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150,000,000 people could be sustained on the country's products, but that only 4,500,000 persons are there to avail themselves of the abundance of actual and potential resources. The tremendous hardships of building up this great country are thrillingly pictured in accounts of heroic deeds of the "back-blocks," settlers of the far interior or "Never-Never Land," who have vast distances to contend with, frequent droughts or floods, sand storms, and bad roads over which they must carry their goods; in fact, pioneers in every sense, these people have struggled on, and to-day their children are the progressive heirs to a fine future and it is their heritage to make it a "living land." The fascination of a new land, no matter how hard the toil, is ever present with the Australians. The author tells how the Government saved the mining industry of a community in Western Australia by expending over \$3,000,000 in building a reservoir which drains a mountain range and supplies 16,000 square miles with water where before "gold was so cheap and water so dear." She gives the results of a close study of the capital and labor question and depicts keenly the politics of Australia and its blunders. The statement that while the birth-rate of Australia is less than formerly, the rate of infant mortality is also less, shows what education and progress have accomplished there. Miss Ackermann backs up her statements with statistics. In a book so full of good material it is a pity that the subject-matter has not better grouping.

The Climate and Meteorology of Australia. By H. A. Hunt. Maps, diagrams. Reprint, *Federal Handbook of Australia Bull. No. 9*, pp. 121-162. Bur. of Meteorology, Melbourne, 1914.

We have had occasion several times recently to call attention to the excellent meteorological publications of the Australian Commonwealth, Bureau of Meteorology. As a reprint from the Handbook issued in connection with the recent Australasian meeting of the British Association, we now have a very clear and systematic account of the climate of Australia. The opening sentence is an indication of the crisp, clean-cut style of the whole report: "Until recent years, Australia was regarded by most people as a land especially subject to severe droughts, and by more generous critics as a land of a feast or a famine." Mr. Hunt has given the essential facts of Australian weather and climate concisely. The human relations are kept in view throughout and the illustrations are pertinent and instructive.

R. DEC. WARD.

The Conquest of Mount Cook and Other Climbs. An Account of Four Seasons' Mountaineering on the Southern Alps of New Zealand. By Freda du Faur. xv and 250 pp. Ills., index. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1915. 10½ x 7½.

In one of the earlier chapters of Miss Du Faur's book she quotes a theory of her guide, Peter Graham, on the best way to train a novice into a full-fledged mountaineer. Certainly, if Graham's theory is exemplified by Miss Du Faur's climbs in the New Zealand Alps, there is no doubt as to its correctness. During her four seasons in those mountains, beginning with the easy climbs of Mt. Sealy and the Nun's Veil and ending with the first traverse of Mt. Sefton, she accomplished almost all that previous mountaineers had attempted, adding besides seven virgin peaks. Her complete traverse of Mt. Cook is probably the most difficult piece of work accomplished in that region.

The main interest is distinctly mountaineering. The author never permits you to forget that she is a woman and that her thesis is that a woman can accomplish as difficult climbing as a man. More than once one feels a suppressed chuckle at the discomfiture of a less successful male mountaineer. And certainly in view of what she accomplished Miss Du Faur has a right to her chuckle and a hearty assent to all she claims for a trained woman's ability as a mountain climber. In these feminist days her point of view is to a sympathetic reader both acceptable and delightful.

The book is well and profusely illustrated. Occasionally dotted lines on the illustrations indicate climbing routes, thus adding greatly to the clearness of the text. The style is entertaining and on closing the reader has a very fair knowledge of the topography of the region.

C. S. THOMPSON.