

Vive Le Cricket!

(Written for "The Listener")

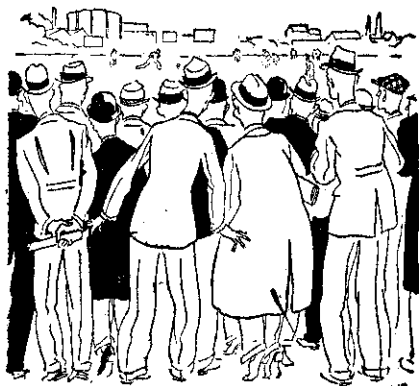
"It is better here than in the stand because we are now straight behind the bowler's arm and can see what the ball is doing."

"Much cooler here than it was in the stand, isn't it, dear?"

"If you watch carefully you can see the slow left-hander turning them back from leg."

"Quite a strong cold wind."

"Yes, and a great assistance to the medium-paced right-hander bowling



"The game is in a very interesting stage"

from the other end. He must be swinging them at least a foot with the new ball."

* * *

"THEY'RE scoring very slowly, aren't they, dear?"

"Well, you see, it is a vital stage in the game. There is a constant struggle between batsman and bowler. Very interesting and instructive. Every ball counts."

"What happened then, dear?"

"The batsman thought that ball was just a little slower than it really was, and so he played too late and missed it."

"But he isn't out."

"Oh no, but the bowler beat him that time. Every ball counts at this stage."

* * *

"OH look, the wind has blown those little things off the top of the wickets."

"Yes, it is strengthening. It will be hard for the fieldsman to judge a high catch by six o'clock."

"But we're not staying till six o'clock, are we?"

"The game is in a very interesting stage. You should watch the struggle between batsman and bowler. See how every ball counts."

"Yes, dear. Every ball counts, right on till six o'clock."

—G. le F.Y.

Wasted Sweetness

A RECITAL by Tom Swinley of Gray's *Elegy* was broadcast recently by 3YA, writes a correspondent. I count myself a hearty adherent of this poem, but I can never hear it without wondering just how successful it is. In the first place, of course, it presents the so-called classical style in poetry at its zenith; and as we are living in an age when the innocent young are still brought up to believe this style to be insincere, undemocratic, and at all points inferior to

romanticism, it is worth remarking that such a condemnation is nonsense. What is it exactly that Gray is saying about the rude forefathers of the hamlet? That their lives and passions are obliterated and forgotten, which is true enough? Or that lives at such a level must contain little of the heroic? This is contradicted by the line about the "village Hampden" and "the petty tyrant of his field." Anyone who knows anything of the heat with which the tiniest municipal and village political issues are contested and the principles that may be at stake knows this to be false; nor would the village Hampden necessarily feel that the stage on which he had acted his life was insufficient.

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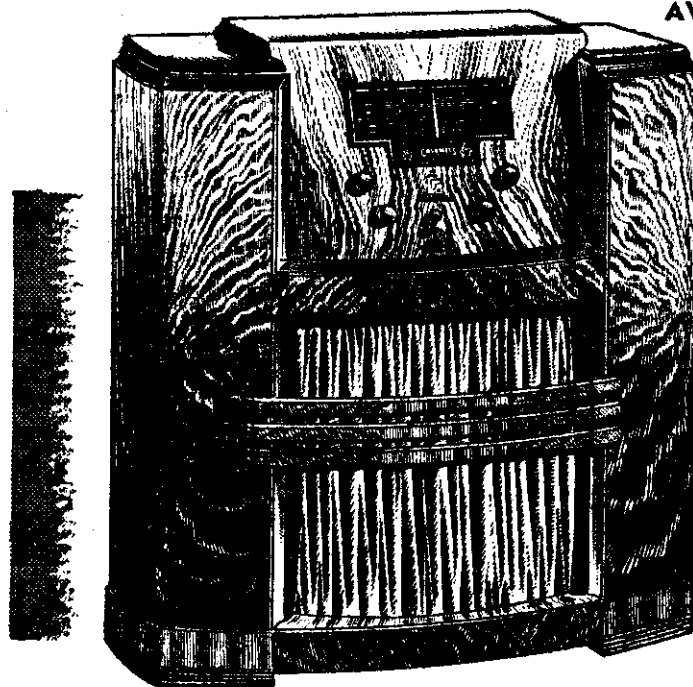
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