



THINGS TO COME—



STATIC



“WE have decided to leave it to the parents whether a boy wears shorts or longs, but to insist that he shall not expose his leg from the middle of his thigh to the middle of his calf.”—*Extract from report on schoolboys' clothing in a New Zealand paper.*

Adopting a covering which would leave just the bare necessities, so to speak.

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AN English comedian complains: “We’ve been a bit slow over this registration, haven’t we? Why, the Nazis’ numbers have been up for months!”

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NAZI soldiers wearing coats of mail gives the same bright fellow a lyrical inspiration:

*Is this the secret weapon
That poor old Adolf planned?
That none of the Nazis have to fight
Until they’re all ‘half-canned’?”*

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WE know a girl who still persists in thinking a black-out is a Negro taking an afternoon stroll.

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THE camp food somewhere apparently was not too good because the young recruit went to his commanding officer and said: “Excuse me, sir, but can I see the doctor?”

“Which doctor?”

“Say, do you think I’m a heathen?”

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HAVE you ever reflected (in your sane moments) that it takes a contortionist to prove that it doesn’t pay to go straight?

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WE know a man who was so lazy he gave up walking in his sleep because no one would give him a lift.

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TALKING of laziness, a navvy was limping along one day, and a passer-by inquired whether he was in pain. “Yus,” replied the pick-an-shoveller, “I got a nail sticking through me shoe.” “Then why,” asked the passer-by, “don’t you knock it down?”

“Wot? In me bloomin’ dinner hour?”

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A FRIEND of ours told us his breakfast always consisted of a pound of steak, a bulldog, and a bottle of whisky. So we said to him, “What’s the bulldog for?” and he replied, “To eat the steak, you mutt.”

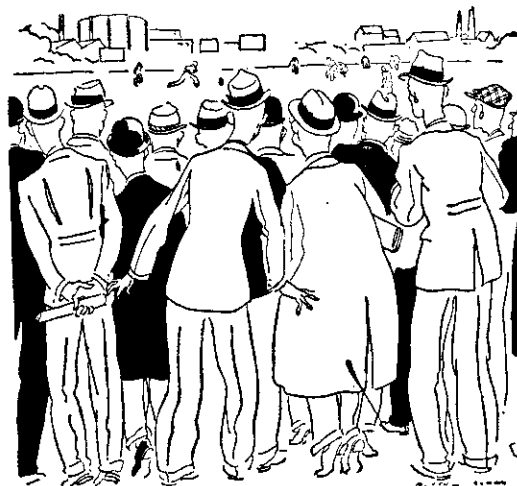
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IT is reported that there will be probably a bad coal shortage in Germany during this war. The Fuehrer, it seems, can’t fuel all the people all the time.

FOR popular items for the holiday season, stations have been digging into their libraries. Station 1YA has a famous English concert party, the Arcadian Follies, at 9.25 p.m. on Monday, January 1; 3YA has “In Town To-night,” featured at 9.46 p.m. on the same evening, with Tommy Handley on Saturday, January 6; while 4YA revives “Hail Variety” at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, January 2.

Plunket Shield

Plunket Shield cricket is again prominent in the programmes. Matches beginning at the end of this week will be concluded in the first days of next week, and the end of next week will introduce another. Already, Wellington and Auckland have played at Wellington, and Canterbury have played Otago at Christchurch. On Friday, December 29, the Wellington-Canterbury match begins at Wellington and continues on the Saturday,



Monday, and Tuesday. On each day 2YA will broadcast progress reports on times set out fully in the programmes in this issue. The Auckland-Otago match begins at Auckland on Saturday, December 30, and continues on the following Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. On Saturday, January 6, the Auckland-Canterbury match will begin at Auckland, with 1YA handling the news as it comes through.

First and Last

We have heard of one or two listeners, certainly not more, who have failed to register enthusiasm when Olga Coelho’s name appears in the programmes. Fortunately, we

know of thousands who look forward eagerly to every chance of hearing her unusual singing and those accompaniments on that very Brazilian instrument of hers. They will all be glad to see that she is included in 4YA’s programme for Sunday, December 31, at 9.25 p.m.—one of the last items in a year made pleasanter by her visit.

Cinderella

When 2YA broadcast “Cinderella” on December 26 it was called “A Christmas Pantomime” and we were wondering what name 4YA would find for the item when its turn came to be broadcast in Dunedin. Well, it is still a Christmas Pantomime, still Cinderella, and still as good as ever, with many of the best artists in Australia contributing to an item whose popularity is timeless, whether it is broadcast at the end of 1939 or the beginning of 1940. In Dunedin it will be heard at 8 p.m. on New Year’s Day.

Work and Play

A recent letter in *The Listener* raised a question about Mozart’s private life (which someone else has described as “brilliant at its dawn and clouded at its close”). He was certainly fond of ball games, particularly billiards and bowls, and all the while the games were in progress he hummed themes for compositions to himself. Sometimes he would stop in the middle of a game and make notes of a melody which would later appear in one of his works. But while he made a brief note or two, most of his composing was done in his head — that clever head which, when he was only six, could remember great works of old masters. Mozart’s “Mass in G Major” will be presented from 3YA, Christchurch, at 9.25 p.m. on Sunday, December 31.

Czech Butcher Boy

Antonin Dvorak started life under the roof of a village butcher and publican. Later he became a butcher boy himself. But his butcher-father played the zither, and the sweet sounds set the boy longing to be a musician. He learnt to sing and play the violin, piano, and organ. In 1857 he was enrolled in a music school in Prague, and to keep himself he played the viola in cafes and the organ in a lunatic asylum. He was desperately poor. He had no money for books and music, could not hire a piano or go to concerts. He said later: “As for Mozart and