

APRIL 22, 1943

## Great Days

IT has not happened before that the same week-end has brought New Zealand Good Friday, Anzac Day, and St. George's Day (which is also the anniversary of the birth of Shakespeare); and it will be a long time before it happens again. Anzac Day had not come into our lives when Good Friday last fell on St. George's Day, and it may have ceased to mean what it still does to most people before the conjunction is repeated. No one can see far enough into the future to say that what moves him will still have power to move his grandchildren; although most of us take the risk, our faith is just a pious hope. Once at least in the present war, and perhaps twice, we have been near enough to political extinction to create the feeling that we are now almost the survivors of a wreck. If Britain had fallen to Germany, New Zealand would already have been Japanese, and while that would not have been the end of Christianity it would have been the end in New Zealand for an indefinite time of saints' days and Christian commemorations. And there could have been no surviving national days in a community whose history ended almost as soon as it began. Anzac Day would have meant as much after a century of occupation by Japan as the day now means to us that saw the fall of Kaiapohia Pa. Shakespeare's birthday would have been as well remembered as we remember the birthday of Hiroshige. We must not assume that it can't happen here with great days as it has happened in so many other places in the course of history. We can merely thank God that it has *not* happened. Christianity remains (for all the things we have ourselves done to destroy it). The Anzac tradition remains (in spite of the carelessness that nearly killed it). Shakespeare remains (in defiance of the things we do to him on the stage and in our schoolrooms). That day of wrath on which our civilisation so nearly dissolved in ashes was warded off by the things, the still great and moving things, of which this week-end carries so many reminders.

## LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

### BYWAYS OF MUSIC

Sir,—“I.A.M.S.” of Auckland says that I cannot have explored the byways of music not to have come across anything by Haba and Varese. He also states that he does not remember “Marsyas” having mentioned any music that cannot be found in a gramophone catalogue. For every work of Haba and Varese which “I.A.M.S.” can find mentioned in a gramophone catalogue, I will give half a dozen composers mentioned by “Marsyas” which do not appear in a gramophone catalogue. If he accepts this challenge let him send in his list, together with the maker of the record.

A.W.T. (Christchurch).

### POLITE REQUEST

Sir,—We are promised the pleasure of hearing once a month an organ recital featuring Bach from 4YA, and I am writing to ask if you could (and would), make representations to the necessary quarter to have the whole of these recitals broadcast from 4YA. The usual Sunday evening talk, newsreel and commentary, could be diverted to 4YO on these occasions.

The Sunday evening talk (it wasn't called that then), took me unawares the first time I heard it announced nearly two years ago. I was listening enraptured to a piano and organ composition from Dunedin when it was rudely, barbarously interrupted, and an official voice said that all stations, National and Commercial, were standing by for a National Service talk. I switched off with unnecessary vehemence, and from that bad day to this I have not listened to any talk over the radio. If it hadn't occurred on Sunday it wouldn't have been quite so bad. After two years I have cooled down sufficiently to be able to ask politely if these rare recitals could be given an uninterrupted hearing.

R. S. JARDIN (Auckland).

### “A GENTLEMAN AFTER DARK”

Sir,—With regard to G.M.'s criticism of “A Gentleman After Dark,” I notice he remarks that “Much of the story of this film takes place in the year 1923,” and, if I remember rightly, it was in that year that I saw a film entitled “Heliotrope,” which portrayed the silent version of the same story. It was the kind of highly emotional film that was popular in those days, and many female (and other) hearts were stirred by the “nobility” of the father who could turn his wife into a murderer in order to save the feelings of his daughter.

I should like to express my thanks to your paper for its honest endeavour to let people know what to expect—a much-needed service—and may we soon progress above the level of the false sentiment of earlier days.—ONE OF THE PUBLIC (Khandallah).

