



THINGS TO COME—



STATIC



A WORKMAN was walking along Whitehall in London with a roller-blind tucked under his arm, taking it to fix above some official window. At the corner of Downing Street the blind became unrolled, and the workman carefully rolled it up again inch by inch.

A Cockney, standing watching the operation with his hands in his pockets, remarked, "Wotcher got there mate? Annuver peace message from 'Err 'Itler?'"

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NEWS REPORT: "Herr Himmler, head of the Gestapo, has set up a small body of 120 hand-picked officials to keep an eye on the activities of the Gestapo—which watches the Black Guard, which watches the SS, which watches everything else."

*Big fleas have little fleas
Upon their backs to bite 'em.*

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NO, grandma, a depth-charge is not a deep-sea diver's salary!

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"I DON'T mind admitting," stated a man in Court recently, "that I earn my living at crossword puzzles." Evidently a man who believes in calling a spade an agricultural instrument!

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A FRENCH general says that the British are famous for their staying power. We've all heard the famous line, "We just dropped in for five minutes—can't stay a moment longer."

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A FLY lays thirty million eggs in one summer, the naturalists tell. What a good thing it doesn't cluck!

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A MAN was recently charged with stealing a ton of metal from a munitions factory. His plea that he did it in a moment of weakness was not allowed.

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PROFESSOR: What is ordinarily used as a conductor of electricity?

Student (all at sea): Why—er—

Professor: Wire. Correct! Now tell me what is the unit of electric power?

Student: The what, sir?

Professor: Exactly, the watt. Very good; that will do.

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"SHARP DECLINE IN FRENCH BIRTH RATE: That, too, is England's work."

This headline and the inexplicable brief comment came from the Berlin paper *Zwolf Uhr Blatt*

WHEN Bishop Pompallier was appointed Vicar-Apostolic of Western Oceania, he left France in December, 1836, with seven companions, and sailed via Valparaiso and the Pacific Islands. He did not reach Sydney until December, 1837. Of the seven priests and brothers, one had died, and four had been left as missionaries in the Islands. Bishop Pompallier arrived in New Zealand in January, 1838, and began his mission in the North Auckland district. He celebrated his first Mass in Wellington on Christmas Day, 1840. The character and career of this missionary Bishop are to be the subject of a talk at 2YA on Sunday, January 28, at 2.45 p.m. by the Rev. Dr. Walsh.

Ballet

Shortly before the end of last year, Colonel de Basil's Covent Garden Russian Ballet arrived in Australia. On December 30, the company, with a group of 80 dancers, and with the orchestra conducted by Antal Dorati, opened the season at the Theatre Royal, Sydney. One of the most popular



ballets in their repertoire is Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake." The Dance of the Little Swans and Hungarian Dance from this ballet will be presented at 8.15 p.m. approximately, on Tuesday, January 30, from 4YA Dunedin by the Kaikorai Band. It will be interesting to hear what Tchaikovsky's ethereal music sounds like played by a brass band.

Mr. Cooper of Christchurch

One of New Zealand's most promising pianists is young Peter Cooper, of Christchurch. Although still in his early twenties, he has already had successes at Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin, and Ashburton competitions; and recently he was awarded the 1939 New Zealand Scholarship for study at the Royal Academy of Music, London.

Owing to war conditions, the time for the scholarship has been extended to one year. Reports of the critics say that the young southerner plays with an understanding and assurance that bodes well for his future as a pianist; Dr. Edgar Ford has commented upon the surprising maturity and depth of expression in Peter Cooper's work. So more should be heard of him. He is to present a recital of compositions by Scarlatti, Poulenc, Debussy and Rachmaninoff at 8.38 p.m. on Friday, February 2, from 3YA Christchurch.

Soldiering and Biscuits

You have heard the Two Leslie's over the air many times; here is how they began. Sarony went from soldiering to songs, Holmes from biscuits to broadcasting. During the last war Sarony was invalided to Malta, and his first songs were composed for hospital concerts. He had no idea that he would one day write such hits as "I Say Tweet-Tweet." Holmes got round to travelling in biscuits, after working on a farm and playing the piano in a cinema. Later he became Henry Hall's drummer, and later still, discovered that he had a voice. Both having found themselves, the two Leslie's linked up, and the results of their partnership have been many popular radio presentations. They will be heard from 2YA Wellington at 8.33 p.m. on Thursday, February 1. Their item: "Now You've Been and Gorn and Done It."

Understanding Europe

Our Bill says they should have put "Trying to" in front of the title of Mr. Bagley's series of talks on "Understanding Europe" from 3YA (see programme January 31, 7.35 p.m.). For even with Mr. Bagley's assistance, he finds he simply can't make it all out. His proposition seemed to have points, so we consulted our very own artist, who said he could put things right. To hand this week came one of his best drawings: a combination of power politics, Salvador Dali, poached umbrellas and boiled top hats. It's so good that we are holding it to look at ourselves for a week or so, but can't help telling readers to look forward to seeing it soon. Meanwhile, let them listen to Mr. Bagley.

Banned

Because his music represented the "decadent attitude of the lower middle classes" and was "especially dangerous on the musical front in the present class war," Rachmaninoff's compositions were banned in Russia in 1931. Rachmaninoff, who since 1909 has