

APRIL 9, 1943

When No Means Yes

WE were not surprised to discover, when we set out to ask the questions discussed on Pages 4 and 5, that not many people wished to answer them. Even when answers were offered they were largely negative, and when they were positive they did not often tell us what we wanted to know. But they told us something: first that most people are still more concerned with winning the war than with reconstructing the world afterwards; and in the second place that very few of those who are thinking about the future have yet reached clear decisions. We were of course not so much thinking of the future ourselves as trying to find out if others were doing so; especially if they were doing so consciously. It was not a case of drawing maps but of testing reactions, and it is a healthy sign, all in all, that very few of those we questioned had spent any time counting their heart-beats. People who do not know whether they are more worried than they use to be, or less, who have to think before they can say whether it is harder or easier to pray or sing or read or play, are not deeply worried about anything; and that, so long as it does not slip into complacency, is how healthy people ought to be. In other words, the answers to our questions indicate that most people are working and not worrying. They have passed out of the anxious questionings of the first few months of the war without realising what has happened to them, and to-day they can hardly recall those anxieties. It is only on the religious front that there are dark broodings about the future, and religion would be dead if believers were not disturbed. They are. They do not conceal, or wish to conceal their uneasiness. They know that victory for the Allies will present almost as grave problems for Christians as an indefinite prolongation of the unrest and misery of war. But the mood of the average man is calm; certainly not fretful or alarmed. His answers about himself are negative because he is too busy to think about himself—or about anything continuously but the speediest delivery of the world from anarchy. His "No I am not aware of a change" means "Yes, I am getting on with my job."

NEW ZEALAND LISTENER, APRIL 9

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

0000 HOURS

Sir,—I expect there are other people besides myself who would be interested to know why the time is being announced in this extraordinary way. I notice, too, that 8 o'clock p.m. in New Zealand is 2000, and the same time in England is 0000. A few words of explanation would be appreciated.

"PUZZLED" (Christchurch).

[The practice of announcing the time from the National stations on the basis of the 12-hour and the 24-hour clock was instituted at the request of the Chiefs of the Armed Forces, in order to familiarise the public with the method of time calculation on the 24-hour clock. Our correspondent is under some misapprehension regarding the relative times in England and New Zealand. Eight p.m. New Zealand (that is 2000 hours), is 8 a.m. Greenwich Mean Time in England (that is, 0800 hours).—Ed.]

HEALTH BROADCASTS

Sir,—The other morning at 7.30 I heard a health talk which I assume was given under the auspices of the Health

French Broadcasts to Secondary Schools

A NEW series of French broadcasts for secondary schools is now being prepared. Broadcasts will start on Monday, April 19, at 3.15 p.m. The French booklet to be read in conjunction with the broadcasts is now in the press, and teachers are asked to apply immediately to The Director, National Broadcasting Service, on the basis of one book for every two pupils. Owing to the paper shortage, it will not be possible to publish the text of the broadcasts in "The Listener" as was done in 1941.

Department. It was recommended that we drink about four pints of water a day and that this quantity of water would be especially beneficial in cases of rheumatism and high blood pressure. I have always understood that dampness is bad for rheumatism, and my uncle attributed his rheumatism to drinking too much water with his whisky. My aunt has high blood pressure, and her doctor advised her to be very moderate in the amount of fluid she drank, and she said her nights have been much more comfortable since she followed this advice.

As I have not been feeling too well lately, I decided to try the advice, and to drink four pints of water. On measuring this, I found it came to 11¼ glasses. I thought I would be able to manage it if I drank one every hour. I had my usual two cups of tea at breakfast and at 9.0 a.m. I drank, with some difficulty, a glass of water. At 10.0 a.m. I had the greatest difficulty in forcing myself to gulp down another glass. I had a bloated, unreal sort of feeling, and was quite unable to take more than a sip of the usual glass of milk that I had at morning tea time. I watched the hands of the clock with increasing dread as they neared the hour of 11.0 a.m. It took me a quarter of an hour to swallow the third glass of the nauseous, revolting, tasteless fluid.

The mid-day glass was even more of a strain, and I felt that water was coming out of my ears and oozing at every pore. I also had to undo the top button of my trousers and the bottom button of my waistcoat. I ate very little of my lunch, and was able to take only one sip of the tea that I usually enjoy so much at lunch time.

