



# THINGS TO COME—



## STATIC



**T**HE Cockney humour of Syd Walker," wrote a critic recently, "is warm and fluid and full of spirit." Didn't he get mixed up between Syd and Johnnie?

**A** MAN laughed so much while listening in to a variety programme that he collapsed and died. An open verdict was returned at the inquest, because what he had been laughing at was a mystery.

**F**ROM an interview with a yodeller: "Actually, yodelling should be performed only on the summit of a mountain." We agree.

*Said a bass, "When I sang in the choir  
My voice was considerably hoir.  
One day my voice rose,  
Or so the tale goes,  
Till it stuck on the top of the spoir."*

**A** NEWSPAPER headline: "Vicar's Attack On Music-Hall Language." Has somebody been swearing like an old troupier?

**A** LADY reader wants to know "how to tune these swing instruments." That's easy, lady, you don't.

**T**HERE'S one thing about the average radio joke—it has stood the test of time.

**A** MERICA, land of the Bright Idea, has been trying some novelty broadcasts. A contralto broadcast from a submarine under water. She now calls herself a Deep C Diva.

**A** N actress has had a cigarette named after her. The point is, of course, will it draw?

**A** PRODUCER tells us he feels like a billiard ball, he's so much out of pocket after his recent shows.

**I** N America, a hot trumpeter was broadcast while playing at the bottom of a coal-mine. The idea was a good one.

**T**HERE can be no doubt about the arrival of Spring; a Scottish comedian has just taken down his Christmas decorations.

**A** SKED why they did not use more recordings, the NBC (America) replied: Would you rather kiss a girl or her picture?

**I** NCORRECT rumour: That Clifford Odets is writing an American play entitled "Arms and the Ban."

**W**HEN Mother first told Bill (our office boy, you know), that fish was good for his brain, Bill immediately started to cause a great deal of trouble, although we can't be sure if it was the fish that sharpened his wits, or dodging the ranger. At all events, Bill since then has remained convinced that he owes his intelligence to fish twice a week, and he is at present stoking up on schnapper in anticipation of a Public Service efficiency test. Since Bill really is quite brainless, we've been unable to check up on the essentials of the theory, but on Thursday, October 19, at 3.30 p.m., we're taking time off to hear the truth from 1YA in the A.E.C. talk, "How Diet Affects Your Mental Reactions."

### More and More Thrills

Like all the best criminal investigators, "Teddy" Fitzgerald (Fitz of the C.I.D.), is master of any situation. He is the very man to handle the Shiva Society, a secret Indian organisation — wolves in fiends' clothing. The London section destroyed, he proceeds



to India to make a clean sweep of the foundations of the Society. Unshaken by mysterious deaths, knifings, garrotings, hangings, and a good deal else that might have deterred a less persistent clue collector, "Fitz" and his faithful Ahmed miraculously survive each thrilling instalment as the NBS serial, "The Circle of Shiva," unfolds the story. First main station release: 2YA Saturday, October 21, 8.36 p.m.

### Parodies

"The Boy Stood on the Burning Deck"—do you know the rest of even the first verse of this famous poem? Do you know who wrote it, and when, and where? Or even what

its correct title is, and why? If you do, you are exceptional; and if you know all of its ten verses you are absolutely unique.

In the form in which Mrs. Hemans wrote it in 1830, "Casabianca" is still comparatively unknown to the man in the street. But numberless parodied versions have long enjoyed world-wide popularity wherever the English language is spoken.

Under the title "With apologies to —," W. Roy Hill will present an annotated programme of such parodies (chiefly musical), from 2YA on Thursday, October 19.

### Wit and Humour

When Voltaire said that Admiral Byng was shot to encourage the others, he was witty. When Mr. Collins made his famous proposal to Elizabeth Bennet in "Pride and Prejudice," he was humorous, though unconsciously so. Falstaff was both witty and humorous. Wit may be said to come from the head, whereas humour either comes from the heart or appeals to the heart. This, of course, is a very rough generalisation. However, listeners should know more about it after Tuesday night of next week, when Dr. Howard will deal with wit and humour in the Winter Course session from 4YA, at 7.30 p.m.

### The Family of Bach

The family of Bach must be regarded as almost a dynasty in musical history. It was actively musical for seven generations, and "of some sixty Bachs known by name and profession all but seven were organists, cantors, or town musicians, many of them of eminence in their profession." The greatest was Johann Sebastian Bach. He was married twice and became the father of twenty children. Of his sons, four are especially illustrious — Wilhelm Friedmann, Carl Philipp Emanuel, Johann Christoph Friedrich, and John Christian. As soon as the international situation allows us to return to normal programmes, listeners will hear interesting examples of music of the Bach family, played on instruments of the period, by Zillah and Ronald Castle.

### A Novelist's Job

About 5,000 novels are published every year in Britain, and many times that number are written. But how does an author set about writing a novel? How does he choose