

THE NEWEST BOOKS.

Robin Hyde -- Journalist Unmuzzled

"Journalese," a Clever Book by a Well-known New Zealand Poetess and Journalist—Foundation of Victoria University College—
New Books in London.

ROBIN HYDE is the pen name which conceals the identity of Miss Iris Wilkinson from the uninformed. Better known to the general public for her poetry, she has none the less made for herself a name as a journalist—regular and free lance—and in her book "Journalese" she tells of many of her journalistic experiences.

The book is episodic and racy; the quickly changing scene lit by the pointed fire of apt phrases. The sentences are short; the style is direct; the interest is never allowed to flag.

Miss Wilkinson casts off the shackles of restraint and says directly a good many things that might make a newspaper proprietor purse his lips. This is all to the good—the journalist unmuzzled always has a lot of truth to bring to the light of day. And what truth! The "low-down" on faith-healers and "spookologists," bits of semi-scamdalous politics, news items, plus unpublished comments. And through it all that little quirk of illusion and fairy fancy which first made Robin Hyde's name known to the New Zealand public. If ever an avocation were destructive of illusion, it is journalism. Miss Wilkinson has retained hers and at the same time kept her eyes wide open. Merely a matter of looking on both sides of the question—but what a lot of wisdom that calls for!

Of local interest is the fact that the book is packed with local personalities. Mr. Peter Fraser, Mr. J. H. Hall, Lord Jellicoe, "Dolores," Mrs. Margaret Macpherson, Mr. E. C. Huie march arm in arm across the pages. And we see their weaknesses as well as their strengths.

Frankness and fairness make this a charming book cleverly constructed. "Journalese," by Robin Hyde. National Printing Co., Auckland. Our copy from the publishers

THIRTY-FIVE years ago Victoria University College was founded in Wellington, and this year particular interest has been focused on that date by the presentation to the college of portraits of the four foundation professors, which ceremony took place on May 5. To commemorate this the 1934 number of "The Spike," the college magazine, has been made a foundation number; this year greater stress has been laid on historical matter, and there is less attention than usual devoted to literary work. Through the generosity of an anonymous donor it has been possible to reduce the price of the special issue, and an endeavour has been made to make it a record of the last 35 years that will be of interest and value to all students, past and present.

Though less space than usual has been available, there are some excellent literary contributions, both prose and verse, and worthy of special mention is the splendid photograph—

"Facilis Est Descensus Averni," by R. S. Odell. This is an excellent attempt at a composition photograph, light and shade have been well balanced, and, apart from a slight confusion of shad-

Autobiography of C. W. A. Scott to be Published

Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton, the well-known English publishers, have concluded arrangements with Mr. C. W. A. Scott, the chief pilot of the British machine which won the Melbourne Centenary Air Race, for the publication of his biography, written by himself. Mr. Scott's name became known all over the world when he and his co-pilot, Mr. Black, smashed all records in their amazing three-day flight to Australia, and his book should be awaited with very great interest.

ing in places, it is a remarkably fine piece of work. Notes on the various college clubs are also given a place in the magazine.

BEST sellers in London at present are Lloyd George's "War Memoirs," Dean Inge's "Vale," and John Buchan's biography, "Cromwell." Other books in brisk demand are A. A. Milne's "Peace With Honour," J. C. Powys's very long "Autobiography," and "Naval Memoirs," by Sir Roger Keyes. In fiction the favourite is Ivor Brown's new novel "Master Sanguine," but there is still a big demand for Richard Aldington's "Women Must Work," and also for "The Taking of the Gry," by John Masefield, the Poet Laureate.

"ENGLISH JOURNEY," J. B. Priestley's popular book, which has met very great success everywhere, was described by the author as "a rambling but truthful account of what one

man saw and heard and felt and thought." Except in one particular, this applies to the "European Journey" of Sir Philip Gibbs, which has just been published in England. Sir Philip, unlike Mr. Priestley, did not travel alone. When he started, his party numbered three; at Sens, in France, they were joined by a fourth; in Switzerland, by a fifth. His book is a solo with an occasional chorus—a book of travel, of serious inquiry, of personal reminiscence and anecdote. At one time the journey almost resolves itself into a search for a man who does not complain of poverty, who will admit that he is doing well. "Fear of the future," Sir Philip concludes, "was the dominant thought in this anxious Europe of 1934." Scarcely less dominant in many quarters was the economic fear of Japan.

THE second volume of Mr. Winston Churchill's "Marlborough: His Life and Times," has now been published. A change has been made since Mr. Churchill planned the book. He has found it impossible to compress the Duke's "ten years of unbroken victory" into a single volume so a third and final one will appear next year. Nothing indicates better the significance of the events described in the second volume than a comparison with the length of period dealt with in the first. Whereas the first covered fifty-two years, the second covers only four. Of special importance are the unpublished letters which Marlborough wrote to his wife and his colleague, Godolphin. They are another example of the superior eloquence and historical value of unofficial correspondence.

I THINK this bonnet is very becoming.—Commander Booth.

THE Soviet system of law and administration in regard to religion is the most thorough-going and efficacious engine of persecution that has existed since the great days of the Spanish Inquisition.—Lord Charnwood.

IT should be possible to agree on some gradual changes in men's clothes, so that a man wearing a suit several years out of date would be made to look so ridiculous that he would have difficulty in persuading any self-respecting woman to walk down the street with him.—Mr. Stanley Johnson.

BURGESS

EXCELS IN POWER, DEPENDABILITY, LONG-LIFE AND UNIFORMITY

THE BETTER
BRITISH RADIO BATTERY