

# MEET MR. KNOW-ALL

By KAYE GOULD

I DON'T hate easily, but there are times when one must hate. To-day, for instance, under the influence of war, I take great pleasure in a cordial hatred of three persons — Adolf the Austrian ex-artist (sometimes known as the Fuehrer), the "Dooce" (the one still above ground), and last, but by no means least, Mr. Know-all alias Know-better-than-the-BBC alias . . . . (well, perhaps that one's unprintable). The first two people mentioned have had a good deal of publicity lately, and most, I think, will agree that my dislike is far from unreasonable; but the third line of my "hymn of hate," Mr. Know-all, perhaps needs explanation.

And "not without relish," as Mr. Churchill puts it, I give it.

Mr. Know-all knows better than (to use his own words) "the stereotyped boomings of Daventry." He knows much better. Mr. Know-all, broad-minded, deep-thinking internationalist, goes to the "radio stations of the world" for his war news.

Now, for half-truths, exaggerated rumours, and lies (simple, compound, black-and-white) give me "the radio stations of the world"—Mr. Know-all's "world," which, by some strange freak of geography, has reduced itself to a mere handful of countries—most of them German-controlled.

But the mere fact of listening in the above manner isn't enough to condemn Mr. Know-all to the lowest circle of my particular hell; it's his attitude afterwards, when, conscious of his impartiality ("the British race is narrow, insular"), and armed with his "international statements" (more simply, "lies"), he sets himself up as a sort of anti-BBC, broadcasting on the theory that there's a fool born every minute.

"Oh, Yeah?"

You tell him that the latest Air Ministry communiqué says that we have brought down 20 German 'planes to-day, and lost four of our fighters.

He says: "Oh yeah?"

You say: "Surely you don't believe those German lies that all their 'planes returned safely? Why, not so long ago Daventry quoted the squadron numbers and details of the German 'planes shot down, just to refute the German claims that they'd only lost three, I think it was, when the number was really much higher."

He says: "Granted they were caught out that day, but what about our claims,

these last nights, that all our 'planes returned safely from their night raids over Germany? I don't believe that."

You say: "Why not? I see no reason to doubt our Air Ministry's figures. They've not told lies to date. You can't deny that. And what reason would they have to conceal our bomber losses? Since the 'planes are lost over Germany, Germany must know them. And the British man-in-the-street's morale isn't likely to nosedive just because five bombers or so have sacrificed themselves over Germany."

He says: "I believe different. The other night when we said none of our bombers were lost, Rome radio said that four had been brought down."

You say: "Lies, dago variety."

He says: "Oh yeah?"

And you are back where you started.

You then either walk off muttering imprecations, or crack him one — a good one—on the jaw: and the second method, though so tempting, is looked on as assault in New Zealand. So all one can do is to walk off.

## Verbal Assault

As the verbal method of assault is our only way to deal with Mr. Know-all, I append below some typical assertions

## ZB's AGAIN HELP CHARITIES

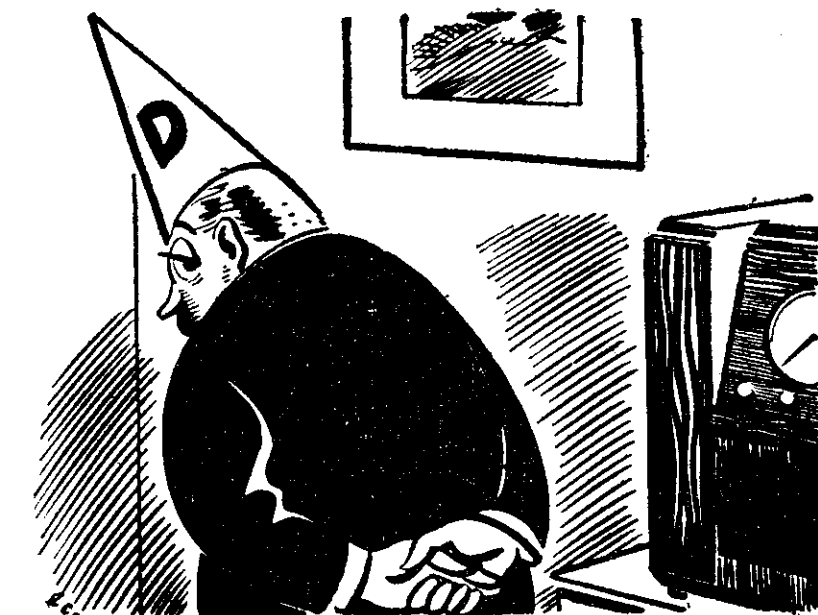
### ★ Two Successful Radio Theatre Shows ★

