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DID YOU HEAR THIS?

Extracts From Recent Talks

For the King of Europe

WE returned home to find about fifty men in the inn court listening spell-bound to an old gentleman who was explaining the why and wherefore of our stay in Tunhwang. We recognised in the lecturer an old schoolmaster who frequently attended our open-air meetings. He wore large horn spectacles, his queue was long and thin; and his purple-tinted silk gown was of extreme antiquity, the back glistening from many years of contact with the plait of hair. Extending a skinny hand, and pointing a long-nailed finger, he was emphasising the points of his speech. "You know nothing about it," he said, "I have read all their books, and I understand their religion thoroughly. They are good people, I tell you, and the reason for them coming here is this—*The King of Europe* has sent them! It is he who meets all their expenses! Ever since the War, girls are scarce over there, and so he has appointed these persons to select brides for the young men of his household!"



At this point, first the audience, and then the lecturer, caught sight of us, and the discourse came to an abrupt close. —(*Some Adventurous Women: Mildred Cable and Francesca French.* Margaret Johnston, 2YA, April 4.)

Vitamins in Milk

THERE used to be a tendency, to prefer concentrated and purified foods. In 1881, Lunin manufactured in his laboratory a milk which contained in the same proportions, the elements known to exist in natural milk. However, young animals fed on this drink grew weak and died. From 1906 to 1912, Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins in England, in 1909 Stepp in Germany, and in 1912 Osborne and Mendel in the United States, fed rats on products obtained by chemical synthesis. The rats sickened, but as soon as a small amount of natural milk was added to their diet, they developed normally. The case was proved: there exists in natural milk, in such minute amounts that they escaped the attention of the chemists of that era, certain substances necessary to the maintenance of life. —(*The Discovery of Vitamins.* Red Cross Society talk. 2YA, April 7.)

A Bang, Not a Whimper

DON'T imagine, however, that Aldous Huxley had no roots himself. He was not necessarily one of the men without faith, though he has never had much faith in society. Huxley was doing what so many of the writers of the time were doing, describing life around him, satirising the futile lives of the cultured. Don't you remember T. S. Eliot and his

There has been no substantial change this week in the list of news bulletins on shortwave, and because of pressure on space, we have held it over until next issue

poetry? Don't you remember his lines written in 1925, two years after Huxley's *Antic Hay* and three years before *Point Counter Point*. Eliot wrote:

*We are the hollow men
We are the stuffed men
Leaning together
Headpiece filled with straw. Alas! ...*

And do you remember how the poem concludes?

*This is the way the world ends
Not with a bang but a whimper.*

Well, it hasn't ended in that way. There's not much whimpering now, but we are not living in the 'twenties, and when you come to think of it we ought to be glad. Wells talked about the 'thirties as the frightened 'thirties, and it was then that writers all over the world began to see the looming shadow of war and the menace of fascism. A new spirit seemed to be developing not only in English literature, but in world literature. Men were discovering that disillusion was not enough, that cynicism was not enough, that it was necessary to do something, and do it quickly. In many ways, as is generally the case, the writer was in advance of the politician. —(*Review of Aldous Huxley's "Grey Eminence"; Book talk by H. Winston Rhodes, 3YA, March 31.*)

The Bush Lawyer

OUR chief native representative of the rose family is the bramble. The Maoris in their expressive language call it a heap of prickles—Tataromoa. The settlers, because of its ability to hold on or cling fast, termed it the "bush lawyer." And with all due respect to



the bewigged gentlemen of the bar, "lawyer" seems to have stuck. And this lawyer can stick, as any of you who have been unfortunate enough to come to grips with it in the bush may know. Real sharp curved hooks it has—so placed as to allow the plant to climb up any support and grip fast. A downward pull simply tightens the grip. And it's not satisfied only with stem grips; the handsome bronze-tinted leaves are equipped on the under side with sharp yellow prickles—a heap of prickles and no mistake. As age advances, the lawyer, while it keeps pace with the growth of the forest in order to spread its blooms aloft, loses the main stem grips. Like a tropical liane, its great rope stems, to the surprise of many an observer, then hang loosely from forest floor to ceiling. —(*"Bush-trekking."* Rewa Glenn. 2YA, April 7.)

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