

Women In The Army

COERCION having failed, Army heads in England are doing everything possible to make life in the various branches of civil defence attractive to women. The Army used to be regarded as soulless and unromantic, but now Sir Ronald Adam, new Adjutant-General to the Forces, has referred to the varied advantages the Auxiliary Territorial Service offered to women—especially now, with the many jobs for those with brains—and added: "There is companionship in plenty, and romantic friendship, too."

Another human aspect is that members of the A.T.S. are invariably given leave to coincide with the leave of their husbands or boy friends.

MUSIC AT WORK

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noise of the radio successfully drowned the noise of the sewing machines. "I like music," said one of the girls in answer to my question. "I don't think it helps me to concentrate, but I just like listening to it."

"I don't care for radios," was the next comment. "There's enough noise without a radio going."

"We all love it. We like listening to the 22B serials best, and we always used to listen to Aunt Daisy. But some of the girls used to stop work to copy down recipes, so now we're not allowed to listen any more."

The last comment was the most encouraging. "I think it's a good idea having the radio on. It takes my mind off the noise of the machinery and makes me work twice as fast."

I walked back to the office reflecting that the only way of getting a truly representative opinion about music in factories would be to import Doctor Gallup to conduct a poll. My very sketchy results seem to indicate (1) That employees like it, (2) That employers don't. That attitude is, of course, partly traditional. The whistling office boy has always been frowned upon.

It seems fairly obvious that radio in a factory adds to the girls' enjoyment of their work, and good work is far more likely to be done by girls who like their jobs than by those who don't. But one feels that from the point of view of increased output more positive results would be obtained if employers made a more selective use of the radio. It is not in the best interests of industry that a girl's work should be slowed up while she quivers in expectation of what will happen when the husband finds out that his wife is a Nazi agent. As the NBS session *Music While You Work* becomes more widely known we may expect to hear more encouraging comments from employers and employees alike on the value of radio in the factory.

THE BLUE TRIANGLE

THE Wellington branch of the Y.W.C.A. has just brought out its 35th Annual Report. One is struck by the wide range of activities and interests dealt with throughout the year, particularly as a great deal of the association's time and energy has been devoted to providing week-end entertainment for the men of the forces.

It is gratifying to note, however, that while the war-time problems of our young men have been given consideration, the special wartime needs and problems of our girls have not been completely neglected. We read that a preparatory conference was held at which questions such as the following were discussed:

What are the problems of girls in wartime?

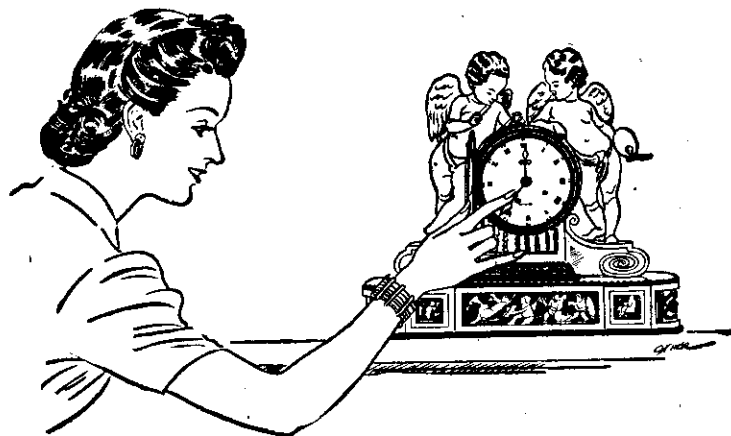
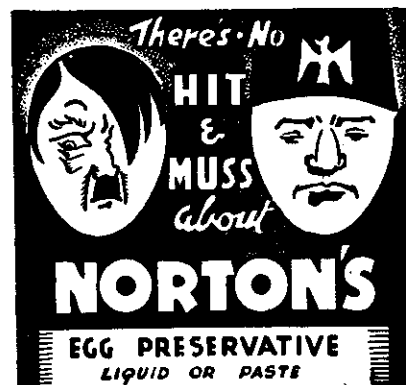
Are those of us who know boys overseas growing as fast as they are?

How can we learn to understand their outlook since leaving home?

Can married women who work while their husbands are away learn how to readjust themselves to home life?

Attention has also been given to the dangers of overwork and anxiety which wartime conditions may bring to the women of New Zealand.

One feels after reading the report that the Y.W.C.A. has again proved its ability to recognise the problems of the day and to do something about them.



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