no doubt, that they were a considerable community of their own. There was another one, also in *The Listener*, which told us how many fine, half-fine and utterly rainy week-ends we Wellingtonians had had during the past year, making us all feel justified in our frequent week-end complaints about the weather.

We have worked out a few equally interesting calculations among ourselves. Thus:—

It takes a man ten minutes every morning to shave. Assuming that he started at the age of 20 (a very conservative estimate) and that he lives to be 70, that means that he devotes tentimes-seven-times-fifty-two-times f if ty minutes of his life to shaving; in other words 182,000 minutes, which equals approx. 130 times 24 hours or, the working day being a day of eight hours, 390 working days. Allowing for Sundays and holidays this would mean that a man who lives to be 70 spends the working hours of about one and a



"He would reach the summit of Mt. Everest in less than three days."

half years in shaving. In other words: if a man reaching the age of 20 decides to get his whole life's shaving done then and there, he would have to start on the first of January of one year, stand in his bathroom from Monday to Friday, from nine in the morning to half-past-five in the afternoon (with half an hour's lunch time) and shave, Shave, SHAVE until the thirtieth of June of the following year. Or: of two men living to be 70 the one who grows a beard has actually one and a half years more to enjoy himself in than one who shaves. I am sure that all men would grow beards were Applied Arithmetic a more generally practised science.

A man living in Waterloo and going to work in Wellington for 20 years (again a very conservative assumption) travels twenty miles every day. Working five days a week and forty-eight weeks a year he covers 96,000 miles in those twenty years. He actually travels more than twice round the equator. I cannot see why they make such a fuss about world cruising.

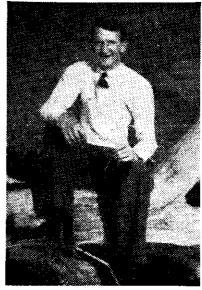
The gentleman who attends to the lift in a well-known Wellington building told me the other day that he makes between 200 and 300 trips a day. I think I am not far off in assuming that doing all his "ups" in one go he would reach the summit of Mount Everest in less than three days and in doing his "downs" in the same way he would be back home before the week is out. In the Empire State Building the task might be accomplished in an even shorter time.

Round The World In Wartime

○ INCE he was a junior announcer at 2ZB in 1938, Michael Miles has managed to have himself transported over a good deal of the world in the course of radio work in various countries. When he had completed two years' broadcasting in New Zealand, Miles went to Australia and was employed by some of the leading stations in Sydney and Melbourne. Early in 1941 he went to Singapore to the staff of the Malayan Broadcasting Corporation. He worked at the Singapore station till 10 days before the surrender, and was sent to Java with a skeleton staff to continue broadcasting until the fall of the island was imminent. Then, with his wife (whom he married in Singapore), he was among the lucky ones who were evacuated to Australia. and he described the hazards of the trip to safety in The Listener when he returned to Wellington in April, 1942.

He was marking time in New Zealand, when he received an appointment to the South African Broadcasting Corporation in Johannesburg. There he began writing and producing his own shows for soldiers in hospital, and the Fox Film Corporation engaged him for a personal appearance tour of their theatres in the Union.

Miles next decided to make for the United States, for New York at that time was one of the focal points from which the war in the Pacific was being covered by radio. With his wife he went



MICHAEL MILES

through Central Africa, and down the Congo by paddle-steamer, ending up in the West African port of Matadi, from which they went to New York.

Mr. and Mrs. Miles arrived a few days before VE Day and Miles was employed by the New York branch of the BBC to make several broadcasts, including one of the city reaction to the news.

On VJ Day, Miles broadcast the VJ Day celebrations from Times Square and a little later took a three months' engagement with the British ENSA. When he last wrote home he was in Europe with a touring party; he gave no information about his future plans.



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