



REV. PETER MAK
He saw many cures

"PLANTEM RICE INSTEAD OF POPPIES"

Chinese Government's War on Opium Smoking

out the country at which free treatment is given to addicts.

Before coming to New Zealand last year Mr. Mak was working at a hospital in the Chung Shan district in South China, and he saw a sufficient number of addicts cured to convince him that the methods used are fundamentally sound.

There are no half measures; a patient entering a Chinese hospital to be cured of the craving for opium is first of all put on a complete "starve"; that is to say, deprived of the drug altogether. This considerable shock to his system is compensated for by a special diet, regular internal treatment, a system of medicinal packs, and, most important, a series of injections of vitamin B, which builds up resistance.

Death for Incurables

In a fortnight's time, the patient leaves the hospital—cured. It is a common proverb in China, however, that to stop smoking opium is easy, but to stop smoking permanently is hard. To discourage the Chinese who may be tempted to return to the vice after a cure the Government has provided various penalties, the death penalty being inflicted for continued relapses.

It is recognised that it is next to impossible for a man over fifty to cure himself of what may be a life-time habit, and for such as these the Government has provided a system whereby on production of a form of passport, an addict can purchase small quantities of opium from Government-controlled clinics.

But the root of the trouble is naturally the growing of the poppy, and it is here that the Government and the New Life Movement in particular is

Ian Mackay's Friday night "Spot-light" session from Station 2ZB has brought an interesting series of personalities to the microphone. Last Friday, March 7, at 7.45 p.m. he interviewed the Rev. Peter Mak, Chinese Missioner in New Zealand

directing its campaign. Once the growing of poppies was an important crop in the provinces of Yunnan and Kwei Chow in south-west China, and here farmers are now encouraged to "plantem rice instead of poppies," as Mr. Mak puts it in his slightly broken English.

Moral and Material Unity

The New Life Movement, founded by Chiang-Kai-Shek six years ago, has had a remarkable influence on the life of the 400,000,000 people of China, especially in view of the fact that only in the last two years or so has China been sufficiently united for its precepts to be put into effect. Its aim is primarily the forging of moral and material unity among the Chinese. Its watchwords are four: courtesy, righteousness, discrimination (between good and bad) and conscientiousness. Its philosophy embraces the best of the teachings of both Christ and Confucius.

To the westerner it may seem a naive national programme for a vast country threatened by a military power as unscrupulous as Japan, but Mr. Mak has seen and can vouch for the remarkable leaven which the New Life Movement is supplying.

Mr. Mak is no stranger to war and air raids, and if he were in London he might perhaps dismiss the average Nazi dose of hate with no more concern than if it were a heavy shower of rain. His hospital in Chung Shan was well in the war zone and for months on end the town was subjected to repeated air raids and machine gunning by planes. Most of the townspeople had been evacuated, but a large number of essential workers remained, and these went about their daily business in much the same way as their comrades under fire in London.

Mr. Mak says that tales of Japanese pilots' machine gunning civilians are no mere atrocity stories. Time after time Japanese would fly low over the town and adjacent farms, scattering death among men, women and children, even among farmers in the fields. There came a time, says Mr. Mak, when people's nerves ceased to protest, and they went about their business completely careless of death.

In New Zealand, where he expects to stay for approximately five years, Mr. Mak is missionary to Chinese belonging to both the Anglican and Baptist Churches. An important aspect of his work is teaching *mandarin*, China's universal language, to younger members of the Chinese community in New Zealand, and so fitting them for the time when they return to China. This encouragement of a universal language where once there were hundreds of distinct languages and dialects is another aspect of Chiang-Kai-Shek's campaign for national unity.

Mr. Mak has brought his wife and two children to New Zealand with him.

CHANGES AT THE BBC?

English Papers Discuss Rumours

RUMOUR is busy in the English press suggesting that there is to be an early spring cleaning of the BBC and that there will be control by the Ministry of Information over radio news and propaganda. It is even suggested that the whole service will be placed under the control of a strong business man.

The *Listener* has made a close examination of many English papers, but while practically every one of those examined speculates on impending changes and offers criticisms of its own, there is nothing more definite than speculation. The chief point at issue is the nature of the news bulletins. Charges have been made against the lack of proportion shown, the glossing over of bad news, and the whole question of British foreign propaganda.

A specific complaint made originally by the "Spectator" has been quoted by

many other journals. The "Spectator" said that the heavy submarine losses of 87,975 tons made in one week were "airily" announced as "rather heavier" than the previous week, whereas they were nearly 50 per cent. heavier.

"The Public Would Be Disturbed"

The London "Star" says concerning the future of the BBC: "Many of these speculations take it for granted that the self-government of the BBC will be modified, but the public would be disturbed by any change which brings the organisation under the more direct control of Whitehall. . . . The organisation suffers from having no Minister in the House directly responsible for broadcasting. . . . General direction on policy is one thing; autocratic control is another. . . . The country has come to think of the BBC as one of its democratic institutions. That is an advantage which should not be 'impaired'."

The "Liverpool Post" says that the BBC has two important functions,

which should be kept separate. One is to supply the people at home with programmes that are entertaining, cultural, and informative, and the BBC, if not beyond criticism, has performed this function resourcefully. The other function is to present the British standpoint to the world, at which, for reasons largely technical, we are at present beaten by the enemy. So far as the second function goes, the "Post" adds, much may be said for closer Governmental control. BBC propaganda may appropriately be work for which the Ministry of Information should be responsible to Parliament.

"Complete Reshuffle"

The most specific of these prophets is the "Daily Telegraph," which says that a new Director-General, a business man of proved executive and organising ability, is to be appointed by the Prime Minister in succession to F. W. Ogilvie, and that there will be a new policy of increasing liaison between the Foreign Office and the BBC. With the new appointment will come a complete reshuffle of the whole BBC organisation, and changes are likely to take place among the controllers. Other matters, it

says, that will come up for consideration, are the numbers of aliens employed at Broadcasting House in the foreign language service, understaffing, and overtime.

On the other hand, "Critic" of the "New Statesman and Nation" comments: "Press discussion of coming changes in the BBC and Ministry of Information has been largely based on guess-work. War is the time for liaisons rather than regular unions. The BBC will not be merged in the Ministry, nor, I believe, will Mr. Ogilvie retire. Sir Walter Monckton is likely to change his job, but he is not likely to be the new liaison officer. I foresee an arrangement whereby the BBC under Mr. Ogilvie will maintain its control over the entertainment side of its work and lose much of its responsibility for political and propagandist broadcasting. . . . It will be a disaster if this means more Foreign Office control, but it will be technically an improvement if it means the end of the present muddle of authorities, all with the right to interfere in foreign broadcasting. If the man can be found the ultimate solution is a Minister of Information in the War Cabinet with final control."