



THINGS TO COME—



STATIC



ALTHOUGH no one has asked us about it, we have no hesitation in drawing the attention of readers to the fact that in *The Listener* there are sometimes three columns and sometimes four, but never a fifth.

SIXTY-WATT lamp please.

Pearl or plain, madam?

Come now! The knitting craze has gone to your head.

WE know a man who refuses to sign his cheques—says he wishes to remain anonymous.

A BUSINESS man complains that for the past twelve months he has not been able to find a hat that really fits him. He is seriously thinking of changing his restaurant.

"WHAT is the most useful of all social accomplishments?" asks a correspondent. Being able to yawn with the mouth closed.

"I IGNORED the crowded front on my holiday and went for a long walk until I found a nice quiet cove," says a fair correspondent. He took her to the pictures the same night, and by the end of the week had spoken to her father.

IS your wife's opinion sound?

Yes, but that's all.

DON'T act like a baby.

I can't help it. I was born that way.

"HOW do laundries identify each customer's collars?" we are asked. Sometimes we think they must file them for reference.

ON returning from a raid, members of an R.A.F. mess had a meal of grilled steak. Unaccompanied by flaming onions.

THE optimist's motto, propounds a psychologist, is "You never can tell till you try it." And a woman's, "You never can tell till you try it on."

NEWS ITEM: The Matson liner Monterey, on which Mr. C. E. Gauss, newly appointed U.S. Minister to Australia, was a passenger, was held up in San Francisco when the radio operators walked off. (There is no truth in the rumour that they demanded that the ship should first be de-Gaussed.)

ALTERATIONS in the Daventry transmissions timetable have brought new voices and a new method of news announcing to New Zealand listeners. Whereas previously the midday news was re-broadcast direct and also recorded for broadcast within New Zealand at 12.30 midday and 1.15 p.m., now Daventry has altered its timings so that the 12.30 midday re-broadcast is direct from England and is broadcast here as a recording only at 1.15 p.m. New Zealand is now picking up a news broadcast designed for North America, and the new voice and different presentation is very noticeable. The announcer who is a Canadian radio commentator attached to the Canadian forces in England, briefly gives all the main items of news, at much less length than in the ordinary bulletins and following his slightly nasal summary comes a speaker like Vernon Bartlett M.P., to give a commentary obviously intended to interest American listeners especially. Alterations to the Daventry news transmissions are included in the list on our short-wave page this week.

Feminine Appeal

In these days of committees, leagues, boards, councils, societies, and the rest, mere men are beginning to think of feminine appeal in terms of boxes with little slots in the top, held out at street corners wherever they turn. Hence the illustration, which must be



given some connection with the item it is supposed to illustrate, however difficult it may seem to be to relate Hildegard, the Pickens Sisters, and Peggy Cochrane, performing from 2YA at 8.28 p.m. on Saturday, July 27, with our artist's winsome wench. However, it is probably an admission by men that there are some few things for which

women are better fitted. Listeners who agree with this roundabout hypothesis can check up on the theory applied to light musical entertainment, if they care to watch for this item in the programmes.

Beer's Place in History

One of the leading lights of early Wellington began his successful career by setting up a barrel of beer on the beach in 1840 and selling the contents. From this he graduated to keeping a popular hotel and was a member of the first Wellington City Council. Hotel-keeping in the early days was a colourful occupation. Perhaps the calling reached its most exciting and romantic heights (and possibly depths) in Westland in the digging days, when the mushroom towns were simply stiff with pubs. Listeners are going to hear something about the hotelkeepers of the early days in a talk in the Winter Course series at 2YA on July 22, by L. R. Palmer and T. G. Hislop.

Light on Light

Light is not something which you can see, it is something which enables you to see. It is not something you can grasp in your hand, weigh, feel, or smell. It is like colour, it does not really exist at all. It is just something which appeals more favourably to the human eye than darkness. It is indeed very mysterious to the lay mind to be told that red, for example, is not red, but the reaction of a certain form of matter to a cause whose effect we call "red" for the sake of brevity. However, these intangible matters will be given form for us from 4YA at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 23, when Miss A. Blackie, M.Sc., and Dr. C. M. Focken, will answer the question "What is Light?" Both are specialists in physics, and both lecture in the subject at Otago University. If light is anything, they will be able to say what.

Tragic Lovers

When choosing his opera plots, Wagner spurned anything which was not vast in scope and design. Everything had to be on the grand scale—the Valkyrie galloping through the clouds, or the *Venusberg*, are typical examples. So, also, "Tristan and Isolde" is strident with fights for honour, chivalrous encounters, and potent love philtres. The actual plot is similar to the story of "Paolo and Francesca." In that tale, the ugly dwarf sends his handsome brother to bring home his betrothed. In the Wagner opera, King Mark