

QUARTET BY ALFRED HILL

A STRING quartet composed by Alfred Hill (below) was recently recorded in Australia by the Queensland State Quartet, and while the players were in Sydney a gathering assembled to meet them and Mr. Hill, and to hear a programme of chamber music. The occasion was mentioned by Neville Cardus, music critic to the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

In the first place, it seemed that such a thing as a performance by a string quartet was a novelty: "Last night in the Conservatorium a large audience enjoyed the rare privilege in Sydney of listening to a chamber quartet, thanks to four players who are subsidised by the State Government of Queensland. Something of the same eccentric idealism may be emulated, or at least talked about, in New South Wales one of these fine days. . . ."

Mr. Cardus described the performances of a quartet by Haydn, one by Beethoven, and one by Arnold Bax, and then went on:

"But the most musical and heartfelt interpretation of the concert came in the last work of the programme, played as an addition by request—a quartet by Alfred Hill (the 11th of 17 which he has written).

"This composition was new to me, and I have lived in this country more than

five years at a stretch and have heard much Australian music of little sensibility and less art. This quartet by Alfred Hill is beautiful in warm melody, with sympathetic writing for each instrument; it is cultured music of a full and refined sensibility. The Continental influences are of no more account than those which were assimilated by, say, Elgar. Alfred Hill writes easefully and from his heart and from a true culture. Young bloods of to-day may not be interested in such a work, because it avoids wilful dissonance and is perfectly honest."



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practically died out. The racecourse was named, ironically, 'Happy Valley.'

Now Mr. Barrow hopes to see some New Zealand racing stables. There was some good blood here, he had heard. His intention was to buy a small string as owner-trainer either in New Zealand or Australia but, to use his own words, "No more Hongkong for me. Aussie will do from now on." He added that while in prison camp he was able to create a little interest among the prisoners by giving talks on racing and describing the finer points of horse-flesh.

That visit to the Maunganui made a lot of people thoughtful. Probably it made them thankful too—thankful that there had been Allied forces between New Zealand and the Sons of Heaven.

—E.R.B.

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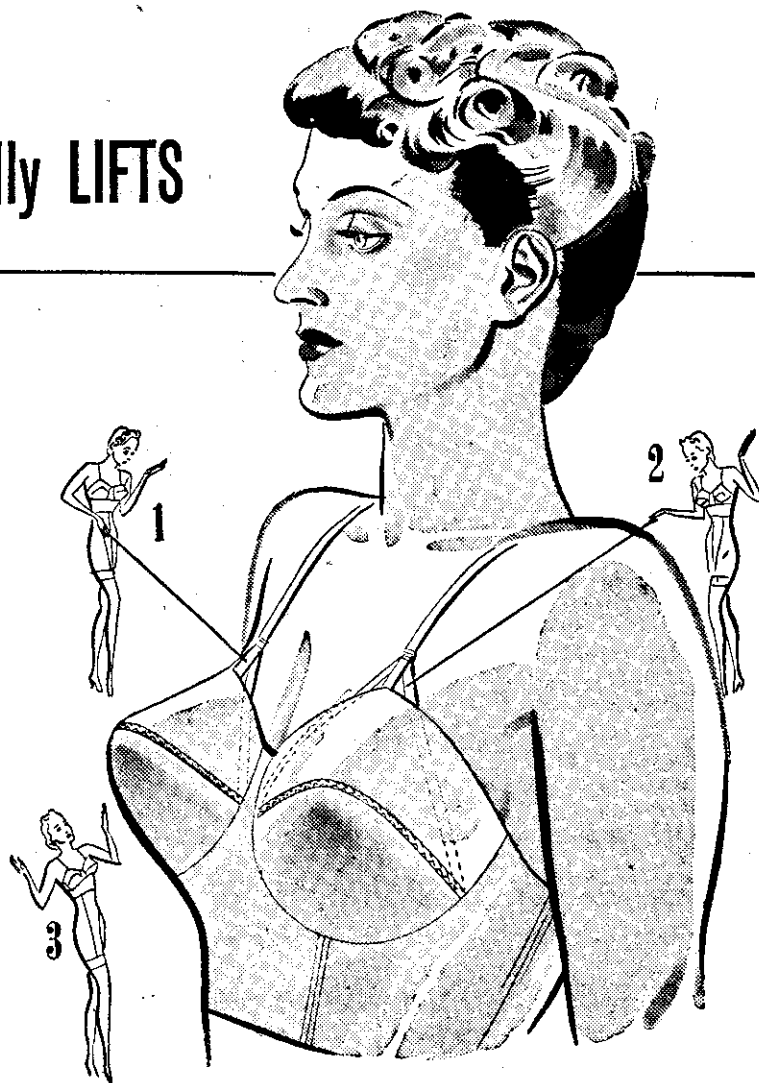
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