

THINGS TO COME—



STATIC

NOTICE on a Nazi concentration camp: "The barbed wire surrounding this camp is charged with electricity. To try and escape through it means instant death. Those trying to do so will be shot."

ACCORDING to Nazi beliefs there are too many foreigners in the world. The Fuehrer has given them twenty-four hours to clear out.

FROM a French newspaper: "The British Minister of War, the Right Honourable Belisha Beacons."

THE stable guard was feeding a bag of buns to a horse when a superior officer came along. "Making a fuss of that horse aren't you?" he barked. "Isn't the nosebag good enough?" Replied the guard: "Normally, sir, I'd say yes. But nothing's too good for this 'orse, sir—we kicked the colonel this morning!"

THE manager asked his office boy: "Hasn't the cashier been in this morning?" "Yes, sir," replied the bright lad. "He came in very early and left again almost at once. I hardly recognised him in a beard."

IT takes a surgeon to make a good living out of hack work!

WE take our hat off to the schoolboy who, asked to give a definition of the Equator, said it was a "Magenot line running round the globe."

NOW, men, you know what to do when your ammunition is exhausted? Yes, Captain, cease firing.

BEVERLEY NICHOLS says this Walter Winchellism is the "best wisecrack of the war." — "I'm neutral. That's what I am. Neutral. I don't care who kills Hitler."

ONE modern child we know is so cynical she won't even believe that the stork brought the baby storks.

THOSE people who live upon their income must necessarily be careful; those who live upon the incomes of others must be clever; and those who live upon their debts must be both.

THE whole world, except the United States of America, is in the Temperance Zone.

WROTE a small boy in an essay: "The king wore a scarlet robe trimmed with vermin."

EVEN in 1832, it seems, freedom of speech meant you could say anything you liked as long as it was nothing you weren't allowed to say. Anyway, in that year, Victor Hugo's play, "Le Roi s'Amuse" was presented in Paris but was instantly banned by the authorities because it showed the chief character, Francois I., King of France, in an unfortunate light. However, if the play itself did not get a good hearing it served as the foundation for Verdi's great opera "Rigoletto." Even when Verdi's opera was presented twenty years later in Italy, permission was at first refused until names and places were changed. The opera has lasted well, and listeners will hear this story of the hunchback jester at 8.30 on Sunday, December 24, from 1YA, Auckland.

Three-Barrel Man

If the English squires of a hundred years ago were "three-bottle" men, Shakespeare's Falstaff was a three-barrel man. He was never so contented as when, with Prince Hal, he quaffed sack, munched capon, and let the rich English oaths roll from his tongue. Although



he bragged about his vices with disarming shamelessness, he was the most engaging old rogue in our literature. Well, you can't express all that in music, but you can capture and reproduce the spirit of the times, and that is what Elgar did in his symphonic study, "Falstaff." This work is featured from 2YA, Wellington, at 2 p.m. on Sunday, December 24.

The Snob Snubbed

"Snooty" may not be in the dictionary, but it is an effective way of describing the state of mind to which some people bring themselves. That is the idea behind Max Afford's little comedy, "Mr. Allchurch Comes to Stay," in which the snob is snubbed. Mrs. Emmaline Page thought Raymond Allchurch a respectable young man and an excellent match for her daughter when he came to stay in the suburban snobbery of the Pages. Crushing the other members of the family underfoot in her vicarious search for "social standing," she arranged a marriage. Later, the respectable Mr. Allchurch was revealed as a bird of different feather . . . and the dénouement, while successfully snubbing the snob disclosed sterling qualities in the oppressed minorities. "Mr. Allchurch Comes to Stay" will be presented at 8.10 p.m. on Saturday, December 30, from 4YA, Dunedin.

Dogs

Listeners who think of dingoes as Australia's typical dogs, should allow Mrs. A. M. Spence-Clark to correct them with the dog-talk in her series from 3YA at 7.40 p.m. on Friday, December 29. She will talk about the Blue Heeler, the Kelpie, the Sydney Silkie, and the Australian Terrier, a list which seems to us to provide irrefutable evidence that Bradman is not the only good thing that's come out of the land of sharks and Ned Kelly.

Pinafore

If Gilbert and Sullivan had managed to write one opera for every Gilbert and Sullivan enthusiast, there would probably be as many favourite comic operas as there are enthusiasts, so we shan't take the risk of saying that "H.M.S. Pinafore" is the most popular of all their merry works. But it is merry, and bright, and light, and full of laughter. Perhaps no songs are heard more often in more bathrooms of a morning than the songs about the ruler of the Queen's Navee, Little Buttercup, and the others. Station 2YA will broadcast "H.M.S. Pinafore" at 7 p.m. on Monday, December 25.

Who's Hooper?

Is Hooper really Hooper, and is he a suitable match for the Innkeeper's daughter? For Hooper was a swindler, and the man at the inn, who's lost his memory and found the Innkeeper's daughter instead, looks suspiciously like him. Sad to say, the Innkeeper does not hear of this until it's almost too late.