

## SAY "ONE-ONE-ONE" SAYS THE DOCTOR

*Examining The Health Of Young New Zealand*

(By "ROOKIE")

SAY "one-one-one" says the doctor, and gives you a tap over the clavicle, or whatever it is. Someone else, somewhere else, is saying "ninety-nine" and having his fifth rib tuned in on the stethoscope's wavelength. Around the partition a man is doing "knees bend," with some difficulty, and has a tale to tell about a stiff knee.

It is the man power from the second ballot going through its paces, and there is a remarkable variety of flesh in the examination rooms at the barracks.

Half of us, ninety per cent. of us, have not the faintest idea what it is all about, except that the stethoscope listens to our tubes and pumps, and the mercury in the graduated scale learns all about our blood pressure.

The eye test is not difficult if you're normal; but the simple hearing test is sometimes complicated by a lorry in low gear out in the street.

### Filling in Forms

We go along at the appointed time and a sergeant takes time off from telling a naturalised Italian what his age means to the military authorities, to hand out forms on which we fill in—some with a good deal of thought and labour—all sorts of details about ourselves and our parents and our loyalties to God and the King and their generals and officers.

About an hour later we get into the examination room and strip off. It's a warm day, but we're allowed to keep our pants on until the "knees-bend" stage comes along.

First our height is wanted, then weight, and while he's doing this the N.C.O. calls out details of our complexions, prefacing it occasionally with that very effective adjective "schoolgirl." But he means well, and is good humoured.

After this cursory preliminary we get drafted in pairs, or fours, into a room where four doctors go through a routine that would bore them if human beings were not so variable in form and fitness.

### Hands, Knees and Booms-a-Daisy!

First there's a short questionnaire to establish a case history if there is one. Any accidents? Any illnesses? And so on. Then an eye test. Ordinarily good eyesight will pick up the letters very easily. An ear test—one hand over one ear and then over the other, while the doctor speaks gently, asking questions. Then close your eyes and touch your nose with both hands. It's strange the number of people who, presumably, could not feed themselves neatly in the dark.

After that knees bend and arms upward stretch. A flexing of joints and muscles. A hammer on that nerve below the kneecap.

Then air is pumped under a tight bandage tied over the bicep and the blood pressure registered. There are various listenings and tappings about the chest and back. "Ninety-nine," and "one-one-one" come in at this stage.

And that's about all. Pants, shirt, collar and tie are rescued, the stud found,

and the balloteer, once more clothed and still in his right mind, is shown the attesting office, where he collects his seven bob for the day, takes the oath, learns the result of the examination, and is given an order to present himself for X-Ray if his physical condition warrants the trouble.

## U.S. AND US

(By "Pacific")

THE increasing interest of New Zealand and Australia in what is coming to be regarded as the Pacific Bloc is focusing many hopeful eyes more closely on United States foreign policy. The less widely-circulating reviews have been discussing during the last few years the possibility of a new balance in world affairs, in which war-torn Europe, so long accepted as the pin-wheel of civilisation, might turn to the New World flanking the Pacific Ocean for a reviving spirit.

Most people are agreed that the war will force a re-orientation of many things of the world. None quite know what will happen or how it will happen. But already the signboards are turning on the posts, most of them inward to the Ocean that washes Australia and New Zealand in the south, America in the east, Japan, Russia, and China in the north, India and Africa in the west.

The Economic Conference in Delhi is one sign of the trend. There are others closer home. More and more New Zealanders are discussing Pacific Affairs with the close interest they used to give solely to European affairs. Journalists are relating what they see in the Pacific to the course of world history. Airlines now criss-cross the whole ocean. Islands are considered more and more as trade centres and naval- and air-bases, instead

of as tourist attractions. The eyes of nations are swinging left and right like the heads of spectators at a tennis match. At the service end of the court the player undoubtedly is America.

### One Thing is Clear

One thing above all others is clear about American policy. Expenditure authorised during the last few months, and the results of the Presidential election, say as clearly as any national spokesman ever said anything, that America is interested in the defence of America. Part of that defence—half of it, under the "Two-Ocean Navy" policy—must be concerned with America's western seaboard; which is our eastern ocean boundary.

Beyond those clear facts, nothing is yet clear. But what J. P. Kennedy, American Ambassador to Britain, is reported to have said this month must have set many people thinking. Mr. Kennedy himself claims to have been speaking "entirely off the record." Yet, as J. B. Priestley said in a recent magazine article: "American ambassadors are nearly always typical specimens of the people they represent. If you talk to them, it is ten to one you learn what America is thinking."

### Clare Booth's Defence

One person who talked to Mr. Kennedy, before he left London for America last month, was Clare Booth, wife of Henry Luce, publisher of "Time," "Life," and producer of the "March of Time" films. Mrs. Luce reported her



LIEUT. C. PIKE is O.C. the Trentham Military Band, which will be on the air for the first time on December 13. Lieut. Pike has the Commonwealth B Grade, and the New Zealand A and B Grade championships to his credit and has made his band very efficient

conversation with the Ambassador for "Life":

"Everybody in England said Kennedy was a defeatist, who went around saying the most terrible untrue things; that America wasn't ever going into the war—that America couldn't help if it wanted to help, and numerous other things calculated to give Englishmen and Americans the impression that America wasn't either willing or ready, and that the Germans were going to come very close to giving the Allies the licking of their life. In fact, Mr. Kennedy said openly all sorts of things that were damned undiplomatic, and true as only bitter truth can be. The English didn't like this. So naturally they didn't like Mr. Kennedy."

So Mrs. Luce defended the blunt Ambassador.

This month Mr. Kennedy spoke for himself. He still talked about "no sense in our getting into the war"; but the pessimism he voiced for Mrs. Luce in February had turned into an optimism that prompted him to tell the "Boston Globe" that the chances of the U.S. staying out of the war were better than they were three months ago.

Mr. Kennedy has made so many statements and denials now that it is difficult to imagine exactly what he does think. But I take it, at the least, that he meant in February that he was afraid America might get frightened into participation, and that he believed, last month, that the danger was passing.

At all events, if he is the "typical American" whom the U.S. likes to send out as an Ambassador, he as good as tells us that America is looking after America. Whether that means that America thinks she must also look after Britain, we cannot yet know.

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