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facilitate the importation of good British books in foreign countries.

## DRAMA

WAR conditions have curtailed the Council's work in this field, but before the war the Sadler's Wells Ballet went to the Low Countries, John Gielgud played Hamlet at Elsinore, the Dublin Gate Theatre went to Greece, the Old Vic to Portugal, Italy, and the Near East, and in 1937 the Sadler's Wells Ballet and the London production of Shaw's *Candida* were sent to Paris for the Exhibition. The Council collaborates with CEMA and ENSA in wartime entertainment in Britain.

*Though nothing has been decided yet, New Zealand may expect to see Sadler's Wells Ballet and Old Vic Shakespeare tours of this country, if we make it quite clear to the Council that such tours would be welcomed.*

## FINE ARTS

NEW ZEALANDERS have seen the exhibition of Children's Art, one of three which have been touring the world. Before the war, touring exhibitions of British paintings went to various countries, and arts sections were contributed to the Empire exhibition in Johannesburg in 1938, and the New York World's Fair in 1939.

## FILMS

A NEWSREEL "British News" goes to all the Colonies, being a composite made up weekly from the issues of the leading newsreel companies. A more important work, though, is the production of documentaries. These are available in both 35 mm and 16 mm sizes, and several are in technicolour. Thirty were produced in 1943. They go to the Institutes and Anglophil Societies, and in New Zealand, some are held and used by the Education Department, while some can be borrowed from the United Kingdom High-Commissioner.

## LAW

A COMMITTEE under the chairmanship of Lord Finlay advises the Council on means by which the English and Scottish legal systems might become better understood abroad. A Foyer of United Nations lawyers has now been established at Lincoln's Inn.

## LECTURES

DISTINGUISHED people have lectured abroad for the Council, including Sir Lawrence Bragg (scientist), Sir Harold Spencer Jones (Astronomer Royal), Leslie Howard (who was killed when the passenger aeroplane bringing him back from Portugal in 1943 was shot down by a German bomber), W. L. Renwick (Professor of English), Dr. C. D. Darlington, Sir John Russell (scientists), T. S. Eliot (poet), Sir Harold Gillies (surgeon), and many others.

## MUSIC

HERE in New Zealand we have already heard some of the modern British music which would not have been recorded but for the Council — William Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast*, Arthur Bliss' Piano Concerto, and E. J. Moeran's First Symphony. The Institutes and Anglophil Societies house collections of music and records, with gramophones, and British Music Libraries are being



SOVIET ARCHITECTS examine British Council photographs in the premises of the Soviet Union of Architects, Moscow.

established in appropriate centres. Musicians who have toured abroad for the Council include Dame Myra Hess, Dr. Malcolm Sargent, Astra Desmond, Lionel Tertis, the Boyd Neel String Orchestra, the Fleet Street Chair, and the Tudor Singers, among others. One of the purposes of Sir Angus Gillan's visit to New Zealand was to find out whether there would be any interest in tours by such performers, or in a tour by, for instance, a string quartet.

## PRESS

FOREIGN Press delegations have visited Britain during the war at the instigation of the Council. Information, feature material, and photographs are supplied to 225 distribution centres in 86 foreign countries, the Dominions, and Colonies, chiefly in the form of "London Newsletter" and "Facts About Britain." Articles can be requested, to be commissioned by the Council in England.

## SCIENCE

A MONTHLY newsletter, "Monthly Science News," is published in five languages. Many distinguished lecturers (some already mentioned) have been sent abroad. Scientific information is exchanged, through the Council, between Britain and the U.S.S.R.

The Medical Department publishes "British Medical Bulletin." On the average each condensed article in it has been republished in over five overseas medical journals. A short series of medical films has been planned, and the first, "Surgery in Chest Disease," had an excellent reception in the press. In 1941, at the request of Argentina, Sir Harold Gillies, the New Zealand-born plastic surgeon, was sent to Latin-America to lecture and demonstrate. Subsequently, sets of the instruments he uses were presented to the hospitals in which he lectured.

### The Home Division

A branch of Council activity to which Sir Angus Gillan attaches great importance is its Home Division, which operates among visitors to the British Isles. Canadians and United States Forces have used the leave courses planned for them very freely, and have

advanced their own personal studies as well as discovering something about British learning and British institutions. Films, including films on the life and thought of other united nations were shown in their camps, and concerts provided for the United States forces by CEMA were financed by the Council. Arrangements are being made for servicemen in Britain (which will of course include New Zealanders) to avail themselves of the Council's assistance before returning home.

The Canadians made much use of the Council's scheme for introducing overseas men to their counterparts in Britain. Three wheat farmers visited the Plant

Breeding Institute at Cambridge, a bee-keeper spent his leave at a commercial apiary, trappers saw the treatment and preparation of furs, a party of undertakers and embalmers spent a busman's holiday with their British and American colleagues, and men who in civil life were prison guards visited Wormwood Scrubs.

In their short tour of New Zealand, Sir Angus and Mr. Towsey met members of the Government, departmental heads, university staffs and council members, members of the Institute of International Affairs, the Overseas League and the Royal Empire Society, writers, librarians, journalists, musicians, amateur actors, civic authorities, and others. They heard many suggestions about what the Council ought to do in New Zealand, but from their point of view, the matter of immediate importance was to get an impression of the reception that would be given to Council activities in general. Meetings were not without their lighter side. There was the Mayor in one town, who had been told about the "exploratory tour" and in a very sincere but halting speech of welcome said he was very pleased Sir Angus had come "to exploit the position so far as New Zealand is concerned." And there was the councillor who hurried round afterwards and said, "I'm sorry it was so flat—we didn't know it would be so interesting. We thought you were here after trade." But there was obvious willingness on all sides to get something started, and it is probably not over-committing anyone to say that the decisions, on our part to invite the Council to operate here, and on the Council's part to carry out what Sir Angus Gillan recommends, are now merely a matter of formality.

—A.A.

## "THE SILVER TENOR" Death of Ernest McKinlay

ERNEST MCKINLAY, the Dunedin-born singer, and an authority on Maori songs, collapsed and died in a city street in Sydney on May 22. McKinlay, who was known as the "Silver Tenor," was 56 years old. His photograph appears here.

He started his career as a semi-amateur. During 1914 he was rehearsing during the lunch hour in Dunedin, when a woman entered the hall. When McKinlay had finished she went up to the stage and said many complimentary things about his singing. She was Ellen Terry, the famous English actress, who was touring the Dominion at the time.

McKinlay went to the last war and became a prominent member of the original Kiwis' Concert Party. On his return to New Zealand he toured the Dominion. Then he made two world tours with the Westminster Glee Singers and appeared seven times at Buckingham Palace.

For the last 15 years he had lived in Sydney, where his energetic propaganda for Maori music bore good fruit. He used to say that he got his finest inspiration from the singing of the famous French-Canadian tenor, Paul Dufault. He was quite unspoiled by his success and was popular with his fellow-artists and audiences.



He wrote a small book which he called "Ways and By-ways of a Singing Kiwi with the New Zealand Divisional Entertainers in France." This is an account of the efforts of the Kiwis and other troupes to relieve the monotony of trench warfare in Flanders.