

PNEUMONIA: A MESSAGE TO THE ROBUST

(Written for "The Listener" by DR. H. B. TURBOTT, Director of the Division of School Hygiene, Health Department)

HIPPOCRATES and the old Greek physicians were acquainted with pneumonia. But not very well: they mixed it up with pleurisy. It wasn't until the end of the seventeenth century that accurate anatomical descriptions were attempted. Our modern knowledge dates from 1819. Doctors knew the trick of listening to the chest sounds before then. They placed their ears snugly on the chest. But patients were often dirty, and what a shame it would have been to get those fashionable wigs soiled. So the doctors didn't risk it too often, and in any case they couldn't get their ears exactly where they wanted because their heads got mixed up with the patient's arms, chin, and so on.

To the rescue in 1819 came Dr. Laennec. Walking in the Gardens of the Louvre he spotted some boys. Two or three bent over one end of a long beam of wood with their ears pressed

tightly to it. At the other end, the rest were lightly tapping the beam. The slight sounds were running along the beam, and the youngsters were playing at sending messages. This crude telephone appeared to Laennec as the solution of the problem of listening to chests. At first he tried a paper roll, one end on the patient's chest and his ear to the other. Through came the sounds crisp and clear. Next he made a tube of wood and gave it a name—"stethoscope." That is how the modern stethoscope, which is in every doctor's pocket, had its origin; and the same Laennec began the recording of the sounds and bubbles and chest noises, knowledge of which enables the doctor of to-day to diagnose such ills as bronchitis, pleurisy, pneumonia.

One of the Deadly Six

Pneumonia is one of the captains of death. In this year's Year Book it ranks sixth among the causes of death for

Europeans and second for Maoris. Pneumonia is infectious. It is caused by a germ carried in the nose and throat, and passed to others in droplets expelled as we talk, cough or sneeze. It is common in young children and the old, and in the active years of adult life. Winter and the early spring are its favourite times, when chills are rife. It may strike suddenly, or follow a cold or even severe sore throat. There is a severe pain in the chest, a short dry cough, and the patient is soon very ill.

Why write about pneumonia? There are two very good reasons. Firstly, the doctor is not called early enough. He is trained to recognise the disease early; he calls in the laboratory to clinch the diagnosis, if necessary; he can begin immediately with the new chemical miracle—sulphapyridine—that will cut the disease short and save death. One condition must be met. The wonder working drug must get in early if it is to succeed. If doctors could just catch all New Zealand's pneumonia in the first twenty-four hours, the death rate would be knocked to next to nothing.

A second reason why pneumonia concerns you—do you realise it is infectious? If you've a case in the house, do you disinfect the linen, handkerchiefs, and other articles used by the patient? Do you know that the usual pneumonia germ in child patients is that type commonly carried harmlessly by adults in their noses and throats? And do you remember that the common cold and the painful sore throats of winter time lower the resistance and often allow the pneumonia germ carried by grown-ups to win through and cause pneumonia—so easily insured against by a day or so in bed or indoors at the start?

This concerns you, any active robust grown up. It is you that pneumonia will strike. So mighty against the pneumococcus microbes is sulphapyridine that next to nobody adequately treated in the first day will die. Good news, surely! When you first feel bad, head-achy, chilly, feverish, and suffer that first stab of chest pain—call your doctor. (Next week: "Tonsils and Adenoids," by Dr. Muriel Bell)

PASTOR HALL

(Continued from previous page)

In a concentration camp, the picture avoids obvious statements of brutality. Persecution and physical cruelty are suggested more often than they are pictured in reality, so that it is the agony of imprisoned minds that does most to create a corresponding attitude in the mind of the person who sees the film.

And, consistently with this policy, the film's ending preaches nobility instead of stressing brutality, as most of the cheap anti-Hitler propaganda stuff has done.

Pastor Hall is assisted to escape after his flogging. When he recovers he decides to return to his church to preach a last sermon. The sermon ended, with the congregation (and the film's audi-

ence) deeply moved, he walks out of the church to meet the Storm Troopers waiting for him.

THIS is not stuff for vegetarian minds.

It is strong meat indeed. No one, just for that reason, should avoid seeing it. The ostrich with its head in the sand cannot see its enemies, nor can it see its friends. The implications of *Pastor Hall* are certainly horrifying. Its message, on the other hand, is inspiring, and no sermon could be preached more effectively.

