

tells us more about her than the subject of this broadcast—as if the poet Shelley couldn't draw all the inspiration he needed, if not more, from any moderately sympathetic and good-looking female!

The Bohemian Life

TO quote Laver's biography of Whistler, "For most young men 'la vie de Boheme' is at some period of their existence the only paradise in which they still believe, a paradise inhabited by a fluttering cloud of grisettes, each transfigured by the light of imagination into something half-houri and half guardian-angel." It is by the light of this same imagination that we still listen enthralled to Puccini's opera *La Boheme* which we had from 4YA one recent Sunday night. The scene which it portrays, the famous



latin quarter, is now something so different as to seem another place entirely. Nowadays there are no "artists' quarters" except those artificially encouraged to flourish for the tourist trade and the war has put a stop to that, too. Read any reliable biography of a modern artist and you will find him, with few exceptions, a modest and ordinary husband, father, and citizen when not engaged in the practice of his trade. You may be reasonably assured that if he lives the gay life of Bohemia he is not spending enough time on his work to be one of the top-notchers. This need not trouble us, however, in listening to the raptures of Rudolph, the romantic starvation of Schaubard and Marcel, the inevitably tragic tale of Mimi. The atmosphere so conjured up is theatrical, squalid, bohemian, and entrancing, but the latter fact is due to Puccini rather than to Murger, whose romantic story was but the prelude to *Trilby*; and even this is now so dated that it is in danger of becoming a curio.

Cerebral

"The export of brains" has long been a subject for discussion in New Zealand. There is now, however, a system by which there can be "re-import of brains" into the Dominion, for a register of New Zealanders who have won distinctions in their various callings, and wish to return to the Dominion, has been compiled by the Department of Industrial and Scientific Research in London, and a duplicate sent to New Zealand.
—News Item.

OH, if there is among Us here
A Man, whose Erudition
Is Globally Sufficient to
Deserve an Exhibition
Involving Costly Travel to
The Seats of England's Mighty
He may Perform a Service for
An Oracle from Blighty!

OH, Brains may Come and Brains may
Go
But I stay Here Forever
In Spite of Earnest Swotting and
Industrious Endeavour
To Stimulate and Cultivate
My Cerebral Proclivities,
I must Remain where I am Now
With Limited Activities.

EXILED Grey Matter, it appears,
Seeks Rehabilitation;
So, there's another Headache for
The Leaders of the Nation.
But Dehydration Experts could
Devise a special plan
To re-import Selected Brains
In Capsule or in Can.
—E.R.B.

Books on Music For The Intelligent Listener

THE LISTENER'S GUIDE TO MUSIC, by Percy A. Scholes, 7/10 Posted.

A lucid and non-technical explanation of musical forms and terms, together with a concert-goer's glossary.

MODERN HARMONY. An elementary analysis by Hilda Andrews, 4/4 Posted. A valuable introduction both for those who favour "modern" music and for those who do not.

SIBELIUS, by Cecil Gray, 14/9 Posted. An absorbing study of the life and work of the great Finnish composer and a discussion of the origins of his music. A complete list of compositions is included.

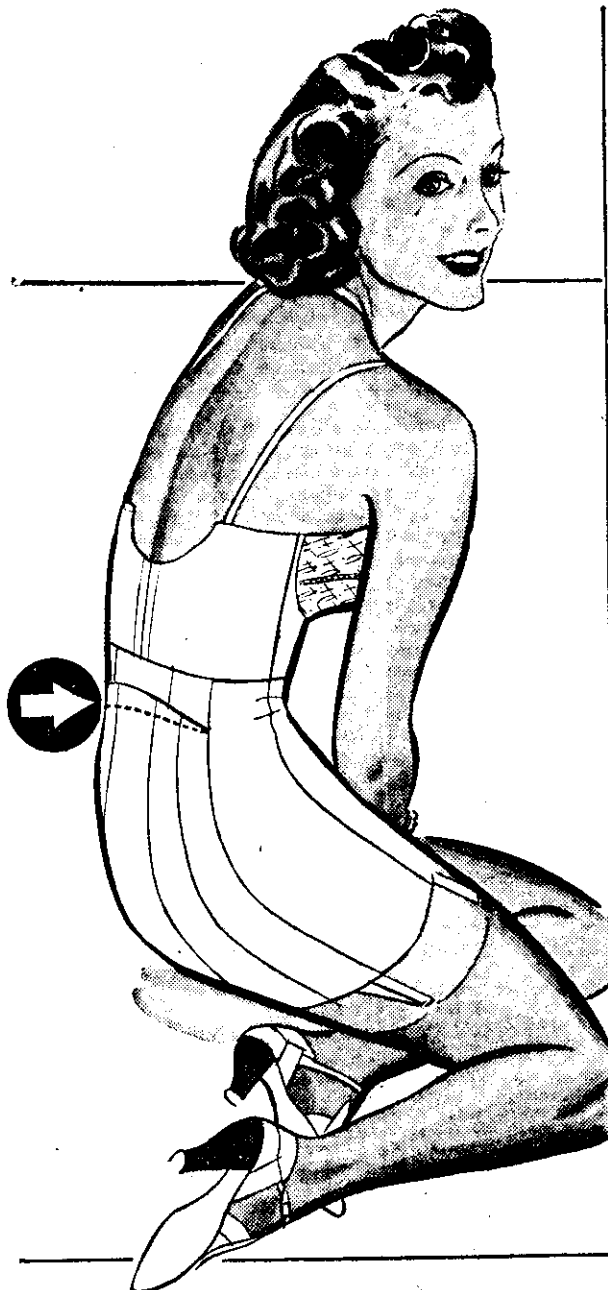
HANDBOOK OF SOVIET MUSICIANS, by Egor Boelza, 7/2 Posted. Biographical notes on forty outstanding Soviet composers, together with an up-to-date list of their works. Illustrated.

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