THE series of Radio Theatre Shows which the ZB stations have given during the past four months has netted close on £1000 for charity. The shows have consisted of preview screenings of selected films, and concerts by ZB artists. The whole of the takings go to charity, Theatre Management Ltd. giving the use of the theatre, and artists and attendants all offering their services free.

The first was held in September of last year, in aid of the Crippled Children's Society, and raised £184, and in November, three concerts held by 2ZB, 3ZB and 2ZA Palmerston North, raised nearly £500 for the Free Kindergarten and the men of the Mercantile Marine.

2ZB's concert was held in the St. James Theatre, and included items by performers who are heard frequently from that station. A highlight was a presentation of "Station T.O.T.," Bryan O'Brien and a band of youngsters treating the audience to a full dress rehearsal of the session they present over the air every Saturday night.

A comedy sketch which was well received was "Audition," presented by "Mary Anne" and Lane Patterson.



from the Know-all repertoire and the proper responses on your part. (Keep calm, keep your fist off his jaw, this article in your pocket, and Mr. Know-all is three parts routed).

The following concerns air raid damage — a favourite topic with Mr. Know-all.

KNOW-ALL (gloomily: They (meaning, I presume, the Ministry of Home Security and the BBC), aren't telling us everything. Look at the photos in the papers lately. London's an awful mess.

YOU: But they only photograph the bits that have been hit. Who'd be interested in the undamaged parts? They look pretty much the same as they did in 1938 or 1937 — no news value at all.

Besides, Mr. Churchill, who ought to know the inside of the situation, says that it'll take ten years to destroy half the houses in London, at the present rate.

KNOW-ALL: I heard that the docks of a certain east coast town were a shambles, utterly useless. The BBC had nothing to say about it.

## BBC Wasn't Biting

YOU: Because the BBC wasn't biting. The Germans, or Italians, put out that statement to see if Daventry would affirm or deny it. If the BBC had admitted the damage it would have played right into the Nazis' hands. If the BBC had denied it then the Germans would have been straight back for another crack. And talking about acknowledging damage, if you only listened to the BBC, you'd realise that they do acknowledge it—only, for obvious reasons, not mentioning its exact whereabouts. For instance, a raid on Birmingham in which a factory was destroyed, would be described as "a raid on a Midland city. High explosive and incendiary bombs were dropped. Considerable damage was done to industrial premises."

KNOW-ALL: But why not mention the name of the factory and city? The enemy must know it.

YOU: That's just what they don't, at night. If they know what town they're over — and sometimes they obviously don't — they claim to have hit any factories they knew to be in that town before the war broke out. The BBC don't deny it. If the Germans think that the fire they started in a block of flats is burning out an aircraft factory, well and good. That destroyed factory will be able to produce in welcome peace.

By the time you reach this speech, Mr. Know-all will have remembered an urgent appointment. Don't detain him. Let him go with your blessing in the shape of a few well-chosen words on "doing Hitler's dirty work by spreading untrustworthy information, etc."

You might even call him by his proper name (see para. 1, line 12.)

## LEADS THE BAND

Conductor of the silver band which made its first public appearance at 2ZB's Radio Theatre Show is Charles Forrest, who is well known both as solo player and conductor. He started his band career at 19, and played solo horn, euphonium and baritone in Christchurch, Wellington and Wanganui bands. He won many solo competitions, including a championship of Australia and New Zealand. For 12 years he conducted the Tenth Mounted Regiment Band, but he is particularly proud of his association with the Wanganui Garrison Band which, under Albert Wade, was the only New Zealand band to win double honours at a contest at Ballarat