



## The care of the Eyes in Industry

There are many men and women, now working in factories for the first time, who suffer from headaches and tired eyes. Here are a few tips which will help them.

- (1) If you are provided with goggles, wear them.
- (2) Try to work with the light on the job and not on eye level.
- (3) Get as much fresh air as you can.
- (4) If you get a foreign body in your eye, report at once to the First Aid department. Don't rub the eye.
- (5) Bathe your eyes night and morning with an approved medicated lotion. Optrex is used by thousands of workers. It helps keep the eyes healthy and comfortable.
- (6) If headaches persist and your eyes continue to ache, water or irritate, consult a Qualified Practitioner.

Licensed by the makers of

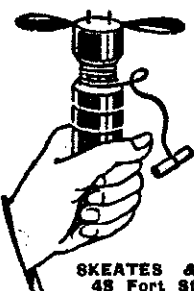


EYE LOTION

In the interests of Ocular Hygiene

Optrex (Overseas) Ltd., 17 Wadsworth Road, Perivale, Middlesex, England. 9.4

## HELICOPTER TOY



Pull cord as shown and propeller will rise over 50ft in the air. Adjustable fast or slow climb. With two propellers and cord 4/6, post 3d. A Scientific Toy.

SKEATES & WHITE LTD.  
45 Fort Street, Auckland

(continued from previous page)

not appear to have any distinction at all. Yet, commonplace in this respect though she is, she gives an impression of brilliant talent if we put her beside Miss Ngaio Marsh, whose "Overture to Death" was also suggested by several correspondents. Mr. De Voto has put himself on record as believing that Miss Marsh as well as Miss Sayers and Miss Margery Allingham writes her novels in "excellent prose" and this throws for me a good deal of light on Mr. De Voto's opinions as a critic. I hadn't quite realised before, in spite of his own rather messy style, that he was totally insensitive to writing. It would be impossible, I should think, for anyone with the faintest feeling for words to describe the unappetising sawdust which Miss Marsh has poured into her pages as "excellent prose," or as prose at all except in the sense that distinguishes prose from verse. And here again the book is mostly padding. There is the notion that you could commit a murder by rigging up a gun in a piano, so that the victim will shoot himself when he presses down the pedal, but this is embedded in the dialogue and doings of a lot of faked-up English county people who are even more tedious than those of "The Nine Tailors."

### How Can You Care?

The enthusiastic reader of detective stories will indignantly object at this point that I am reading for the wrong things; that I ought not to be expecting good writing, characterisation, human interest, or even atmosphere. He is right, of course, though I was not fully aware of it till I attempted "Flowers for the

Judge," considered by connoisseurs one of the best books of one of the masters of this school, Miss Margery Allingham. I looked forward to this novel especially because it was read by a member of my family, an expert of immense experience, and reported upon very favourably, before I had got it to myself. But when I did, I found it completely unreadable. The story and the writing alike showed a surface so wooden and dead that I could not keep my mind on the page. How can you care who committed a murder which has never really been made to take place, because the writer hasn't any ability of even the most ordinary kind to make you see or feel it? How can you probe the possibilities of guilt among characters who all seem alike because they are all simply names on the page? It was then that I understood that a true connoisseur of this fiction is able to suspend the demands of his imagination and literary taste and take the thing as an intellectual problem. But how you arrive at that state of mind is what I do not understand.

### The Addict's Defence

My experience with this second batch of novels has, therefore, been even more disillusioning than my experience with the first, and my final conclusion is that the reading of detective stories is simply a kind of vice that, for silliness and minor harmfulness, ranks somewhere between crossword puzzles and smoking. This conclusion seems borne out by the violence of the letters I have been receiving. Detective-story readers feel guilty, they are habitually on the defensive, and all their talk about "well-written" mysteries is simply an excuse for their vice, like the reasons that the alcoholic can always produce for a

drink. One of the letters I have had shows the addict in his frankest and most shameless phase. This lady begins by trying, like the others, to give me some guidance in picking out the better grade stories, but as she proceeds, she goes all to pieces. She says that she has read hundreds of detective stories, but "it is surprising how few I would recommend to another. However, a poor detective story is better than none at all. Try again. With a little better luck, you'll find one that you admire and enjoy. Then you, too, may be A MYSTERY FIEND."