It is now 1.30, and I sit with my 1 p.m. glass of water about one-third consumed, in momentary fear that what I have taken will be rejected by my protesting, gurgling stomach, which seems to be swimming in a turbid sea of fluid. I write to you, sir, to see whether you can help me with your advice. I wonder whether I could have made a mistake in measuring the number of glasses that four pints will fill. If it is good for my health, I would certainly like to carry out the instructions, but I doubt if I shall survive another glass.

WATERLOGGED (Wellington).

P.S. My brother has just telephoned that he had a limit divvy from his book-maker and wants me to sink a couple with him at 5 o'clock. You should have heard his gasp when I regretfully but firmly refused.

[The following reply has been made by "Uncle Scrim": "Waterlogged" did not listen carefully, or he would have learned that the amount recommended included the liquids normally taken in the form of tea, milk, coffee, etc. Beer was not mentioned."]

TEACHING HISTORY

Sir,—I notice that "A.G.B." carefully evades the point of my letter in connection with the myth and sentiment created round Trafalgar and Waterloo by partisan writers. He indulges in a little sarcasm at my expense, and remarks in questionable taste that my views indicate that "Britons should be ashamed of themselves for winning, or claiming 'as victories' those battles. There was nothing in my letter to denote anything of the kind, as I yield to no one in my admiration for British valour and British fighting qualities. I merely called attention to a few historical blunders, which, unfortunately for posterity, have almost passed into a positive belief. Your other correspondent, R. White, enters into the controversial arena in a much more chivalrous manner. Admitting having read Maxwell's history, he says he has "failed to find therein that Russia and Austria were England's allies, or were advancing to the assistance of the English" at Waterloo. I would remind Mr. White that when Napoleon escaped from Elba and landed in France, the whole of the States of Europe, headed by England, Russia, Austria and Prussia, linked themselves up in a mighty coalition at the Congress of Vienna on March 13, 1815, and bound themselves by a solemn declaration not to lay down their arms until the destruction of Bonaparte was effected. According to the official returns presented at the Congress, the troops of the combined Powers totalled 986,000. No two writers agree as to the number of troops at Napoleon's command, but 300,000 ready and equipped to take the field would be a fair estimate.—J. A. WALSH (Pahiatua).

AS WEAK A STOMACH As A Man Could Have

I Can Now Eat Anything Thanks to MACLEAN BRAND Stomach Powder

Dear Sirs,

Please accept this note of thanks, for the great benefit procured from your MACLEAN BRAND Stomach Powder.

I was in such a state of collapse that my doctor thought that I was suffering from some form of heart weakness, but later found my stomach to be the whole cause. I was treated then but the relief did not last. I tried many remedies, but not until I tried your Powder did I know that I had at last stumbled on a cure.

Since taking it I can now eat anything, and I am proud of the fact that I now can truthfully say that my stomach is as good as any. So those who take it for granted that they must put up with constant discomfort and pain, which they think, not without reason, inevitable, will be thankful that they have taken notice of this plain unvarnished statement of truth. (Mr.) W. McC.

Why then continue to suffer nagging, burning Stomach Pain day after day? Get instant relief with MACLEAN BRAND Stomach Powder, the speediest and most successful remedy for Pain, Flatulence, Heartburn, Nausea, and the proved safeguard against those dread complications, Gastritis and Stomach Ulcer.

Insist on this Name

See this diamond design on the package and the Signature Alex C. Maclean.

Look for Signature



Macleans Ltd., Great West Road, London.

This BLONDE beauty can be yours!



Learn this amazing SECRET!

If your blonde hair is going dark and brownish... try Sta-blond. You will make this amazing discovery... that Sta-blond can bring back

that lovely 'lighter' colour to darkened blonde hair. Then comes a glistening, glamorous silkiness that spells fascinating beauty. Sta-blond can prevent blonde hair from darkening and keep it bright and shining. For Sta-blond is made especially for blondes.

STA-BLOND
THE BLONDES OWN SHAMPOO

FREE: 1.3 A chart of NEW Hair Styles specially for Blondes. Write to Fassett & Johnson Ltd., Dept. L.I., Manners St., Wellington. Box 33.
NAME
ADDRESS