

two female historians. In a cruel, indeed offensive way, he dismisses their approach as small-minded and narrow. Few readers of this journal will find the ploy convincing.

Of course if your interests are those of the reader with several hours to kill, then you will find some rewards here. There is some strong writing about relationships and some nice evocations of place (although the fascination with Canterbury, and the unfair prejudices about other parts of this country, get tiresome and are hardly news to readers of Eldred-Grigg). There is also some brave self-mocking about the author's tastes in food, design and underwear (I assume it is self-mocking, because it simply cannot be serious!). But in the end the self portrayed is not sufficiently interesting or surprising to hold one's attention. The book becomes tedious and self-indulgent.

All of which is to conclude that if indeed Eldred-Grigg is departing the ranks of the analytical historians, then one hopes he does not leave history behind as a subject-matter. He does indeed have considerable skills as a writer and novelist, but they are most successfully used when he projects his feelings onto historical settings outside himself. I am quite happy for Eldred-Grigg to remain obsessed by Canterbury and by either the very rich or the very poor, so long as those obsessions are translated into fine works of historical imagination such as *Oracles and Miracles* or *Gardens of Fire*. Historians can learn much from such books; they will learn little of interest from *My History, I think*.

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Ties of Blood and Empire: New Zealand's Involvement in Middle East Defence and the Suez Crisis 1947-57. By Malcolm Templeton. Auckland University Press in association with the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs, Auckland, 1994. 278 pp. NZ price: \$34.95. ISBN 1-86940-097-6.

NOT ONLY the New Zealand Maori once were warriors. Pakeha New Zealanders throughout the country's brief history have proved to be not adverse to rushing off to war whenever the trumpet sounded anywhere around the world. Indeed, the late Sir Keith Sinclair once suggested that New Zealanders could be regarded as the Prussians of the South Pacific.

One war in which New Zealand did not find itself involved, partly because it lasted only a few days, was the war between Britain, France and Israel, on the one hand, and Egypt, on the other, from 29 October - 6 November 1956. Malcolm Templeton, who during a very distinguished career of almost 40 years in New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs served on the New Zealand mission to the United Nations at the time of the Suez Crisis, has written an excellent study of New Zealand's attitude to and near involvement in the Suez debacle.

Templeton recounts and analyses the events leading up to the collusion of Britain, France and Israel to overthrow President Nasser of Egypt by military force and retake control of the Suez Canal which Nasser had nationalized. Much of this part of the book is already well known and has been well documented since the archives were opened in the late 1980s. Less well known until now, and of particular interest to New Zealand

readers, is why New Zealand, with its ANZUS commitment to the United States and its adherence to the principles of peace and collective security embodied in the United Nations, publicly supported Britain and nearly got itself involved in the invasion. Templeton clearly and persuasively answers these questions.

In 1956 New Zealand had little experience of or independence in foreign and defence policies. Despite misgivings, New Zealand politicians emotionally and intellectually tended to accept the lead of the British, who as Templeton reveals were not above deliberately misleading or even blatantly lying to New Zealand if it suited their interests.

With several notable exceptions, such as Thomas Macdonald and John Marshall, New Zealand's politicians appeared to lack the intelligence, knowledge, experience or courage to question what they were told by the British Prime Minister, Anthony Eden, and his subordinates. That was not true of the founding fathers of New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the officials Carl Berendsen and Alister McIntosh, who seriously questioned both the propriety of Britain's action and the wisdom of New Zealand's acquiescence and near complicity. Both men believed in and acted on the principle of morality in foreign policy.

When the crisis occurred the New Zealand cruiser HMNSZ *Royalist* was engaged in exercises with the British fleet in the Mediterranean. New Zealand's Prime Minister, Sidney Holland, without consulting either Cabinet or Parliament, had responded to a British inquiry some weeks before affirming that the *Royalist* could remain with the fleet and participate in the hostilities. Following a Cabinet meeting, however, Holland told Eden that New Zealand would prefer to have the *Royalist* return home and that was agreed to. Although hostilities subsequently broke out before the *Royalist* could leave the fleet, the New Zealand Cabinet decided that it should not be involved in the fighting.

