

season for these two sports. Sport generally is booming in post-war London.

But great though the attractions of the capital may be, there will be many soldiers who will wish to travel further afield and learn something of the country and its varied people. It would, of course, be impossible to make more than a passing acquaintance with both England and the English in fourteen days. To a foreigner it would be difficult to become even remotely acquainted in as many weeks, but a New Zealander is not, and will not feel a foreigner. He will be visiting the land that gave birth to his grand-parents and his great grand-parents, and wherever he wanders he will feel at home. He will find a ready welcome, too, for New Zealanders generally rank high in the regard of the people of Britain.

There is no country quite like England; and equally true, there are no people quite like the English. It is easier to get to know the former than the latter, but it is difficult to decide which is the more interesting and the more varied. The English combine the characteristics of many people in their make-up. There were the Early Britons with a civilization of their own that gave way to that of the Romans who, for 400 years, made their home in England. When they left, the Danes and the Saxons came, and later the Norman-French. They did not conquer England but rather did they become absorbed until they were part of the English race.

Even so, throughout the length and breadth of the land, there are to be found today strong traces of the various races: in Cornwall the small dark descendants of the Iberians; in the south-east the stocky Roman type; in the east and north-east the tall, fair Scandinavian; in other districts the sturdy Norman type.

And with these people came foreign culture, soon to be adapted by the English until it became the culture of

their land. From France, Italy and the Gothic North came its early architecture. Its fashions in dress came at different times from Italy, France, and Spain. Its literature, rich in English tradition and spirit, took its forms from many lands, too—its early ballad from Provencal troubadours, the satire from ancient Rome, the sonnet from Italy, the essay from France, the novel from Spain. But the final products were essentially English.

Just as varied as the people is the English countryside. In fact, it is doubtful if any country, including New Zealand, can show a greater variety of scenery, urban and rural, than England. Within its shores are miniature Alps, miniature Danubes and Volgas, miniature fjords, miniature marshes, miniature steppes, miniature forests, and miniature lakes. There is a constant change in the landscape, and in



*The Forth Bridge near Edinburgh*

the space of a hundred miles is scenery similar to that to be found in most European countries. And with its landscapes are magnificent cities, towns that are mediaeval in their