

years Liszt spent in Paris, or whether it just happened to be on the other side of the record of Ravel's Toccata, is a matter for conjecture.

## Don't Watch Out

DOES the fear of contracting a disease render a person susceptible to that particular disease? This question was put to the Brains Trust, in a session which I heard direct from the BBC. It might be thought that these hard-headed experts would discount such a suggestion as an old wives' tale, but no; they actually answered the question in the affirmative, although with a qualification. Fear of a certain disease, they announced, would indeed render the patient susceptible to disease, although not necessarily to the particular disease mentioned. An instance was given — people who fear diphtheria for example, often gargle with weird remedies and irritating antiseptics, thereby getting their throats into a perfect state for the reception of diphtheria germs. Other instances of human folly in this respect might be given, and it is as well to realise (with particular reference to the present infantile paralysis in the south) that no preventive medicines are as effective as the sensible health-routines publicised in newspaper and radio by the Health Department, and that to ignore commonsense and resort to quackery encouraged by fear is merely to revert to the dictatorship of witchcraft.

## Half Way House

DURING IZM's orchestral hour the other evening I heard a record which was new to me. On one side of it was a highly concentrated version of Tchaikovsky's first piano concerto, and on the other some highlights from Grieg's piano concerto, first movement. Under new names and with their fine tunes clothed in words, both these concertos have lately fought their way into popular sessions and there established themselves with great success. I take it that the purpose

of this new record is to show that the heights by great men reached and kept were not attained by sudden flight, and that it is advisable to become used, first of all, to "Concerto for Two" then to take a slightly stronger dose of the same mixture with voice and words eliminated, thence working up to a point where one can tolerate Horowitz playing the whole thing. And likewise, in a contrary direction, if one's opportunities for listening are greater than one's resolution in switching off when a work becomes a little stale; if one does not wish at the moment to sit through the whole of the Grieg or the Tchaikowski, but is glad to be reminded briefly of their glamour, here is the answer. A very useful recording, whether one happens to be coming or going.

## The Offence is Rank

NO; this is not an attack on the present organisation of the British film industry, but some further consideration on the "Alice in Wonderland" recordings which are fairly frequently broadcast from Christchurch stations, and have been mentioned on other occasions in these columns. Much of it is passable, some excellent: testy eccentrics like the Caterpillar and Humpty Dumpty are depicted with skill, vision, and colour (I suspect by the same actor); Tweedledum and Tweedledee have been unsuspected and disconcerting infantilism for which one remembers them. But the Mad Hatter's Tea Party is a travesty of the original and had best be dropped into the tea pot in its entirety and forgotten—Arthur Askey, beyond praise in his own sphere, is about as much like the Hatter as your commentator is like Nelson Eddy—and, worst of all, the damsel who portrays Alice gives us merely seventeen's idea of seven. In a recent programme an announcement of these recordings was followed by the words (Carroll-Slaughter). I have had moments of doubt whether this is the name of an author or an indictment of the offence.

## ON THE SPOT WITH UNRRA

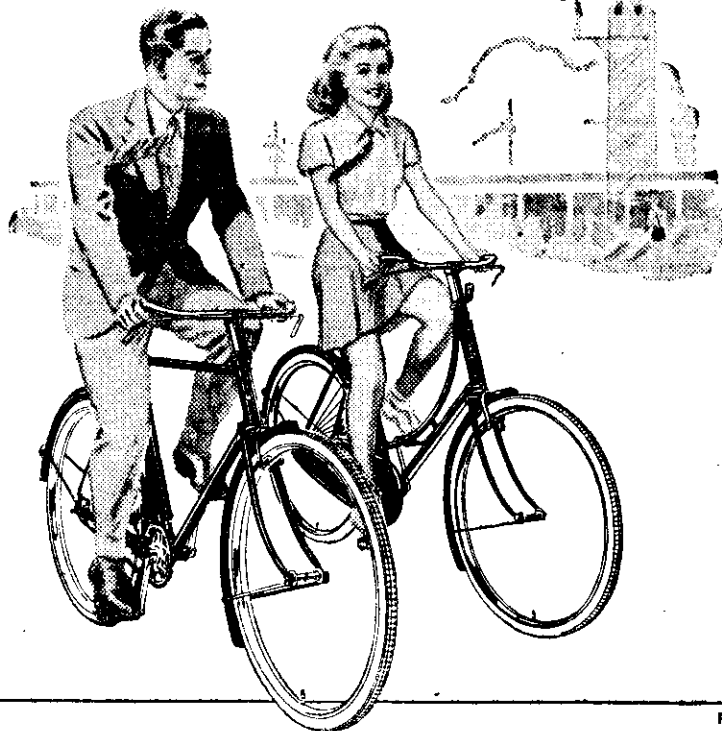
FROM a letter written towards the end of December we take this extract dealing with UNRRA work to assist displaced persons in Germany. The letter was written by a New Zealand nurse, Miss Joyce M. Horner, who was formerly with the Plunket Society in Dunedin.

### HELPING PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES

"WHEN we first came we had 4,000 D.P.'s (displaced persons) and 14 camps, some stone and some wooden barracks, but we have transported many back to Poland, and some further south to better barracks. We are now left with 2,000-odd, and have them fairly comfortably housed, using a building originally built and used for a baby hospital where 'State babies' were born. It is in the woods and centrally heated. We have 600-odd Polish people there, all are quite happy. Then stone barracks, where factory-workers used to live, 975 Polish there, and a village where we have Baltic people, Latvians, Estonians, Lithuanians, etc. They all have their own offices, schools, workshops, entertainment halls, etc., and I have a dispensary and clinic rooms and infirmary in each. All these Projects are being established by degrees to encourage our people to work; the majority have worked as slave labour for years and now reaction has set in and they won't do anything at all. We are encouraging them to help themselves again. My job of course is to keep them healthy and prevent epidemics. All have been immunised against typhoid, typhus, diphtheria, and smallpox, and so far we have had no infectious diseases—the winter will be the test. I have set up clinics in all camps, and examine, weigh, and measure all babies up to 2 years, pre-school children 2-6 years, school children to 16 years. Then we have pre-natal clinics, so all these people are under monthly supervision. V.D. clinics are held also, also T.B. All kitchen workers and food handlers are examined each month, and later I am starting some Home Nursing classes for girls, so our health programme is coming on. . . . Clothing, especially for babies, seems to be the biggest problem I have. I see my babies with very little to wear and it makes me wish I had a quarter of the clothing our New Zealand babies have, especially woollens."

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