

"WHAT DO you think of New Caledonia?" we asked more from habit than interest, as one does at first meeting. "I rather like it - it is not unlike New Zealand" was the casual reply. Were we speechless? Wouldn't you be? There was no homesickness here, no kidding, just plain matter of fact truth and with it - a lovely smile and a twinkle in her eyes that made you want to sit a night and write poems about them. "Of course", she continued, "I had about fifteen months in Fiji, and that makes a difference. Yes, she came from Fairlie"; but added that she managed to put up with Christchurch. We then asked how she would like to settle down on a farm in this country. She said she wouldn't mind, provided it were up north (Say, know where we can pick up a bit of land round here?) She is fond of farming and likes the outdoor life, can play tennis, ride a horse, knows something of cows (Sprs. please note) dances well and thinks country life the best, but is anxious to see something of Europe and other odd spots on the globe - New York for instance. Guess her name.

"KANAKA" has big water fight & does a bunch of Kanaka scones as a bucket of water cools his blood.

COOKHOUSE GOSSIP.

MAURIE Corrie locked in to say he is now able to bend his elbow again. He thinks Bert Butler's trips to Noumea have a Javanese touch about them and that he should take up Steve Nash's hobby of knife throwing. From all accounts Steve is making good headway with the knives up top. Maurie is somewhat disappointed at the slow progress the cooks and orderlies are making at the Waacery. Says the boys are too tight to buy the Wasc Catcher hair oil. H.A. Craig is still bumping up the scales, and the cooks suggest that Q.M. Sutherland increase Fat Willie Hart's issue of raisins and Fat Spread, as Willie is at a standstill. Dave Smith proves a disappointing entrant in the Fat Man competition, but as a toiler is always there. "Snowy" Lord is enjoying his rest here, but is not doing too well with his "cutie" up the hill. Quiet Man Dacombe

BOB Wood and Dave Holwell thrashed out the question of whether men could lay claim to a greater share of beauty than could women - and they agreed that man is the more beautiful creature (W.A.A.C.S please note and requested not to hold it against them) To hell him make up his mind Dave had a collection of Vargas Girls on the walls (says they keep his moral up too). But finds that his tent mates gaze most at them. Final argument in favour of male beauty is that all male animals most attractive - even the guinea pig. Well, there is it.

IKKE Smith almost threw a fit when he learnt he was passed over for a half bottle of beer on the belief that he did not drink. Ask him about it.

ON seeing the new sign for the Sgts Mess (not yet up) the other night, Doug Comrai exclaimed, "Good Lord, the bludgers are getting flash", wonder if we could get a pretty one for the men's mess! (Looks like you have it now Doug.)

IN a recent issue we referred to Cpl. R.E. Robb as "A.E. Robb". We apologise to him and wish to assure him that the pyjama incident lost none of its kick through use of incorrect initials. He also asked us to state that he is not going back to the bush after the war. We hope he can avoid that unpleasant experience.

and Rolli Sothorn, the two new orderlies are stirring the cooks up and are likely to be stayers. Bob Robinson has given up boxing for keeps now that he is working out a Housie Housie system. Maurie Rimmer talks too much in his sleep. Tommy Atkins looks like becoming a big time gambler - he is frequently seen at the Housie now, though there is no signs of his drawing more than the two dollars per pay day. In the Sgts. mess Harry Goffin as O.C. makes a good job and is also a patron of the Housie where he holds more than his own. That so Charlie?