Ties of Blood and Empire is interesting, not only because of the light it throws on the Suez Crisis and New Zealand's reaction to it, but also for the insight into the attitudes and personalities of New Zealand's contemporary politicians. Many were conservative returned soldiers with negative racial attitudes towards Egyptians. Holland in a message to Eden used the phrase 'ties of blood and empire', which gave Templeton his book's title, but the ethnocentric context in which Holland and others viewed the situation might better have been expressed as 'the prejudices of racism and jingoism'.

Holland, who was never as irrationally aggressive over Suez as the Australian Prime Minister, Robert Menzies, may be excused and his actions understood as being partly motivated by a simple and simplistic loyalty to Britain and partly effected by the onset of debilitating ill-health. Templeton is somewhat less charitable to Clifton Webb, New Zealand's High Commissioner in London, who had an 'infallible gift for getting his prophecies wrong' and who was reluctant to offend Eden, and Leslie Munro, New Zealand's bellicose permanent representative to the United Nations, who in the case of Suez, if not Hungary, expressed the view that to a great power 'legality is subordinate to the maintenance of vital interests' and who suggested that New Zealand also 'may have to accommodate principle to interest and friendship'.

McIntosh confided to Macdonald that, 'I think Munro's reply is as monstrous as it is typical' while Berendsen publicly attacked New Zealand's and Australia's support of Britain as doing 'greater credit to their hearts than their heads — or their consciences'. Nevertheless, though McIntosh privately agreed with Berendsen that Eden's policy was 'criminal folly' and 'he ought to be impeached', McIntosh had to concede that Holland's policy had kept New Zealand united. Although the Department of Foreign Affairs 'has been very sick about the line we have taken', concluded McIntosh, the 'Government and the public glory in the charge' that New Zealand was 'a straightout British stooge'.

Templeton writes well and carefully documents both his major generalizations and

many of his facts. Indeed, one third of the book is made up of appendices and notes. There is also a useful map and a very useful chronology at the start of the book.

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Annotated Bibliography for the History of Medicine & Health in New Zealand. Compiled by Derek Dow. Hocken Library, University of Otago, Dunedin, 1994. 322 pp. NZ price: \$39.50. ISBN 0-902041-59-2.

THIS IS THE FIRST bibliography of published works on the history of medicine and health in New Zealand. As such, it will be an extremely useful guide to sources for Honours students and thesis writers researching in the social history of medicine, as well as a guide to lists of readings for the undergraduate courses that have recently been established in this field. There are sections on social welfare, public health, demography and geriatrics, Maori health, women's health, children's health, hospitals, communicable diseases, mental health and handicap, the medical and nursing professions, alternative medicine and ancillary services, and an additional section on the Cook Islands. Dow has also included local and general histories, biographies, autobiographies and other bibliographies that contain relevant material.

Dow has adopted an inclusive philosophy. His bibliography includes unpublished theses and research essays (at least those available in university libraries), which comprise 10% of the listed sources and are themselves an essential guide to this growing local body of scholarship. A promotion point is that this is an annotated bibliography; most annotations are brief, consisting of one sentence, but useful. Archival sources are excluded. For reference to these (unpublished) sources, the reader still needs to consult Frank Rogers, *Archives New Zealand, 3, Medicine and Public Health*. Whereas this earlier reference is organized by region, on an institutional basis, and is not comprehensive, Dow's complementary work does appear to provide a full list of published sources in the area to the end of 1993.

Readings are arranged by theme. In principle this should make it easier to find a way around the material, but there are peculiarities in the organization which make it easy to overlook sources. Take women and medicine: not only is there a section with this heading (17.2), but there are further sections curiously titled 'Doctors — Female' (22.3) and 'Doctors — Female — Collective' (22.4). Michael Belgrave's article on women in New Zealand medicine in the April 1988 edition of this journal, for instance, is not listed under 'Women and Medicine' but under 'Doctors — Female — Collective', as is a paper on women in New Zealand medicine by R. Wright-St Clair. This suggests, misleadingly, that these articles are merely collections of autobiographies. Belgrave's PhD thesis, "'Medical Men' and 'Lady Doctors'", is not listed in section 17.2 either, but under 'Medical Profession — General' (17.1). Similarly, a researcher of nursing history might be surprised to discover no mention of Pat Sargison's bibliography under 'Nursing Profession' or 'Nurses'; instead this essential source, mentioned in the foreword, is found only under 'Bibliographies'. These oddities of arrangement can be overcome by using the index, which is organized in three parts: an author, a persons and a general index, but the reader has to do the cross-referencing.