

(continued from previous page)

extent as an adult: and the porridge salt accounts for a considerable quota of the day's supply. Without it, and without soup, there may be a rather niggardly intake of iodide, unless some preparation such as seameal custard is used. By the way, some of the foods that are made with alginic acid as a setting agent — such foods as are made to set when cold milk is added (by contrast with seameal custard, which requires hot milk for its preparation)—as substitutes for seameal, useful though they are in saving fuel and saving work and introducing a variant among milk puddings, contain too little to be satisfactory as sources of iodine, even though the alginic acid has been derived from seaweeds.

Our Only Deficiency Disease

We can state that endemic goitre resulting from iodine deficiency is the only widespread deficiency disease that we know exists in New Zealand. Simple goitre sometimes leads to the toxic form of goitre, a disease which takes its toll in irritability, disfigurement, disablement and even death. There are always more cases of this disabling type of goitre in a population where the incidence of simple goitre is high. Thus one

means of diminishing our admissions to hospitals is to exercise vigilance in the matter of prevention of simple goitre by an adequate intake of iodized salt. That the toxic type of goitre accounts for a good deal of hospitalisation can be judged from an article in *The Lancet* by a prominent surgeon in one of our New Zealand cities not long ago reporting the results of treatment of 350 cases during two and a half years.

There is no compulsion put on New Zealanders to use iodized salt. They have freedom of choice — non-iodized salt and goitre, or iodized salt and no goitre. It is unfortunate that often, when large bags of salt are ordered from the merchant, the only ones in stock contain the non-iodized variety. So it comes about that many of our institutions use non-iodized salt. In one of his publications, Sir Charles Hercus made the suggestion that every bag of ordinary salt should bear the inscription: "Dangerous! Those using non-iodized salt are incurring the risk of developing goitre."

It was also interesting to learn from the Scientific Adviser to the Ministry of Food that in Britain they intend to introduce compulsory iodization of salt, even though their goitre problem is not as widespread as is ours in New Zealand.

BY OUR OWN COMPOSERS

HORDES of composers are hardly to be expected in New Zealand, or anywhere else for that matter, but there are probably more of them in this country than most people imagine. On Monday, December 12, beginning at 8.0 p.m. 1YD will broadcast on relay from the Town Hall Concert Chamber the first half of a concert organised by the Guild of New Zealand Composers and devoted entirely to music written by New Zealanders.

The programme will open with "There is a garden in her face," a part-song by John Tait, and "Son of God to Thee I Cry," an anthem by Ronald Dellow, both sung by the Beresford Street Congregational Church Choir conducted by Ronald Dellow. It will end with Douglas Lilburn's *Divisions* played by the Auckland String Players conducted by Georg Tintner. Among the other items there

will be songs to music by H. C. Lushcombe, Eric Bell, Calypso Brook, Richard Dixon and Georg Tintner, piano compositions by Llewellyn Jones and Henry Shirley, a poem for alto saxophone and piano by Owen Jensen, and a fantasia for violin and piano by Ethel Gibson.

In most cases the composers will take part in the presentation of their own work. There is special interest in Ethel Gibson's *Fantasia*, for the composer is blind. She will play the violin part and will be supported by another blind musician, Julian Lee, at the piano.

Beginning in 1947 as an assembly of Auckland friends with like interests the Guild, which owes its foundation largely to the enthusiasm of Henry Shirley and Dorothea Franchi, became an incorporated society last year, and now has members scattered throughout New Zealand. The first president was Thomas N. Rive, lecturer in music at Auckland University College. Its principal objects, the secretary, Ronald Dellow, told *The Listener*, include the fostering of a higher standard of composition among New Zealanders, the promotion of concerts of New Zealand work, and giving all possible encouragement to the production of New Zealand work by other societies and artists.

"We have a small membership, but no country is exactly over-run with composers," said Mr. Dellow. "Some of our most active members are now studying overseas, and we hope that as they return new works will become available in increasing numbers. Of course the frequency of concerts will largely depend on output—and that depends on inspiration, a factor which cannot be tied to any set programme of production. Then too the measure of public, and perhaps Government, support must have considerable effect. We hope however that music-loving New Zealanders will become increasingly aware of the achievements of the Guild."



THOMAS N. RIVE
President of a thriving guild

N.Z. LISTENER, DECEMBER 9, 1949.

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