has caught not only the West Indies zest for life, but its social and racial problems as well. His story of a growing boy, half African and half European, is also the lively history of a raw, developing community which changes in a few years from peaceful stagnation to a setting for ugly riots over land rents.

Yet it is the scenes of boyhood observation, the innocent glimpses of the extraordinary beneath usual happenings, which give the book its vitality. This little world is seen with a moving intensity by Lamming's brooding eye, sharpened by his eccentric sense of humour and enlivened by the island slang in which many of his characters speak. The incidents at the bath-house, the voodoo-like revival meeting, the dance held in honour of a visiting British warship, the episode of the crabs and the giant fisherman on the beach, are powerfully done. And illuminating it all is the profound and compassionate imagination of the young narrator, resigned in his attempts to come to grips with a world that he only half believes in and will never fully understand.

William Saroyan's story is of his boyhood in Fresno, California, in the Armenian colony where "nobody was interested in anything except the making of money," where his only friends were the failures and flops, the poets and

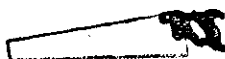
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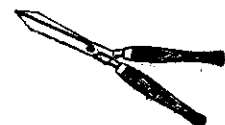


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