Technically, the production is good in its handling of the main theme. It was unfortunate that John Boulting, the producer, could not make up his mind that he had a piece here well worth pruning of worn out devices like a sex interest.

Roy Boulting, the director and editor, must also receive some small criticism. Like his brother, the producer, he does not seem to have been entirely aware of the strength of his main theme. It did not need support. In one or two places he has disturbed the otherwise engrossed attention of the audience by permitting his camera to rove unnecessarily. However, complaint on these grounds must be kept at a minimum.

Pastor Hall's success may be measured by the success of its message that Niemoller is really the victor and that Hitler, after all, is not entirely replacing Christ.

Nelson Was Also Present!

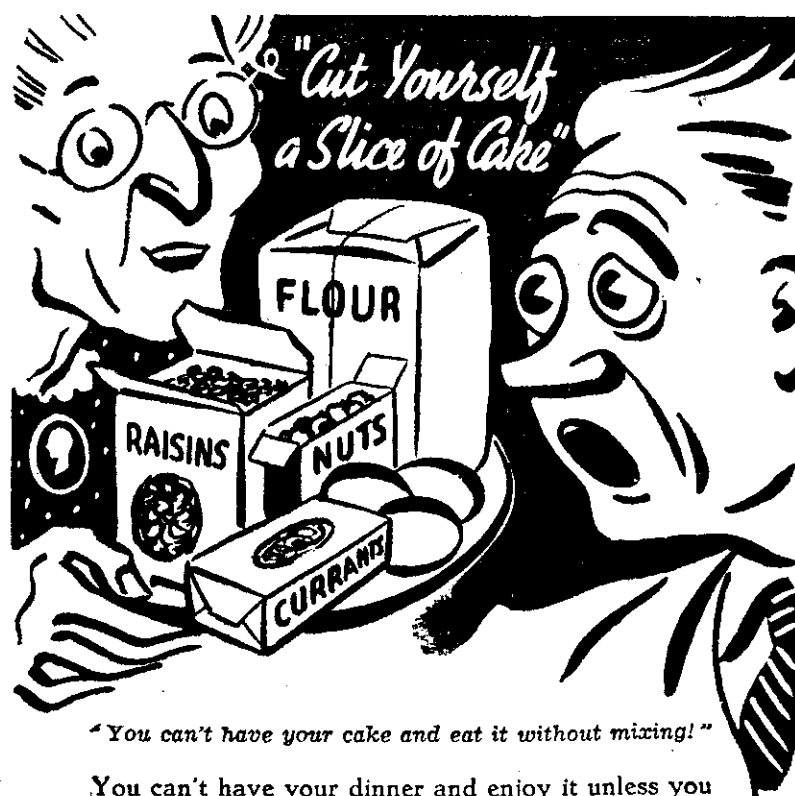
NEWS has been received from London by H. Andrews, New Zealand manager of United Artists, that during the Atlantic meeting of Winston Churchill and President Roosevelt recently they saw the motion picture "Lady Hamilton" aboard H.M.S. Prince of Wales. It was further stated that the British Prime Minister has now seen the film four times. At the conclusion of the screening on the Prince of Wales Mr. Churchill turned to the officers present and said, "I thought this film would interest you gentlemen, as some of you have so recently been under fire of the enemy in a matter of equal historic importance."

His reference was to the scene depicting the Battle of Trafalgar in the film and to the action the Prince of Wales had taken against the Bismarck.

Chronic Leg Ulcers Healed!

NO PAIN—NO LOSS OF WORK

Mr. E. E. P. writes: "My leg has been well now for some months, and I never feel the slightest pain or inconvenience, although I am on it and working hard all day. Since I started VAREX treatment, I have been able to work all the time, walk and sleep well." VAREX treatment is simple, safe, soothing and inexpensive. No resting necessary. Send to-day for free booklet, Ernest Healey, Pharmaceutical Chemist, VAREX, Ltd., Box 1558, N.L., Wellington.



You can't have your dinner and enjoy it unless you do a little mixing with the mustard. Mustard isn't MUSTARD until mixed! Mix ten minutes before serving to enable the essential oils to develop the full MUSTARD tang.

MUSTARD MUST BE MIXED

— COLMAN'S Mustard

