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anyone. But politics needs this "depth" as much as any other part of our national life, just as we want statesmen who add the possession of firm principles to their other qualifications for high office.

The latter part of your question seems to imply that there may be a design to form a "Christian" party which will enter the lists of political struggles and inevitably produce an anti-clerical party. I am sure that the National Council would strenuously oppose any such plan. Religion is concerned with the principles and pre-suppositions which are behind all the parties.

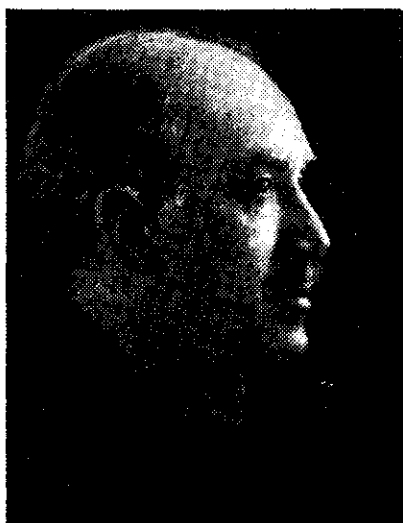
(6) Does the fact that you will have delegates from Australia and U.S.A. mean that the Conference is a part of a world-wide movement for the stimulating of Christianity? If the answer is Yes, is there reason for encouragement in the result of any similar Conference overseas?

YES, Bishop Moyes, of Armidale, New South Wales, and Mr. R. J. F. Boyer, Chairman of the Australian Broadcasting

Commission, are to take part in our Conference. Both of them come from out of a similar movement in the Commonwealth. We had hoped that Dr. Henry Smith Leiper, U.S.A. Secretary of the World Council of Churches, would also be with us, and Dr. T. Z. Koo, from the Church in China. But transport has proved impossible. However, two leading chaplains from the U.S. Navy in the Pacific have found it possible to come. And also Dr. Surjit Singh, of the Student Christian Movement, who hails from India. So we will have persons to help to make it real to us, as you say, that our Conference is part of a world-wide movement, and that the Church is the great international society.

The World Council of Churches was formed in 1938 just before the war, and still awaits ratification by the constituent Churches. But pending that next great step forward, even now 90 Churches in many nations are linked together in an organisation with similar objectives to those of our own Council. And with the coming of more normal communications, we may look for a growing community of the Church throughout the world. This is the "great new fact of our time," as Archbishop Temple called it.

"THEY WON'T GET IT ON A PLATTER"



Alan Blakey photograph

TWO talks on painting in IYA's Winter Course Series "The Arts To-day" are being given (Thursday, August 30, and Thursday, September 6), by A. J. C. Fisher (whose photograph appears above), Director of the Elam School of Art, Auckland, since 1924, when he arrived from England from the Royal College of Art and the Slade School. When *The Listener* called to see him the week of VJ, Mr. Fisher had not put his talks down on paper, but he had a clear idea of their scope. In the first talk he would speak about the early days of painting before the printing press was invented, before methods of quick reproduction were discovered, before the days of easy transportation and before the era of the camera. This was the age, he said, when a painter's job was to tell stories pictorially to people; his painting was objective visual painting, not imaginative or emotional painting and the stress was on the subject matter, the story (or, in the case of portraiture, the likeness) rather than on the aesthetic form.

In his second talk Mr. Fisher proposed to describe how the advent of the printing press, the camera and the cinema, even the ease of transporting works of art from one town or one country to another had thrown the artist out of his job of telling stories to the people. Painting became subjective personal art with the emphasis on the side of the personal emotion and feeling of the artist himself; communication and illustration, for the benefit of the public, were of secondary importance. "It becomes merely a happy coincidence if the artist finds another human being thrilled in his way at the same thing," Mr. Fisher said.

"You hear a lot of talk about presenting culture to the masses, introducing good paintings to the millions, explaining which pictures are good and which are bad and so on, but you never hear anyone suggest that the millions have got to get down and learn about it," Mr. Fisher complained. "You can go to Eden Park and everyone in the grandstands, women as well as men, knows every step of the game, rules and all. But painting—that's something different! They think anyone can go into a gallery and say that's good, this is bad, with no training whatever. Well, it won't do. They'll have to get down and do some work, learn the rudiments. If they want culture they won't get it handed to them on a platter, they'll have to work for it."

THE Petone Ladies' Choir has been heard already in the first of four sessions scheduled for broadcasting from 2ZB. This choir was founded ten years ago and since then has become well known in Wellington. It has entertained thousands of soldiers at Trentham. The broadcasts from 2ZB will be heard on alternate Saturday evenings at 7 o'clock, the second being due for Saturday, September 1.