

# THINGS TO COME—



## STATIC



**N**EWCOMERS to the Navy have shown surprise at the fondness of sailors for knitting. We can't say why; they've always known how to cast off.

**A** BOOK REVIEWER says he likes a novel that flows swiftly. Oddly, it's not so difficult to wade through.

**W**E read somewhere that taxi-drivers often use lotion to stop their hands from getting roughened by constant driving. Most of them seem to be content with a greasing of the palm at the end of the journey.

**W**RITES a critic: "German propaganda is nullified by its lack of facts." There's a shortage of roar materials!

**N**EVER question your wife's good judgment too strenuously. Look whom she married.

**"T**HE man in uniform is once again the idol of France," says a columnist. All the nice Gauls love a soldier.

**I**N the opinion of a fashion expert, many an eminent man owes much to his tailor. But why rub that in?

**A** RETIRED DOCTOR who has started a duck farm says he does not take what the birds say as any reflection on his former professional status.

**T**HE restoration of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy is regarded as a possibility by a contemporary. The House of Perhapsburg?

**A**N American comedian has written a comic epitaph for his own tombstone. However, the joke's not on him yet.

**A**N astronomer says that the world as it is to-day will last for 19,000,000 years. So don't store flags and bunting for peace celebrations in a too inaccessible part of the attic.

**A** WRITER in an English paper points out that as so many women are on war work, there will be very little spring-cleaning done this year. It will be nice to forget the horrors of peace for a little while.

**A** MYSTERIOUS broadcasting station is now advising German soldiers to surrender to the Allies. A sort of Kameradio?

**T**O a courageous northern democracy, the National Broadcasting Service is to pay tribute, as it had done to France and Finland, in a programme "Tribute to Norway," on Sunday afternoon, April 28, from 2YA, Wellington. Featured will be a summarised presentation of Ibsen's play "Peer Gynt," with Grieg's music played by the Danish pianist, Haagen Holenbergh. Isobel Baillie, the visiting English soprano, will sing "Solvieg's Song" and other Norwegian songs, and the visiting English contralto, Gladys Ripley, will present songs by Grieg. Other features will be an imaginary visit to Norway, describing something of the history, countryside and people of this land, and the programme will finish with Grieg's well-loved Piano Concerto in A Minor.

### A Matter of Gender

A bull, as a true Hibernian would say, is a cow of an animal. Perhaps that is where Francis O'Connor found the title for his talk from 1YA at 8 p.m. on Friday, May 3. Perhaps in his talk he will explain the origin of the term. Perhaps this, perhaps that. These are matters beyond our jurisdiction. But we can be sure there will be no perhaps about



the interest of Mither O'Connor's discussion of "some ludicrous blunders in speech." While they are about it, 1YA's programme organisers may get their agricultural experts to tell us whether Hibernian bulls really do look like the bulls Russell Clark has drawn for us. They seem to illustrate the point, whatever it is, but we hope they don't raise any Eire among local Irishmen.

### Gaul—In Two Parts

When Bellini decided to write a tragic opera, he chose for his setting ancient Gaul, so memorably divided at an earlier date by

Julius Caesar into three parts. Bellini wrote his opera, however, in two acts. "Norma" is the story of a high-priestess named Norma and her love for a Roman Pro-Consul in Gaul, named Pollione. Pollione is a fickle man, and divides his love in two parts, ardently wooing another chaste maiden, Adalgisa. Norma is naturally furious, and it looks as if bodies are going to litter the sacred grove. But she decides to take her own life in the end, and Pollione, repentant, goes to the funeral pyre with her, "Norma" (Part 2), will be heard at 9.25 p.m. on Sunday, April 28, from 4YA Dunedin, and despite the slight flippancy of our paragraph, you will find it a very fine opera.

### "Waters of Sorrow"

"Waters of Sorrow," scheduled for early release from 1YA, is a play by the New Zealand writer, Merrick W. Horton, who takes as his story the effect of a Maori curse on land owned by Europeans. It is a powerfully written study of the New Zealand scene, and should have a wide appeal to listeners. Merrick W. Horton, by the way, is a nephew of W. Graeme-Holder, possibly the best known of New Zealand radio writers, and responsible for many successful features over the NBS stations.

### Careful With That Gun!

Although we do not object to letting people shoot themselves for a principle, we hate to have it happen accidentally, and we know, at the bottom of our hearts, that a charge of shot in the seat of the pants is not the laughing matter which comic papers would suggest. So the opening of the shooting season is to be celebrated from 2YA with a talk entitled "Be Careful With That Gun—Some Advice for the Shooting Season." It is to be given at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 30, by J. W. Brimblecombe, an Englishman who finds shooting here much more free and interesting than when he had to depend on the English pheasant for his sport.

### Celebrity

A first taste in the Centennial Music Festival will be given to listeners through New Zealand and to lucky Wellington people, when the celebrity singers engaged to tour with the Festival Symphony Orchestra and Andersen Tyrer, will appear at a concert in the Wellington Town Hall on Saturday, April 27, and Wednesday, May 1. This will be the first public appearance in New Zea-