This letter has made my blood run cold: so the opium smoker tells the novice not to mind if the first pipe makes him sick; and I fall back for reassurance on the valiant little band of readers who sympathise with my views on the subject. One of these tells me that I have underestimated both the badness of the detective stories themselves and the lax mental habits of those who enjoy them. The worst of it is, he says that the true addict, half the time, never even finds out who has committed the murder. The addict reads not to find anything out, but merely to get the mild stimulation of the succession of unexpected incidents and of the suspense itself of looking forward to learning a sensational secret. That this secret is nothing at all and does not really account for the incidents does not matter to such a reader. He has learned from his long indulgence how to connive with the author in cheating: he does not pay any real attention when the disappointing denouement occurs, he does not think back and check the events, he simply closes the book and starts another.

## THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

(Solution to No. 260)



### Clues Across

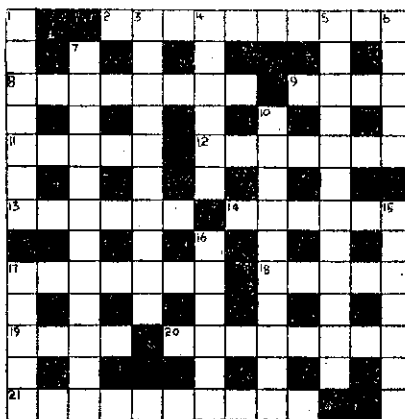
2. Come in tins (anag.)
8. Boys tire of moderation.
9. Scottish river with a festive look.
11. Land going with benefice.
12. "Frustrate his — tricks" (National Anthem).
13. What teacher did — with a different beginning it would come to nothing.
14. Found in oxide also.
17. "And — windows, richly light, Casting a dim religious light . . ." (Milton, "Il Penseroso.")
18. "Her children — up, and call her blessed." (Proverbs).

19. Michael Arne wrote a song about one with a delicate air.
20. Dies down (anag.).
21. Piece of cipher writing.

### Clues Down

1. Mental penetration from this gin?
3. Kind of fern.
4. Mixture of tea and ink.
5. The end of study?
6. "Who steals my purse steals —." (Othello).
7. In a servile manner.
10. This narcotic plant conceals a dragon.
15. Slim.
16. Doing nothing.
17. Under this law Princess Elizabeth could not come to the Throne.

(No. 261. Constructed by R.W.C.)



## Prize-Winning Composition

LAST year, as our readers may recall, the first award was made of the Philip Neill Memorial Prize for musical composition, and the winner was the Christchurch composer Douglas Lilburn, who submitted a Prelude and Fugue for organ. The runner-up then was H. C. Luscombe, Lecturer in Music at the Auckland Teachers' Training College. This year, the stipulated form for composition was a Sonata, and Mr. Luscombe is the prize-winner for 1945, with a Sonata for Violin and Piano. This work will be broadcast from 4YA at 8.16 p.m. on Sunday, September 23, by Ethel Wallace (violinist), with Dr. V. E. Galway (who is one of the judges) at the piano.

## New Session at 12B

A NEW session under the general title, "Eric Bell Entertains," is being heard on Sundays at 4 p.m. from 12B. An element of surprise is in these programmes for, until Eric Bell takes the air, listeners are more or less in the dark as to whether he will use the piano or novachord or both. Occasionally he will be assisted by guest artists.

A good deal of thought has been given to the preparation of this series, which will be well varied. Some of the programme sub-titles will be: "In Old Pekin," "Stephen Foster," "Eric Bell Plays Chopin," "A Few Minutes with Gershwin," "Romantic Hawaii." (See photograph on page 20).