

priority rights of servicemen and their families, and the balance of hardship; but the A.C.E. plunged right in with their usual competence and straightened out several tangles. I thought that they slightly under-rated the practical difficulties of exchanging properties just now, but their advice was good: "If you have a place that keeps out the rain, it is better to ride the storm in it, and save and plan."

## New Judgments

STATION 3YA broadcast recently a "New Judgment" on Dickens, delivered by J. B. Priestley. I found it neither new nor very thoroughly developed; it was the not very startling information that much of Dickens' work is social criticism, an attack on the less lovable Victorian characteristics, and that



his later novels, supposedly weaker, were in reality less exuberant and more social. This is all very well; but surely the point about Dickens' social criticism, at its best, is that it is a great deal more. Mr. Pecksniff, for instance, remarking that it is well that others should be less fortunate than we are, "Otherwise what would become of our sense of gratitude," is clearly a type of the eternal damnation of Pure Individualism. But what a poor creature would he be if he was nothing more than a type; we must allow Dickens a pure disinterested love of making his gargoyles genuine flesh and blood and his individuals at least individuals. Similarly his working-class characters are far more than proletarians—and he knew a great deal about the proletariat—they are men; which is why Dickens, and even Mr. Priestley his disciple, in such a work as "Daylight on Saturday," have one great advantage over the more self-consciously proletarian writers; they do not approach the reader with the words: "Dr. Livingstone, I presume?"

## Juxtaposition

A SESSION that provides pleasant music grouped in such a way that the mind is stimulated by a problem, is something to remember. Such a one was a recent 7 o'clock orchestral hour from 12M, when we heard consecutively Telemann's Suite in A Minor for flute and strings, and Bach's Suite in B Minor, also for flute and strings. Here, side by side, were two contemporaneous works drafted in the same musical idiom, bound by the same art form, and written for similar groupings of instruments. Telemann represents some of the best of

music which was turned out in the early that spate of competent and pleasing 18th century; the quality that makes Bach's music a little more than this is hard enough to define and clarify, and our best chance is to hear it in such juxtaposition. The Bach quite, to my mind, ranks beside the first Partita and the 5th Brandenburg Concerto as an ideal introduction to his music, which is not to say that it will not wear every bit as well as works that are more obscure at first hearing. How the Telemann Suite stands in relation to its composer's countless other suites and his 170 concertos, I have no means of knowing, but it leaves me hoping that more will be available some day soon.

## "The Most Innocent of Men"

[I would have justified Francis Thompson's tragic existence if he had never written anything but "The Hound of Heaven," which Coventry Patmore called "One of the very great odes the language can boast." But the story of Francis Thompson's life, as told by Francis Meynell (in "New Judgment," heard from 4YA) makes one wonder how a man could write any poetry at all under such appallingly degrading conditions. Persecuted at school, failing in his aspirations for the priesthood, he was sent to study medicine, but sold his textbooks to buy drugs. His father, whose point of view was, after all, a very human one, said at last, "It is intolerable!" Francis Thompson replied, "No, that is unjust; it is I who am intolerable!" But in spite of ill-health and utter wretchedness, of doss-houses, of stony charity, of nights on the Embankment, of steady downward progress, this strange and proud soul found it in him to write the poetry of faith in God, and to find Christ walking on the water, "not of Gennasareth, but Thames."

## CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON ADULT EDUCATION

At the request of the Hon. the Minister of Education, the National Council of Adult Education has set up a special Consultative Committee to survey the present system of adult education, and in particular (i) to recommend a suitable form of organisation; (ii) to report on the relation of the adult education movement to organisations providing vocational and non-vocational education; (iii) to consider methods of securing adequate and stable finance for present and future needs; and (iv) to consider the best forms of community centre for urban and rural areas. Notice is hereby given that any persons or organisations desiring to present evidence on any or all of these matters, should communicate with "The Hon. Secretary, Consultative Committee on Adult Education, Auckland University College, Auckland, C.I.", as soon as possible, but not later than June 30, 1945, and obtain details of order of reference. Written evidence (eight copies) should be in the secretary's hands not later than July 20, 1945. It is intended that the Committee will sit in each of the four main centres during the month of August. Persons desiring to appear before the Committee should advise the secretary before June 30, 1945. (Signed) A. B. THOMPSON, Hon. Secretary.

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