

BOOKNOTES

Charles Thatcher: 'Life on the Goldfields': an entertainment by Robert H. B. Hoskins, The Canterbury Series of Bibliographies, Catalogues and Source Documents in Music, School of Music, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, 1996, \$20.25.

Charles Thatcher's *Life on the Goldfields* follows the fortunes of the 'new chum' in fifteen scenes from his arrival in Australia in the 1850s to his sojourn on the Bendigo goldfields and his eventual career as a squatter. Thatcher presented his entertainment along the lines of the popular diorama shows and would recite each scene before a large illuminated canvas. Robert Hoskins' commentaries on the text are lucid and authoritative and are complemented by the notated tunes of the topical songs which Thatcher scattered throughout his performance. This is another valuable addition to the Canterbury Series. Its editor Brian W. Pritchard is to be congratulated as is Robert Hoskins for his formidable scholarship, industry and light touch. *JMT*

IN HER SEMINAR ON 12 AUGUST 1998 entitled 'What if they had listened to Florence?', Jocelyn Keith, referred to an 1860 'Note on the Zealand depopulation question' prepared by Nightingale at the request of Sir George Grey. Full details of this report can be found in Jocelyn Keith's article 'Florence Nightingale: Statistician and Consultant Epidemiologist' in the *International Nursing Review*, Vol. 35 no. 5, 1988. She is one of a small

editorial research team preparing a collected works of the published and unpublished writings of Florence Nightingale.

NZWORDS IS THE NEWSLETTER OF the New Zealand Dictionary Centre, published by Oxford University Press, New Zealand twice a year. The first issue (July 1988) is largely given over to Harry Orsman's *Dictionary of New Zealand English*, winner of the 1998 Montana Medal for Non-fiction, in the form of a comprehensive and perceptive review of the book by Laurie Bauer, reprinted from *New Zealand Books* (December 1997).

'NZWords intends to keep readers informed of all aspects of the research and publication activities of the New Zealand Dictionary Centre', writes its Associate Director Tony Deverson. 'Questions and observations about this country's distinctive words and usages will be welcome and we look forward to having a lively "Mailbag" in future issues'. This publication can be obtained, free, from the Subscription Manager, *NZWords*, PO Box 11-149, Ellerslie, Auckland. Oxford also publish an annual newsletter called *Southern Cross*, 'intended to update our many authors, colleagues and friends on OUP's activities in Australia and New Zealand', writes Marek Palka, Managing Director, OUP. It is available free from the same address.

REVIEWS OF TWO MAJOR WORKS will appear in our next issue - *The Oxford Companion to New Zealand*

Literature, edited by Roger Robinson and Nelson Wattie, and of volume 4 of *The New Zealand Dictionary of Biography*, edited by Claudia Orange.

AT THE LAUNCHING OF BRAD AND Kathryn Patterson's book *New Zealand (Revised)*, volume 18 in the World Bibliographical Series, on 4 November 1998 at the Stout Centre, Ian Wards commented that when the first edition of this title appeared in 1980, edited by Ray Grover, there were then 23 volumes, or countries, in the series. Now there are 208 volumes, the aim of which is 'to provide, in a uniform format, an interpretation of each country that will express its culture, its place in the world, and the qualities and background that make it unique'. The Patterson's have estimated that between the first edition and the final accession date of their revised version, some 77,000 titles have been produced and as only a few titles have been retained from the earlier one it is suggested that the Grover edition should be used in conjunction with the revised one. 'International relationships are well covered', said Ian Wards, 'as is the development of the relationship with the Maori tribes and with the progress of the Treaty of Waitangi negotiations ... the Patterson's have given the World Series a meticulously researched and presented bibliography'.