

LISTENINGS

Perpetrated and illustrated by KEN. ALEXANDER

FOOD AND WAR

IF necessity is the mother of invention, war is the father of digestion. The dish that turns the liver in peace often turns the tide in war. Substitution becomes part of the constitution. The diet that filled the soul with sorrow yesterday fills the soul-case with pep to-day.

If most of the world had known in the past what it knows in the present it would have said: "Eat, drink and be merry for to-morrow we diet." The vitamin-vamps and calory-custodians estimate that the health of Britain has improved on war fare, which proves that with pep to-day.

It has long been recognised by dietary table-turners that all the nice things are indigestible and malnutritious while all



expert in America says that tea-drinkers usually are happy and contented and make good neighbours. Now we know why Germans are not tea drinkers.



the unattractive things are stuffed with pep properties. It is a toss up between fat and fancy.

The herring industry which languished when herrings had no competition from torpedoes has swum back into favour. More than 500,000,000 did their bit for Britain last year. Cooks who would have laughed in a herring's face in 1939 have found it is a fish of many spare parts. It is estimated that if all the vitamins in a school of herring were concentrated and dropped on Berlin they could cause an enormous educational upheaval in the Reich.

In Germany substitution is a passion. Eating is a guessing competition. Digestion is a deception and pot luck a sheer gamble. Besides food for thought the Germans get thought for food. Tea drinking is being encouraged because even mock-coffee has become a mockery. The Nazi propaganda machine, which has so often referred to the British people as tannin-fodder and tea-fortifiers, now exhorts Germans to sip tea. But the catch is that when they sip tea they don't. The sip is a sop and the sipper a sap. He gets an infusion of dried asparagus berries instead of the bud that bucks but does not inebriate. This brew is said to be a relic from the Napoleonic Wars. Standing so long in the pot hasn't improved its flavour. One pound of asparagus tea produces two hundred cups; which will enable the bibbing Boche to drink with asparagusto. An

OUR ARTIST ON EXHIBITION

So many "Listener" readers have written to our artist, Russell Clark, about his drawings, and so many to us on his account, that he has decided to hold an exhibition and sale. The particulars are advertised in this issue on Page 12, but we can't help sympathising with those admirers in Keri Keri, Bruce Bay, and Bluff, who will not be able to



RUSSELL CLARK, as he sometimes imagines himself

come to Wellington and who, when they send their money, will spend anxious days wondering whether they have been forestalled by equally ardent purchasers from Kaitia, Tolaga Bay, or Golden Downs. However, they will not be buying pigs from a poke. All, or nearly all, of these drawings have already appeared in "The Listener," which may therefore be regarded as an illustrated catalogue.

Substitution is a habit in Germany. The Nazis themselves are substitutes for human beings. The man-in-the-street has been fed propaganda for so long that he can swallow anything now. Hans, returning from his job in the poison-gas factory asks: "What's for dinner, Gretchen?" "Mash," says Gretchen. "I mashed up that old straw hat of yours. You never wear it."

"Aw, well," says Hans, "dish it up. The tapioca pudding you made yesterday out of your minced sand-shoes had a kind of asphaltic flavour. But I liked it better than the mackintosh fritters. As dear Hermann says, it must be either guns before butter, or buns before gutter. That reminds me: I had a lovely dream last night. It was about pigs' feet. Pass the sawdust pepper, will you!"

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