### PUBLIC SERVANTS OR MIDDLE-MEN?

Sir,—The clause in the Beveridge Report which has been rejected in the recent debate in the House of Commons is a test clause in that it sums up the meaning and purpose of the remaining clauses. Why this hesitation in assigning a public function to a public body? Is it the fear of increasing the number of public officials? If so, be it remembered that predatory individualism in the form of private enterprise sustains a host of

middlemen far beyond anything that public control of public affairs can ever absorb into its service. On the score of redundancy, private enterprise easily takes pride of place.—J.B. (Wairoa).

### 000 HOURS

Sir,—Your answer to your correspondent who questioned the present method of announcing the time was illuminating. One might ask what is the reason the Army wish to familiarise us with their method of announcing it. Are we to be brought under the Army—as in Japan?

If we are to have the 24-hour clock (and there is something to be said for it), why can we not have it done sensibly as in Britain, Europe, and U.S.A.? If the time is 1945, why can this not be given as “nineteen forty-five hours,” instead of the pedantic and meaningless “one nine four five hours”? Every night we hear it decently done from London when 1100 hours is announced as “eleven hours,” instead of the absurd New Zealand Army way—“one one oh oh hours.”

F. (Christchurch).

### “ANARCHY”

Sir,—In your leader “No Means Yes” you express the desire for “the speediest delivery of the world from Anarchy.” This is definitely a misnomer, as the world at present is far from the Utopian state. Had it reached it, there would certainly be no war to-day. Let me quote Havelock Ellis. “The word Anarchist, invented by Proudhon in 1840, and since so employed, is yet not a happy name. It suggests a disorganised rebellion against all government, and it is not surprising that to the vulgar mind ‘Anarchist’ often means ‘criminal,’ and still less surprising that the common criminal is often pleased to dub himself ‘Anarchist.’ But the people called Anarchists, outside criminal circles, are not in favour of disorganisation nor of the rejection of Government. What they seek to maintain is organisation from within rather than from without, and self-government rather than government by others.”

MARGARET BENNETT (Dunedin).

### A NEW THREAT

Sir,—Last week I overheard a musician describing a recent battle of words with another musician. “I put the fear of Marsyas into him,” he said.

“ATTABOY” (Wellington).

### POINTS FROM LETTERS

COME TO THE POINT (Invercargill) enthusiastically praises the Rainbow Rhythm Session by Art Rosoman and his band from 2YA and asks for more.

I.B. (Te Kuiti) says that although Lew Ayres was once classed as a conscientious objector he is now in the U.S. Medical Corps. “This, I believe, was his wish when he was first called up, and if he had been given his way in the first place there would have been no need for such a fuss.”

ARTHUR T. CUSHEN (Invercargill) says that one of the stations he mentioned in our article on “What the American Commentators Say” should not be KWB, 10.84 mcs., but KWV, a station of the Trans-Pacific Communications and located at Dixon, California.

H.M. (Blenheim) expresses appreciation of 2YA's “Hometown Variety” and the hope that his programme will continue.

VERA WALKER (Wellington) asks that 2YA's series of literary broadcasts by Mrs. J. F. Nathan on Saturday mornings should be repeated on some evening during the week, because “owing to the busy life most people lead, it is impossible to listen in at 11 a.m.”

## QUICK RELIEF FROM

# PAIN

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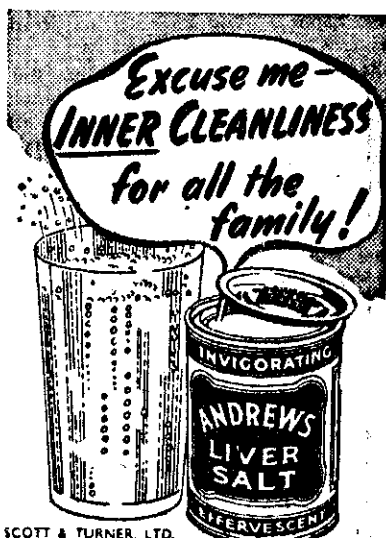
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