

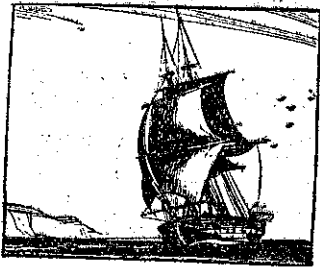
SNIPPETS FROM TALKS

Scared by Maori Haka of Welcome

An Early New Zealand Colonising Attempt That Failed—Missionary Work in Papua—Collecting the Moths and Butterflies of N.Z.—Remarkable Division of Territory in Africa.

DR. N. J. MILLEN (4YA).

IN 1825, the Earl of Durham and Colonel Torrens formed the first "New Zealand Company." Their object was to ship a number of mechanics to New Zealand, and to establish a factory, and ship from New Zealand consignments of flax and spars. Tall trees were plentiful enough, and in those days of sailing ships there was a never-ending demand for timber for masts and yards. They chartered the barque "Rossanna," put on board 50 or 60 mechanics and a quantity of live stock, and reached the district now known as



Thames in 1826. The natives gave them a haka of welcome in their honour, but the haka scared them so much that they left Thames in a hurry and sailed away.

THE history of the New Zealand Company, the company formed by Edward Gibbon Wakefield, which was the principal agent for the colonising of New Zealand is bound up with the history of that one man. This extraordinary and gifted man was enabled to shape the destinies of our colony for good or ill. He was possessed by a genuine passion for raising the lot of the labouring class, particularly of the agricultural labourer. But Wakefield was of an unscrupulous and determined nature, and allowed no strain of caution or diplo-

macy to check him in any course he had taken in hand.

MR. GEORGE HOWES (4YA).

BY choosing such a subject as the collecting of moths and butterflies, I fully realise the hard task of explaining and demonstrating the intense interest felt by the collector. Were it possible to show the actual specimens, they would provide their own attraction. But perhaps with a little word-painting I may be able to give you some conception of the beauty and unique protective adjustments that mark our New Zealand insect fauna, for just as in native birds we have peculiar forms, such as the huia, weka, kakapo, so in the insects we also have many distinct creatures peculiar to New Zealand. Come with me to the edge of the bush for a night's moth-hunting in the late spring.

WE arrive as the sun sets and the light softens. Many moths are attracted by the nectar of flowers; but at seasons when the bush flowers are not abundant we provide what is known as "sugar" as an additional attraction. This is a mixture of treacle and beer, with a little rum, and strangely enough, if the beer is stale it is better. Sometimes we have to use such substitutes as wine-dregs, and also have to put in sugar or honey or even jam, but any sweet substance is effective, and the beer and rum diffuse the scent, and also stupefy the moth that comes to the feast. Passing quickly along the bush track, we paint on each tree trunk, just about shoulder high, a short streak of the sugaring mixture.

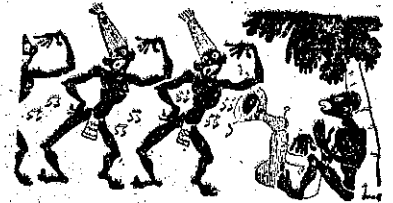
WHEN we return to see how the "sugar" is attracting, we find that each patch we come to may produce something specially good, and this provides an interest akin to that of fishing, for we never know what sort of bag we may make. From the Woodhaugh Gardens alone I have three new Macro-Lepidoptera, and two Micro-Lepidoptera—that is to say, I took there these five species not previously known to science. Clustering on the sugar, each moth's eyes in the strong light of the lamp glisten like tiny rubies. They bewilder the tree trunk.

MR. N. S. WOODS (4YA).

THE scramble for territory in Africa is one of the most interesting spectacles in modern history. In the short space of about 21 years this mighty continent was almost completely divided up between the European powers. More remarkable still perhaps, is the fact that the division was achieved without the participants coming to blows.

FOR four and a half centuries after Diaz and Da Gama first sailed the coasts of Africa, Europeans were con-

finned to the merest fringe of the continent by the dense forests, wide deserts, fever-stricken rivers, and numerous fierce native tribes. Until the development of machinery, steam-power, repeating rifles, scientific precautions against disease, and many other discov-



eries, Europe was baffled by Africa. The industrial revolution had given most of these things to the white man by 1850, but from 1848 to 1878 Europe had too many troubles of its own—the Crimean war, the Austro-Prussian war, the Franco-Prussian war, and the Balkan troubles. However, in 1878 the treaty of Berlin at last gave Europe a breathing space.

AS a result, the close of the century saw France in possession of almost 4,000,000 square miles, including the vast Sahara, Britain in possession of 2,750,000 square miles, controlling a majority of the great waterways leading into the interior; Germany with nearly 1,000,000 square miles, also controlling important lines of communication; the Congo Free State had 900,000; Portugal 790,000; and Italy 188,000 square miles.

REV. F. J. SEARLE (3YA).

THERE were days of little gold in North East New Guinea, prospectors came and went; the dangers of the country were many, the cost of labour great, and the rewards not commensurate. But one or two stuck to it, until at last, it was evident that there was "big gold" here. It is all paralleled in the history of Papuan missions. There were great pioneers, some died of illness or were murdered—at first only slight success was met with. But confident workers were sure that the gold of character could be won. The possibilities were there.

COURAGE is one of the notable features of the Christian Papuan's character. To this day dread of sorcery clings fast in the native mind, and it holds specially between coastal and inland natives, who fear each other. Even the very sophisticated Port Moresby natives still blame the magic of the inland tribes if their crops fail through drought. One of our students for the ministry, a coastal man, before leaving college, wrote to his district missionary and asked him for an appointment to a certain inland locality which had never yet had a resident pastor. And he is there to-day, facing the dreaded strange magic with confidence in Divine protection.

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