

understand Jean other than in male terms, and according to male-centred criteria. This does Jean Batten no service, and detracts from a fine piece of detective work in reconstituting her life history.

SUSAN GROGAN

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Where the Heart Is: A History of Barnardo's in New Zealand 1866-1991. By Mary Collie-Holmes. Barnardo's New Zealand, Wellington, 1991. 127pp. NZ price: \$19.50.

WITH *Where the Heart Is* Mary Collie-Holmes has provided a comprehensive account of the evolution of Barnardo's in New Zealand. She charts the organization's development from its initial beginnings as a channel for New Zealand benevolence to British orphans, and other disadvantaged children, to its eventual emergence, in the late 1960s, as an active purveyor of child welfare services in New Zealand. This evolution was slow and dependent on a reluctance to recognize that New Zealand children also required aid despite the entrenched view that New Zealand was a land of plenty and thus in no need of Barnardo's services. In tracing this development Collie-Holmes provides an exhaustive narration of the organization's changing aspirations, structures, supporters and personnel. The narrative is enlivened by photographs of past and present Barnardo's workers and supporters, and by some rather whimsical illustrations at the beginning of each chapter.

Yet there is little attempt to locate the history of Barnardo's within the context of developing statutory or voluntary child welfare services in New Zealand, and indeed governmental and other charitable organizations are mentioned only when they impinged on the activities of Barnardo's itself. Nonetheless, *Where the Heart Is* contains an interesting account of an English organization, which gradually became an autonomous and resolutely New Zealand enterprise whose philosophies and services were increasingly predicated on local needs and conditions.

SHAYLEEN THOMPSON

Australian National University

The Intervening Years: a New Zealand account of the years between the last two visits of Halley's comet. By Neil Begg. John McIndoe, Dunedin, 1992. 216pp. NZ price: \$39.95.

NEIL BEGG'S roots lie in the comfortable certainties and sense of duty of Presbyterian Otago. His great-grandfather dedicated Dunedin's First Church in 1873; at his private school in the 1920s small boys pelted each other with gumnuts in the name of Continuance or Prohibition. The well-developed social conscience of the family was typically expressed through the profession of medicine. As well as Neil Begg himself, his brother Charles, his father and two uncles were doctors.

Part of this book is about medicine, but by no means all. There are several main

themes, all of interest to historians. The first is war, from the viewpoint of a medical non-combatant at a responsible level. Begg incorporates in his narrative moving extracts from the First World War diaries of his father, who served with the New Zealand Field Ambulance. The account of his own war service in North Africa and Italy, also with diary extracts, is a deliberate and effective counterpoint to it.

A highly qualified paediatrician, Begg devoted most of his professional life to preventive medicine. As Medical Advisor to the Plunket Society for 21 years from 1956, he helped shape early childhood care in New Zealand. He was energetic in using people-power to mount public campaigns, for flammability standards in children's nightwear, for example, or for the prevention of hydatids. He supervised the introduction of an oral vaccine against poliomyelitis. In the 1960s he campaigned on a wider field promoting, in trial areas of South-East Asia, a specially developed milk biscuit for malnourished children.

The Intervening Years is not a controversial book, and there is no reliving of old feuds. Begg writes well, with measured dignity and the sense of a life well spent, from a position of privilege, but with broad humanity.

DOROTHY PAGE

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**AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND LAW IN HISTORY
SOCIETY CONFERENCE**

The Australian and New Zealand Law in History Society conference will be held in Wellington on 1-3 July 1994. Themes are:

Law and colonial societies

Law and labour

Law and the family

Presentations are welcome on these themes or other aspects of law and history. Anyone wishing to give a paper, workshop, panel/roundtable discussion or a discussion of work in progress should send an abstract to Bronwyn Dalley by 30 April 1994.

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