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Public Library; Mr C. W. Collins, Chief Librarian, Canterbury College Library; also a Library Policy statement from Rt. Hon. G. Forbes, M.P. Whether our Editor can achieve the maintenance of such a fine list of public writers, to grace our pages this coming year, may seem to some a bit doubtful, but knowing Mr E. E. Wiltshire as we do and his delight in hard problems, away with that "wee sma doot." We look forward in full confidence that the front page will be as interesting as hitherto and the high standard set will be fully maintained.

It is pleasing to know that our subscribers enjoy "our" magazine. "Very good," "Really fine," "Very helpful," and similar expressions have been offered to the writer on many occasions during the past year.

**NON-FICTION BOOKS RECENTLY PURCHASED.**

**Harpoon**, by Henry Fergusson. The story of a voyage from Dunedin to the Antarctic in a whaler, manned mostly by Norwegians, with a few Aussies, New Zealanders and Englishmen. The author is fully alive to the beauty and poetry of Antarctica, and his description of the voyage, daily routine, and the exacting nature of the actual work from the firing of the harpoon gun, to the full barrel stowed below is full of realism, often enlivened with a touch of grim humour. His pen pictures of sunsets, ice, blizzards are told in vivid graphic words that hold one's closest attention. A fine book, worthy of a wide circle of readers.

**Living India**, by Lady Hartog. Lady Hartog, for many years resided in India and through her husband's official position, had special opportunities of seeing the many different phases of Indian life. Her own work among the women enabled her to gain a deeper understanding of the Indian outlook. This is reflected in the book, written at the request of the Royal Empire Society. While the book is full of information, the presentation is so charming that one absorbs it as a delightful experience. For instance, there are over 338,000,000 inhabitants, of which 238,000,000 are Hindus, 97,000,000 are Mahommedans and 20,500,000 divided among Christians, Sikhs, Parsis, Buddhists and Jaius, leaving between 7 and 8 million classed as Tribal Religion. These are traced back to origins and defined. "Hinduism is not only a religion, it is also a social system permeating the whole life of the people and is without parallel."

India's chequered history is one ceaseless internal war between different kingdoms and of ceaseless invasion from the outside, from Alexander, Asaka, and right on to the day when under British suzerainty the country came under our rule. "Public Health" reads like fascinating stories, while the final chapters on "Native States" and "Administration" are deeply interesting. The whole book is a laying open of a country lovely and lovable and the gigantic re-

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sponsibility of its welfare is better understood when one has read this really splendid book. We warmly recommend this book to readers.

**World Politics 1918-1936**, by R. Palme Dutt.

This book is wider in its scope than European Politics which we recently mentioned and in its handling of the subject is a fine critical and exhaustive analysis. Written from a purely labour viewpoint it is trenchant in its criticism and somewhat sinister in its conclusions. Summing up his argument dealing with the economic struggle between British and American capitalism for world trade, the author says:—

"This economic struggle is only one aspect of the wider developing struggle. The conflict between British and American Imperialism and in particular between the dynamic invading force penetrating the British Empire and the counter offensive of the weakening British Imperialism, goes forward ceaselessly in all fields with no solution within the conditions of Imperialism. There is only the certainty of increasing conflict as long as Imperialism remains."

While the argument is plausible the solution as stated by the writer does not correspond with the world situation as it is today.

The analysis of the German Policy is most interesting and to Britishers carries a word of warning. "We still have time, though not for long, to turn the course of history and to prevent the incalculable disaster to humanity which a new world war would represent."

The author, in finalising his argument, says:—"If there is delay in mobilising the mass peace front against the immediate menace of new world war and in going forward against Fascism and the Capitalist offensive . . . then world war is inevitable . . ."

The book is a closely reasoned exposition of the Socialist platform and whether we agree or not with the writer, one feels on laying it down that it is revealing, in the awful possibilities to mankind, in the grim struggle.

**SOME RECENTLY PURCHASED FICTION.**

- Buccaneer Blood . . . . . Kenneth Perkins
- Challenge to Happiness . . . . . Maysie Greig
- The Doctor . . . . . Mary R. Rinehart
- Fair as the Morn . . . . . Temple Bailey
- Fish in the Sea . . . . . Eliz. Carfrae
- The Five Ferries . . . . . B. M. Bower
- Freedom Farewell . . . . . Phyllis Bentley
- Gay Roads . . . . . Marjorie M. Price
- Green Gates . . . . . R. C. Sheriff
- Happy Jack . . . . . Max Brand
- The Innocent Imposter . . . . . Dorothy B. Upson
- The Island of Sheep . . . . . John Buchan
- Last Will and Testament . . G. D. H. & M. Cole
- Love Never Comes Singly . . . . . Annabel Lee
- The Merry Mug . . . . . H. M. Raleigh
- Mistress Pat . . . . . L. M. Montgomery
- Moccasin Men . . . . . John Ross
- Mother of the Bride . . . . . Alice G. Rosman
- The Mystery of Pine Point . . . . Kathleen Norris
- Open Spaces . . . . . Crichton Miln
- Our Elizabeth in America . . . . Florence A. Kilpatrick
- Rattling Spurs . . . . . A. G. Hales