

foreshadowing the California bungalow's arrival in New Zealand. A number of other architects did less innovative work, perhaps improving on the standard builders' plans of the time or exploiting otherwise unseen opportunities. The tall one-room wide houses of steep inner city Wellington have all the hallmarks of the popular tradition that suit them for inclusion in Salmond's book, and they are included, yet an architect is known to have designed the best remaining examples of these buildings at 296 to 306 Tinakori Road. Was this architect's work imitative of builders' work or did he set a pattern for others to follow?

The best source of information on the New Zealand house is the artifact itself. Salmond devised his own New Zealand Houses Index and he photographed and researched some two thousand houses from all over the country with an emphasis (three hundred houses) on Devonport. This sample allows him to speak with authority on all matters of style, form, materials, and regional variation. He is the first person to do this for the ordinary New Zealand house. What is more, he has turned the statistical data and the vast amount of original research into a book of authority, fluency, and wit. We — ordinary New Zealanders — must be grateful.

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Taking the Waters. Early Spas in New Zealand. By Ian Rockel. Government Publishing, Wellington, 1986. 188 pp. NZ price: \$29.95.

THIS IS a frustrating account of frustrated enterprises. New Zealand's 20 or so spas, despite inflated promotions by politicians and local boosters, remained isolated, unprosperous, and rudimentary until the 1960s. The promised rich foreign valetudinarians never materialized. The community rejected as unthinkable the casinos which might have supplied the capital to render the spas glitzy.

Mr Rockel is authoritative on the physical settings of the various springs of mineralized waters and the early official decisions to exploit them, together with the often bizarrely designed and uncomfortable bath-houses and chalets that ensued from those decisions, but beyond this his book is disappointing. He seems incurious about the people who used the waters, both before and after European settlement. He mentions government balneologists and masseurs, but the origins and purposes of the rheumatic, gouty, paralysed, eczematous, consumptive, depressed, and dyspeptic sufferers who journeyed over rough roads to drink and wallow in the waters remain unexplained. The visitors remained too few, despite considerable government investment and enticement, to make the spas into independent ventures. Mr Rockel refers passingly to changes during the 1920s which gradually transformed the spas from therapeutic to pleasure resorts, and to further changes in the late 1940s and 1950s when they became sightseeing and leisure playgrounds, but again he leaves these alterations in behaviour unexplored. He also refers to the reservation of particular baths for particular races, and to differential accommodation and treatments by social class, as at Rotorua between 1921 and 1949, but he neglects the opportunity to pursue these issues so as to illumine the wider New Zealand society.

Therapeutics also changed over time: for example, mud-baths for consumptives were abandoned in favour of 'medical use of geothermal waters' for rheumatic

cases, but Mr Rockel is as vague about cure rates as were the controlling Tourist, Defence and Health Departments who consistently avoided, it seems, analysing the results of their ministrations, except in counting visitors. Finally, when tourism was entrenched as the main source of income in the 1950s, and antibiotics and chemotherapy had arrived, the Health Department announced that the waters were not 'miraculous cure-alls'.

Taking the Waters is well illustrated and doubtless will sell readily at Taupo, Rotorua, and elsewhere. Before the next edition falls due I hope Mr Rockel can be persuaded to enlarge upon the potentially fascinating aspects he has touched on in this first essay.

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New Zealand in Vietnam: A Study of the Use of Force in International Law. By Rupert Granville Glover. Dunmore Press, Palmerston North, 1986. 69 pp. NZ price: \$14.95.

THE INTERNATIONAL legal standing of the New Zealand government's dispatch of troops to Vietnam in 1965 is the focus of this book. The reasoning and observations along the way are more interesting than the conclusion eventually arrived at, because the source material is no more dramatic than official statements and the Pentagon Papers, the historical passages little more than introductory sketches, and even international law itself regarded as only 'the little sister of international politics'.

Four interlocked objections to the legality of New Zealand's intervention are dealt with. First, to the objection that the Government acted only politically in response to US and Australian pressure, and therefore a-legally if not illegally, the author answers that Holyoake resisted that pressure, considered his decision carefully, and justified his action explicitly by reference to national interests and international legal principles. Political pressure and legal reasoning led to the same result, but only coincidentally, so the one did not necessarily invalidate the other.

Second, in respect of the assertion that the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO), and therefore New Zealand as a member, intervened unlawfully, the author shows that SEATO as such was never present in Vietnam, only members acting individually in response to invitations by the Republic of Vietnam. The government's invocation of SEATO obligations and recommendations was politically prudent but of no legal significance.

Third, to the objection that the Vietnam War was a civil conflict exempt from external interference, the author argues that it was still 'a war across international boundaries' (i.e. the interim boundary established by the Geneva Agreements of 1954) waged by two de facto governments, and thus constituted a breach of international peace, creating a presumption to action by those whose security was threatened.

Fourth and most important, to the accusation that New Zealand acted contrary to the UN Charter, the author replies that it was ultimately that Charter which gave New Zealand the legal grounds for its military action. For the action was explicitly taken pursuant to the right of self-defence specified in Article 51. Granted New Zealand was not directly attacked. In the government's judgement, however, New