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THINGS TO COME

A Run Through The Programmes

JOHANN CHRISTIAN BACH, whose *Sinfonia* will be heard from 4YA on Thursday, July 9, was the eighteenth child of the great Bach and a well known figure in English musical circles. His musical creed is summed up in this remark of his to a friend: "My father lived to compose and I compose to live." If that was so he did not manage very well, for he died in poverty. But since poverty is often the lot of composers, the only remarkable thing about this Bach was that his pupil Queen Charlotte paid his debts and his widow's passage back to Germany.

In Black and White

Lest anyone who is a keen student of the relative air and sea strengths of the Powers should be tempted to tune into the talk on "Silhouettes," to be given from 3YA on Saturday week by Noeline Thomson, we would point out that the silhouettes, since Miss Thomson is a physical welfare officer, are more likely to be feminine than nautical or aeronautical. But that does not mean that the talk is not timely. It is not as easy to put a girdle round the girth in forty minutes as it was in Shakespeare's day and, now that elastic is so hard to come by, if we want to keep that schoolgirl line we must pay for it in blood and tears, toil and sweat. If you doubt us, listen to Miss Thomson.

Inhuman Bondage

Dean Swift (correct us if we're wrong) once likened the universe to a suit of clothes and though few other writers have gone so far, metaphorically speaking, most of them have had something

to say about our sartorial and outward flourishes. Ken Alexander, who believes in keeping up the old traditions, is going to talk about "The Tyranny of Clothes" from 2YA on Friday week, but with so much raw material in the rationing regulations we think gymnosophists should be warned that the broadcast is not likely to be their cup of tea.

Tan-tan-tivvy-tally-ho!

Lest credulous readers should allow themselves to be so misled by our artist as to imagine that the A.C.E. proposes



to revive the controversy about corporal punishment for the benefit of some critics on the hearth, we would point out that "Tanning at Home," the A.C.E. talk from 4YA on Friday week, is much more topical and practical. Have you a cat that would look better as a coupon-free coat-collar or would Junior's white rats look more attractive masquerading as an unrationed evening-wrap? Does Father need a new pair of moleskin trousers? If the answer to these vital questions is in the affirmative, listen carefully to the A.C.E. and learn something about the Skin Game.

Almost Anything But

It may be that music is the food of love and that jazz is part of the diet, though there is disagreement as to whether it is a vitamin part or the starchy part that all good dietitians tell us to reject if we are to keep in health and figure. De Groot was one who drew his skirts aside and hurried on at the approach of jazz: in fact he once described it as the black man's revenge on the white. So while we may expect almost anything from de Groot's violin in his selection of popular melodies "Other Days," to be heard from 3YA on Thursday, July 9, at 7.30 p.m., we need hardly expect jazz.

Sigh No More

At first sight the programme of songs to be heard from 3YA on Monday, July 6, at 8.9 p.m., sounds rather like the despairing effort of the leader of a community sing. They begin on the hopeful note "To a Nightingale," and "Sing, Break Into Song," and then continue with "Sigh No More Ladies," and end on "Peg Away." But when we look further we see that the items are part of a studio recital by Miss Phyllis R. Hill (mezzo-soprano). The more carefully you listen to her the more foolish you will think this note.

Spies A. and M.

The beautiful spy steals the susceptible subaltern's papers. Her name is either Sonia or Mitzi and she has a tiny jewelled revolver. She wears a lot of black, and addresses generals and waiters as "mon ami." That was the spy of stories about World War 1. But to-day? Alas! To-day's spy might be anyone from Lord Whosis to the grocer; and as for the beautiful female spy, she's probably now in uniform. But spy thrillers are still very popular, and none more so than *Coast Patrol*, which is now being broadcast from 2ZB on Sundays at 7.30 p.m. (as well as at 6.30 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays).

Women Wanted

GILBERT MURRAY did not believe in restricting such opportunities to men. He was a strong advocate of higher education for women; it is part of "the right of every human soul to enter, unhindered except by the limitation of its own powers and desires, into the full spiritual heritage of the race." These were Murray's own words. In a preface to a history of Somerville, he testified to the wide value of University training for women in producing better schools, better homes, and better citizens. "The only just complaint to be made of University women as a class," he said, "is that there are too few of them. The nation needs twice and thrice as many."—(*Gilbert Murray—A Tribute*, 2YA, June 14.)

Over The Top

THE captain of his company said later that, when the cloud of gas was settling down on the front trenches to the accompaniment of heavy machine-gun fire, Piper Laidlaw stood up on the parapet boldly and struck up "Blue Bonnets Over the Border," and the

DID YOU HEAR THIS? Extracts From Talks

effect on his men was indescribable. The captain said: "As the men followed him over the top, Piper Laidlaw changed the tune to 'The Standard on the Braes o' Mar,' and surely that stirring tune was never played to better purpose."—(*The Pipers of 1914-18*, A. J. Sinclair, 1YA, June 28.)

Teddy Roosevelt

MANY of the dominant figures in the Republican party were rather afraid of Teddy Roosevelt's growing popularity and of his audacity. That was why they put him up to be Vice-President, hoping to steer him permanently out of the Presidency itself. When the assassin's bullet took the life of McKinley the party leaders—the Old Guard, as they were called—found that their hopes of heading Roosevelt off were frustrated. One of them spoke of him as "that wild man," and complained bitterly: "Look, that damned cowboy is President of the United States." Anyway, cowboy or no

cowboy, Theodore Roosevelt pretty soon turned out to be one of the great Presidents of American history. — (*A Survey of American History*, Professor Leslie Lipson, 2YA, June 8.)

Quaint Assembly

THERE was one occasion when the native men took her to be initiated into the freedom of all their totems—an honour given to no one but her. "Very early one morning," she says, "I was awakened by the insistent clicking of boomerangs outside my tent. I went out to find a long file of more than fifty men forming a half-circle. All carried spears, and all were naked except for their decorations—crazy stripes of red ochre and white pipe clay, crests of cockatoo feathers, hair belts and tassels reddened with blood, and waist-belts with a tuft of emu feathers behind. . . . In my sober Edwardian coat and skirt, a sailor hat with fly-veil, and neat, high-heeled shoes, I took up my position in the centre. We must have made a quaint assembly indeed." — (*Some Adventurous Women: Daisy Bates*, by Margaret Johnston, 2YA, June 13.)