



# THINGS TO COME—



## STATIC



**A** CERTAIN radio comedian who writes all his own material wants to go for a cruise on a ship without any stewards. He likes making up his own bunk.

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**A** BBC producer in said to have a shirt-front on which are written the autographs of twenty famous stars. Never mind, perhaps they'll come out in the wash.

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**A** N American comedian, having fallen upon hard times, has got himself a job demolishing buildings. He says that it's the only chance he's ever had of bringing the house down.

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**DEFINITION** of the English Radiolympia: Set Fair.

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**A** LOT of German propaganda is recorded first on gramophone records. One-sided?

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**SOME** English concert parties had such bad business last season, we hear, that they seriously considered employing a chucker-in!

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**A** N American aviator says he is sick and tired of flying. It makes him soar every time he takes off.

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**IT** is in America too, that they are broadcasting lullabies at midnight to send people to sleep. A sort of vocal anaesthetic!

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**YOU'D** hardly think it possible, but we found someone the other day who thought a filibuster was a trainer who breaks in female horses!

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**SAID** one tramp to another: 'Ullo, 'Ector, you ain't 'arf looking listless! Replied the other: Yus, it's this blinkin' insomnia come on me again. It keeps waking me up every few days.

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**SOMEBODY** complained the other day that his flat was so small there was only room to eat pressed beef.

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**A** VISITOR to the BBC once asked, "That statue over the front of Broadcasting House—what does it stand for?" "Because," replied an official gently, "it'd look silly lying down."

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**THE** college boy wired his brother: "Have failed in five subjects. Prepare father." The brother wired back: "Father prepared. Prepare yourself."

**T**HERE are people who think that the plays of the last century must have been written in his spare moments by Noah on the Ark. They argue that things must be real on the stage, and that audiences no longer want their villains served up in long black whiskers and tail-coat, their heroes with fair wavy locks and interestingly spiritual mien. The break away from the old melodrama, which operated under its own sort of Queensberry rules, came with a play called "Caste," by Tom Robertson. "Caste" sounds rather stilted, perhaps, in 1939, but it is a memorable play in dramatic history. Listeners will hear it from 2YA Wellington, on Sunday, October 22, at 9.25 p.m.

### Silly

It has already been recorded on these pages that our artist has a contrary mind. Here we have F. W. Vosseler, a perfectly sane, serious, and enthusiastic lover of The Wide Open Spaces, giving a talk from 2YA



on Wednesday, October 25, at 8.40 p.m., on "Making the Best of Summer Holidays," and this artist fellow has to spoil everything by looking on the absolutely blackest side of things. If Mr. Vosseler had decided to talk about the gentle summer rain we should probably have had a drawing of someone dying of thirst in the Urewera Desert.

### Horrid Thought

The Rev. Lawrence M. Rogers, despite his calling, has prompted an unholy thought. He has announced his intention to talk from 3YA, at 9.25 p.m. on Tuesday, October 24, on "Modern Discoveries: Picture Words to Printing Press." If man had not found words to clarify his thoughts and means of writing them down to assist his memory, we should have had no coherent research, no electricity, no radio, and no Mr. Rogers. Worst of all, we

should have had no *The Listener*, listeners would not have heard of Mr. Rogers, and Mr. Rogers would have had no audience, and no M.A. degree. It all sounds pretty important, and we're hoping to hear him telling us all about it.

### Strong Poison

Which do you prefer in a murder story, death by strong poison, or by some blunt instrument? If you are interested in crime, real and imaginary, you will hear something to your advantage when G. S. Thomson speaks at 8.40 p.m. from 4YA on Monday, October 23, on "Poison in History and Literature." Mr. Thomson will deal with some of the poisoners of history (he acquits Lucretia Borgia) and will comment on the methods of modern novelists who bump off their victims by this means.

### A Difference In Splitting

There was a Maori who could see no good in Rutherford's splitting of the atom. "Why not he split the kauri shingle, eh?" There must also be many Europeans to whom such work seems useless and incomprehensible. However, popular interest in the infinitely small as well as in the infinitely large is considerable, and no doubt there will be many listeners when "Man and the Atom" is discussed in the Winter Course series at 1YA on Thursday, October 26, at 7.30 p.m.

### A New Vitamin

Dr. Elizabeth Bryson has thought of a new vitamin. "Who knows," she says, "but that one day we may discover yet another vitamin? It may turn out to be the little vitamin of gaiety, of daring, of a little rebellion against the precision of the expert." This is the theme of the last talk in her series "What Shall We Eat?" She appeals for "Fun and Freshness" in food, and is bound to convince everyone who listens to her from 2YA on Tuesday, October 24, at 8.43 p.m.

### Three And One

Does anybody read Ouida now? "Under Two Flags" may survive, but we doubt if any of her other work lives in her centennial year. Her glamorous romances had a great vogue at one time. "Ouida" is one of the celebrities treated in the opening instalment of "Notable Centenaries of 1939," a series to be heard from 1YA on Sunday afternoons, beginning on Sunday, October 22, at 2 p.m. She keeps company with Paul Cezanne, the French artist, one of the greatest influences