

Books and Men

Putting Life Into the Illustrious Dead

Duckworth's "Great Lives"

GERALD DUCKWORTH & CO., LTD., publishers, are issuing a series entitled "Great Lives." Already 50 of these have been published, and the choice shows great discrimination. The series itself is a handy pocket size; its binding is neat and strong, the printing and quality of paper excellent; in fact, the series possesses all those attributes which are essential to make it eligible to take its place on the shelves of a discriminating book-lover.

One of the latest is "Captain Cook," by Lieut.-Commander R. T. Gould, R.N. (Retired), and after reading it one is forced to the conclusion that only a sailor can have the insight necessary for the perfect retelling of another sailor's voyages and discoveries. Gould's version has a sailorly straightforwardness which is most attractive; his style makes for enjoyable reading; his account is neither too full nor too sketchy, and throughout he maintains an unbiased attitude which the reader appreciates, because he is allowed to form his own judgment for himself. The several diagrams and list of dates are also an attractive feature.

The other new issue in this series is the life of Abraham Lincoln, by D. W. Brogan. To most New Zealanders, an account of Abraham Lincoln may not be thought to hold the same warmth of appeal as the account of Cook's discovery of their own and neighbouring islands; nevertheless, Lincoln's life contains a greatness which surmounts geographical boundaries. Extra to this, it teems with human drama. As each momentous event in Lincoln's life succeeds the other, the reader finds him-

self becoming more and more absorbed and identified with the main character

Reissued in New York and London

Sales Of "Children Of The Poor" Climb

"I'VE just received word that 'Children of the Poor' is being reissued in New York," said the author, Mr. J. A. Lee, M.P. for Grey Lynn, to a "Radio Record" reporter last week. "In London a three-and-sixpenny edition is due to leave the presses in August. This time my name will be on the title page."

When "Children of the Poor"—a story of slum life in Dunedin 30 years ago—was published by T. Werner Laurie, the author chose to remain anonymous. Literary gossips hinted at the writer being a member of Parliament, and it was finally established that he was the well-known Auckland politician. "Children of the Poor," the first book by a New Zealander to secure simultaneous publication in New York and London, was received with acclamation abroad—but with little more than luke-warm interest in this country. However, its true worth is now being recognised, and sales for it are growing. Mr. Lee has had a second book accepted in London.

as was the case with a novel which, besides being written, powerfully,

stretches the mind to a consciousness and appreciation of universal truths concerning mankind and their destiny. Not a little of this success can be attributed to Mr. Brogan's method of treatment of his subject. It is not a dry-as-dust piece of history: it is a living piece of drama, absorbing in its intensity.

"Captain Cook," Lieut.-Commander R. T. Gould, R.N. "Abraham Lincoln," D. W. Brogan. (Great Lives series.) Gerald Duckworth and Company, Limited. Our copies from the publishers.

PRISONER OF WAR AND A PROSTITUTE

"Everything Is Thunder"

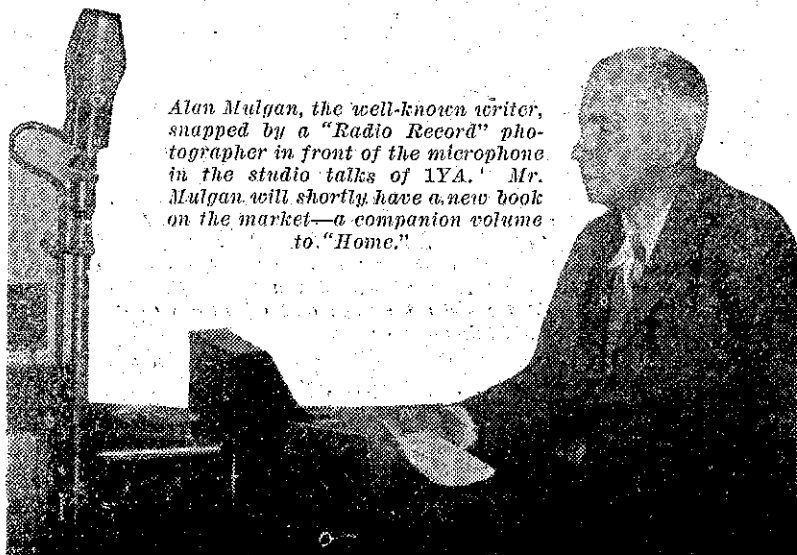
IN "Everything is Thunder," the author, J. L. Hardy, gives a wonderful portrait of the mental anguish and torture of a man obsessed with the idea of escaping from Germany while being held a prisoner of war, and who, when attempting to break prison, is unexpectedly compelled to kill a sentry. The hunt is soon on and is intensified on account of the "murder," but a false leg and considerable amount of luck enable him to reach Berlin, where he meets the heroine of the story, a prostitute, who shelters him, unaware of his identity. They fall in love with each other and decide to flee across the Dutch frontier together.

This gives only a bare outline of the story which is filled with tense excitement as the chances of escape gradually diminish, and the extraordinary passion between the hunted man and the prostitute is described in some beautiful passages. The character of the hero is drawn with a very fine pen and the author gives you a very vivid insight into his mental thoughts. The heroine, unfortunately, is too good to be true. It seems a pity that the author who created her such a sweet loving person should have made her a woman of the streets. However, apart from this personal view, it is a book well worth reading, and a worthy successor to Mr. Hardy's book "I Escape."

"Everything is Thunder," J. L. Hardy. John Lane (The Bodley Head). Our copy from the publishers.

THE Kaiser has not lately had many opportunities of congratulating the Oxford crew on their superior style of rowing.—Dean Inge.

I KNOW a member of Parliament whom, in spite of his detestable political opinions, I hold in the deepest affection because his grandfather, a white-bearded clergyman, once gave me two shillings.—Mr. Robert Lynd.



Alan Mulgan, the well-known writer, snapped by a "Radio Record" photographer in front of the microphone in the studio talks of 1YA. Mr. Mulgan will shortly have a new book on the market—a companion volume to "Home."