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of long words or terms where short ones would do, to say nothing of more serious charges. But the improvement in the general level of newspaper English in the last century or less has been marked. People to-day simply wouldn't tolerate the absurd paraphrases and pomposities of the old-time newspaper. Journalism is often compared unfavourably with literature. There is no clear line between the two. What appears in a paper may be literature; what appears in a book may make a journalist weep for the English language. There is a great deal of good writing in newspapers and periodicals. To many people a printed word has special authority when it appears between covers, but that does not alter the fact that there is any amount of bad writing in books.

Then there is the radio. It is often said that the radio corrupts musical taste by putting out rubbish. What of the taste it cultivates by putting out good music? A very wide range of the



"... A characteristic of public life"

best music is now available to everybody at a trifling cost in money and no more personal trouble than studying programmes and turning a knob. There has been nothing like it before. It is significant that music teachers are very busy and competitions are crowded. The radio also offers good spoken English. In the last few years millions have heard such English who never heard it before. They have listened to men and women who choose their words well and speak pleasantly. It is not only that many of the most prominent radio speakers are skilled in the use of English—Mr. Churchill is a master of it—but on the rank and file who go to the microphone to speak for a short set period on a given subject, there is a compulsion to be brief and to the point. I refuse to believe that all this is quite ineffective as an influence.

A Deep-Seated Disease

So much for the defence. There is, of course, a vast amount to be done to raise standards. One common condition, which I believe to be the result of a deep-seated disease, is inflation—long-windedness in writing and speech, and the preference for the high-sounding to the simple. This is a characteristic of public life, and there are signs that the people served by public men like it. If the humble constable tells a chum about an afternoon off, he says: "I'm going to Silverstream" (for the sake of illustration), but if he is giving evidence, he tells the Court he "proceeded" to Silverstream. No prominent man has a doctor nowadays; he has a "medical adviser." People don't live in homes, they reside in residences. This sort of thing is all over the place, and the practice is growing. A few months ago, a London municipal body decided that its ratcatcher should in future be known as the

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ISSUED BY THE



DEPT. OF HEALTH



TONSILS!

—Useful or Dangerous?

This question puzzles parents. Tonsils act as a filter, protecting the body from harmful germs, so long as they remain healthy.

But tonsils may get damaged and then they may become enlarged or septic. Mere enlargement does not usually matter, but if they become pockets of septic material which is slowly absorbed by the body—that's another story.

Tonsils infected in this way poison the body. They cause repeated attacks of sore throat—nasal catarrh—earache—bronchitis—proneness to coughs and recurrent colds—malnutrition, in time—lack of development—anaemia—lassitude—headaches.

Enlarged tonsils seldom need removing because of size alone—unless they become big enough to block the throat and cause mouth breathing, thickness of speech, and restless sleep. If these things are happening—disease or mechanical blockage—HAVE THE TONSILS OUT.

If you have a healthy throat, and want to keep it that way, exercise daily in the fresh air, eat a balanced diet, and use your handkerchief freely to keep the nasal passages clear.

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