

LISTENINGS

Perpetrated and illustrated by
KEN ALEXANDER

AFTER a long period of separation, the Hitmuss combination has conferred with itself in Austria. It came to the conclusion that everything in the garden was lovely, and there wasn't a soul to say "Oh, yeah!" It also agreed with itself that the defeat of Great Britain and the Allied Nations was assured—and not a voice cried "so what!" Which just shows how completely in accord with itself it was. Actually, it is doubtful if Muss said anything at all, Hit being such a one for free tirade. But no doubt Muss seconded the commotion, and went back to Rome to feed Hit's cohorts, who are eating the Italians out



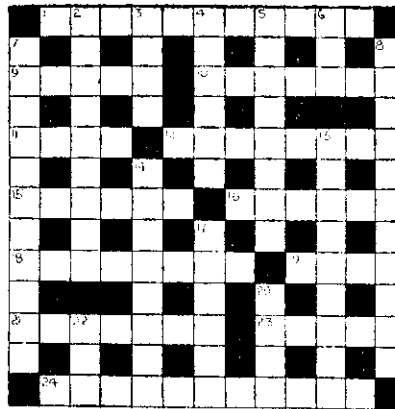
of house, home and colosseum, causing the natives to say, "See Naples and diet!" All of which explains Muss's statement that Italy's difficulties are due to "natural increase in the population." But anyone who can call a German soldier a *natural* increase, must be practically deceased north of the oesophagus.

When Muss returned to Rome, he was so relieved to get back all in one piece that he wired Hit, thanking him for offering the opportunity of discovering how profoundly he agreed with all Hit's plans. It is not recorded that Hit wired back, thanking Muss for being such a mug. But, in spite of the Hitmuss two-way back-slapping fiesta, the news dictates that neither in Itmany or Gitterly (pardon the co-operative spelling), are the natives agreed that the garden is anything more than a rank plot abounding in bitter aloes. A German authority, broadcasting from Moscow, asserts that the Germans are turning. But he doesn't say what they are turning on, besides their Axis. A worm will eat dirt indefinitely, but when it finds that even the dirt is phony—well, even a worm will turn. Here's to the turning-point!

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

(No. 99)

(Constructed by R.W.C.)



Clues Across

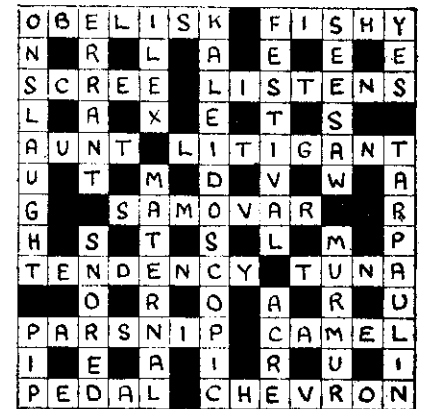
1. That nice sea will put you to sleep.
9. After five, a parent's sister is seen to boast.
10. Name of one of Rodin's masterpieces.
11. A pet provides fuel.
12. Push me on (anag.).
15. Gin and ore are both found in this district.
16. Stimulus.
18. Ten traps form part of a cruciform church.
19. Subject to an additional tax of 1/- per gallon.

21. Examine—O.E. verbs, perhaps?
23. Nothing less than 15 across.
24. Grey mole, too (anag.).

Clues Down

2. Rule again (anag.).
3. Slang food found in 1 across.
4. Sometimes military, but usually associated with sailors.
5. Pied mice are prevalent.
6. The middle of 10 across.
7. Eat poor Ivan! (anag.).
8. Parents rant, but are easily seen through.
13. Petty thieving.
14. Jani.
17. Seem.
20. Spoken.
22. That which is committed to a Bishop.

(Answer to No. 98)



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