



THINGS TO COME

A Run Through The Programmes



AFTER hobnobbing with royalty, slouching through slumland, tiger-hunting in India, drum-beating in England, and going to sea to learn nautical language, it is not to be wondered at that Major Lampen can produce "Just Some Odd Characters" for his talk from 2YA on November 27. Whatever may have been their peculiarity, we can be sure that Major Lampen will make them interesting as well as odd.

Sink Me The Ship!

It's a safe bet than 90 out of 100 schoolboys have at some time or another been made to stand out in front of the class and recite, "And the sun went down and the stars came out far over the summer sea, but not for a moment ceased the fight of the one and the fifty-three: ship after ship the whole night through . . ." and so on. It was, of course, the gallant engagement fought by Sir Richard Grenville in the Revenge against fifty-three whacking Spanish galleons. Checking up on Sir Richard in a handy reference work, we were struck by two details which we had forgotten long ago. First, Lord Thomas Howard, admiral of the squadron, to whom we hereby direct a tardy "Fie, Sir," didn't like his chances against the Spaniards, and chased off at all speed. Second, Sir Richard, when the fight became quite hopeless, did

actually command his master gunner to blow up the Revenge rather than let it fall into Spanish hands. In case you want to know anything more about this bloody page of history, you had better tune into the *Magnificent Heritage* programme from Station 4ZB at 10.15 a.m. on Wednesday, November 26.

Survival

If it was the thing to do to go Morris dancing in an old straw hat, smock and leather breeches, then Sam Bennett was undoubtedly once in the swim. This ruddy-cheeked survival of Merrie England—we take for granted the ruddy cheeks and the merriment, for no doubt he dined on good English beef and better English beer—was a Cotswold fiddler and a Morris dance of renown: the life and soul of any party in his part of Warwickshire. Listeners to 3YA may look forward to hearing more about him on November 24, when an illustrated talk "A Survival from Merrie England" will be given.

One "Starry" Night

When a press agent makes a wager of £500 that he can turn the first good-looking girl he meets into a successful actress, there's almost certain to be a bit of bother and a few good laughs. In "A Star is Born," an NBS drama, listeners will hear the story of a pretty young stenographer who finds fame when she least expects it. After rehearsals made hectic by her sense of humour and her leading man's "wiggling" moustache, she becomes a "star" for one

successful entrant to stay in the money just as long as his general knowledge and his self-confidence hang out. Having answered his first question, he has the option of collecting his prize money there and then, or of leaving it to "jackpot" up in value and trying his luck at a second question. If he is again successful, he can try yet again. Should he fail at any stage, of course he forfeits all claim to prize money. We can think of nothing more hair-raising than having to decide on the spur of the moment whether to take five pounds or leave it and take a chance at ten pounds. *Take It Or Leave It Jackpots* are conducted by 3ZB's "Professor Speedee," and are on the air at 9.15 p.m. every Saturday.

Roll Out The Bottle

What is going to come to light when Debroy Somers Band presents "Out of the Bottle" from 4YA on November 28 at 7.30, we are not yet able to say.



Russell Clark is apparently quite sure that it is a djinn-bottle, but when one remembers the wild Bohemian life those artists lead, his point of view, however distorted, is at least understandable. We should be more inclined to look for variations on "Roll Out the Barrel" or perhaps a transcription of the good old temperance hymn, "I Like a Bottle." Yet perhaps the item, "Scottish Medley," which the band will present ten minutes later, does contain a clue—in which case our artist is perhaps nearer the mark than we are. We must, if we may coin a phrase, wait and see.

One Thing Leads To Another

The name Gilbert O'Sullivan has a familiar ring, but we can't think why. When that well-known voice on the nine o'clock news mentions the navy—we immediately think of *Pinafore*—and at last we've got it! But we're on the wrong track. Mr. Gilbert O'Sullivan is not even remotely connected with either of the well-known Savoyards who quarrelled about a carpet—he is merely featured with Ossie Cheesman in the studio presentation *Fashions in Melody*, which will be heard from 9.30 to 10 p.m. from 1YA next Tuesday evening.

Be Not Dismayed!

It is hardly surprising that the 3YA Gardening Expert should approach his subject on November 24 with "Doubts

and Difficulties." Slugs, snails, and white butterflies, the price of seed potatoes, and the vagaries of the weather are all well known deterrents to the zeal of the amateur gardener, but the 3YA Gardening Expert with his considerably wider field of experience must have equally extensive scope for doubts and difficulties. So be of good cheer, gentlemen of the hoe and hedge-clipper, when you listen to the gardening talk from 3YA at 7.10 p.m. on Monday, November 24. You may find that your lot (or plot) is, after all, a comparatively happy one.

Types of Team Work

We sometimes suspect that the team work among the Axis partners isn't all that the Fuhrer would like us to believe. And talking of team work reminds us that Joan Butler's story of that name will start in its radio serial form from 1YA on Thursday, December 4. The book is so popular that we can't find anything but its wrapper on the shelves of our library, so the serial should command a wide audience. The illustrated cover leads us to expect some hilarious if mysterious "team work" between a convict and a sporty-looking gentleman in plus-fours, with of course a dainty damsel somewhere in the picture.

SHORTWAVES

ADOLF HITLER, visiting the Eastern Front, asked a soldier what his last wish would be if a Russian shell should land near him. "I would wish," the soldier answered, "that my Fuhrer stood beside me."—*Moscow Radio*.

DIPLOMACY is the art of letting someone else have your way.—*This Week (New York)*.

A BOY of eight has published his autobiography. There is an interesting chapter on "Amusing Sayings of Parents."—*Punch*.

DEAR MUM, I am not allowed to say where we are, but there are Pharaohs at the bottom of our garden.—*Letter from a soldier overseas*.

THE whole managing staff of the BBC should be sacked instantly.—*George Bernard Shaw*.

STATIC

A YOUNG German put an obituary notice in the paper on the death of his octogenarian father.—"Pray for the soul of Ernest Muller, whom God has called to a better world." The next day, he was arrested for criticising the Government.

ADVERTISEMENT in country store-keeper's window: "Nobody ever calls me dear."

TOBACCONISTS are tired of cigarette rationing—British News Item. All faged-out, as it were.

A MAN drunk ten bottles of beer to make himself well—News item. He certainly must have been ailing.

SOMEWHERE in Unoccupied France a shop-keeper obeyed orders and put a picture of Darlan in the window. Under it he displayed a sign, "SOLD."



riotous performance, and then fades out for better or for worse in company with the high-powered press-agent, who is, after all, just the hero of the piece. "A Star is Born," which is not connected with the Janet Gaynor-Frederic March film that that name, will be heard from 2YA on Sunday, November 23, at 9.27 p.m.

Take It Or Leave It

There's no end to the ingenuity of the people who think up new quiz programmes for the ZB's, the whole idea, it seems, being to torture the unfortunate participant to the limit of his endurance to make a broadcast holiday. The latest quiz idea to strike 3ZB is the *Take It Or Leave It Jackpots*, which, as its title implies, permits a