

much less attention than nineteenth-century sectarian controversies.

*Bible and Society* is very attractively produced with appropriate monochrome photographs, cartoons and other illustrations at the beginning (and sometimes the end) of each chapter. Much more than a narrow institutional history, it is a good model of how studies of particular organizations can be used as vehicles for exploring wider themes.

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*The Dictionary of New Zealand Biography: Volume III: 1901–1920.* Auckland University Press/Department of Internal Affairs, 649pp. NZ price: \$130.00. ISBN 1-86940-200-6.

A DICTIONARY OF NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY should be representative, reliable, and readable. Volumes I and II of *The Dictionary of New Zealand Biography* established a reputation for being all of these, and Volume III maintains and perhaps increases it. This volume contains memoirs of 606 people who made their mark between 1901 and 1920, but it includes some born as early as the 1830s (the remarkable Eria Tutara-Kanika Raukura, 1834/5–1938) and some dying as late as the 1980s (e.g. Amy Elizabeth Turnbull, 1885–1988). Most of those included in this volume were born in the 1860s or 1870s. Not surprisingly, many of these were born outside New Zealand and settled here; it will be interesting to see if Volume IV produces a majority of New Zealand-born subjects. The introduction states that 'the proportion of New Zealanders born in New Zealand rises from 52% in 1901 to 72% by 1916'. Figures from a couple of letters of the alphabet in this volume suggest that the percentage for those included in this volume is rather less than 52%, i.e. the Dictionary's selection proportionately slightly favours the foreign-born. The volume, despite its focus on 1901–1920, thus covers a wide spectrum of New Zealand history: it would be helpful in Volume IV to have a cumulative index added to the other very full indexes, to facilitate location of subjects in the various volumes.

The volume is representative in its coverage. Fourteen per cent of the memoirs are on Maori (i.e. about 84 biographies) and this permits a vivid depiction of the Maori population and its varied contribution to New Zealand life, in politics, social history, the war effort, and in sport. The occupations of the Europeans naturally depict a primarily agricultural community, and the editorial team has been skilful in finding a considerable number of farmers, landowners and horticulturists interesting enough to have significant articles. There is one swagger (James Cox) and one dog-breeder (W. I. McIntyre).

Politicians, civil servants, church leaders, lawyers, doctors, and educationists of course form the ballast of this volume, as they do of any such, but it is in the supposedly 'marginal' lives that the flavour of a nation is caught, and in that this volume succeeds very well. The editorial panels are to be congratulated on the extent to which they have included subjects which reflect the routine tasks of a society: there are a hairdresser, a groundsman, a waiter, and a custodian to set beside the various prime ministers, bishops, and professors.

The development of organized sport and recreation is an important feature of this volume, and it is clear that New Zealand by the end of the nineteenth century was participating in the recreational boom characteristic of the British Empire generally, and that in certain sports it was already in the forefront. This volume includes nine mountain-

eers, led by the Graham brothers, one of whom, Peter Graham, took part in six of the first eight ascents of Mount Cook. There are seven rugby players, but, perhaps surprisingly, only one person is included as primarily a cricketer (Dan Reese, the first New Zealander to score a century for his country — in 1903).

It would be presumptuous for this reviewer — in no sense an authority on New Zealand history — to comment on the reliability of the articles. But it can be said that the vital dates of persons included have been energetically sought, and it has been possible to establish dates of birth and parentage for a commendably high proportion. The article lengths allow for quite detailed treatment of careers and few articles seem cramped. The standard of proof-reading is high, and the text is very attractively but also economically presented on the page — a vital feature in a reference book.

The generous article lengths allow for readability. Eccentricities and personal descriptions are included and the reader gets a good sense of the individuality of the subjects. The tone of the contributors is in general comfortable and dispassionate, perhaps sometimes a little too much so. Some subjects hang themselves by a simple account of their deeds, such as the anti-social Effie Richardson, but some fraudsters perhaps escape a little lightly. The general impression is of a rural and small-town society at ease with itself. On the other hand, the article on A. J. Godley, the disastrous commander of the New Zealand forces at Gallipoli, turns what could have been a ferocious demolition into a generous and sympathetic account which places Godley's catastrophic weaknesses in an historical and personal context of considerable force.

This volume is, then, an excellent contribution to its genre. It appears only three years after its predecessor (and that only three years after volume I), a fine rate of production in volumes beautifully published. Dr Claudia Orange, its general editor, her editorial team, and her 405 contributors are to be congratulated on their progress through New Zealand's history and on the quality of their own contribution to it.

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