

(continued from previous page)

"Mr. Friedman's suggestion that some of the brass players ought to be sent to the Far East to break down the walls of Jericho is in poor taste. Quite a number of Australian musicians have gone to the Far East for purposes more important than blowing down the walls of Jericho. The war, in fact, has withdrawn many excellent players from the ABC's orchestras, but we have no doubt that Mr. Friedman himself will recognise that it is better to have indifferent orchestras in a country still free to enjoy them than to have the best orchestras in the world playing to foreign invaders."

## Artist and Public

Finally, we quote some extracts of a BBC talk by the novelist E. M. Forster, which, though not intended as a reply either to Friedman or to his critics, provide a kind of background to the controversy:

"A GREAT deal has been said about the duty of the artist to society.

"It is argued that the poet, the novelist, the painter, the musician, has a duty to the community; he is a citizen like

everyone else. He must pull his weight, he must not give himself airs or ask for special terms, he must pay his taxes honourably, and keep the laws which have been made for the general good. That is the argument, and it is a reasonable one. But there is another side: 'What is the duty of society to the artist?' Society certainly has a duty to its members; it has a duty to the engineer who serves it loyally and competently; it must provide him with the necessary tools and not allow him to starve. It has a duty to the stockbroker who is a competent buyer of stocks—since he is part of a financial system which it has accepted it must support him, and ensure him his due percentage. This is obvious enough. So what is its duty to the artist? If he does his bit, if he contributes loyally and competently, ought not society to reward him like any other professional man?

"Unfortunately, the matter is not so simple. Art is a profession—that is quite true. The novelist or the musician has to learn his job just as the engineer or stockbroker has to learn his, and he, too, has to make both ends meet, and wants to be paid or otherwise supported. But it is such a queer job, I want first to consider society, the society we may expect to have after this war.

"We may expect a society that is highly centralised. It may be organised for peace—we hope it will. It may have to be organised against future wars, and if so, so much the worse. But in either case, it will be very tightly knit, it will be bureaucratic. Bureaucracy, in a technical age like ours, is inevitable. And as a result, society and the State will be the same thing.

## Never Like it Before

"This has never happened in the past. Society used to be much more diffuse. The government was there, making laws and wars, but it could not interfere so much with the individual—it hadn't the means. You cannot interfere with people unless you can get at them easily. For example, in the past, a painter painted for the king at whose court he lived—who probably had some individual ideas about painting—or for the great aristocrats or for the local squire, or for the church, which was not an individual, but which knew what it wanted as regards subject-matter. He lived in a society which was broken up into groups and he had the chance of picking the group which suited him. That society—after lasting for thousands of years—has suddenly hardened and become centralised, and in the future the only effective



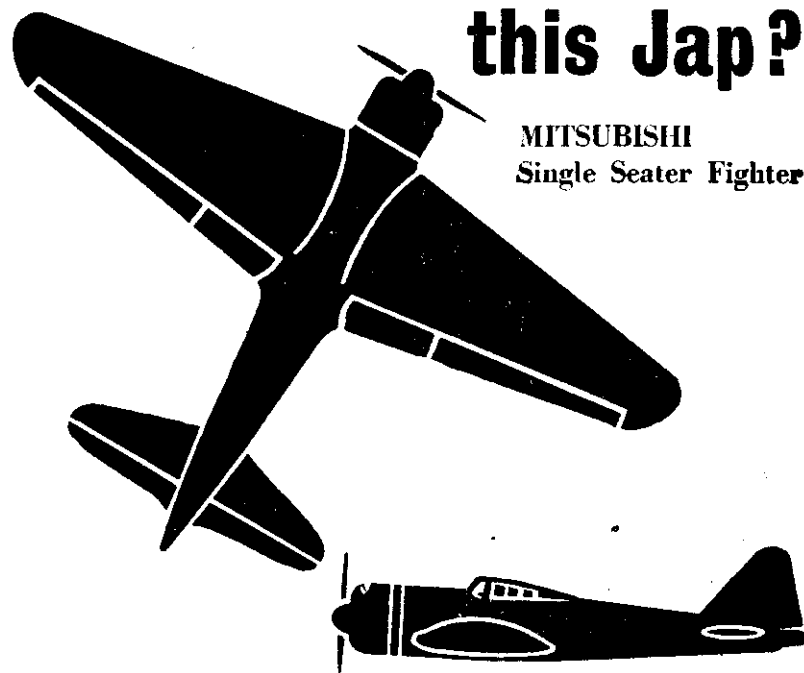
NELLIE MELBA  
Peach Melba came from Europe

patron will be the State. The State is in a position to commission pictures, statues, symphonies, novels, epics, films, hot jazz—anything. It has the money, and it commands the available talent. It can and will encourage the efficient engineer, or stockbroker, or butcher. What encouragement will it give to an artist?"

*May Belle*  
LINGERIE

DESIGNED TO MAKE YOU

## Can you identify this Jap?



Don't loiter if you ever see this Jap; it might start machine-gunning. Identification of aircraft needs practice, but Bell Tea is easily identified by its freshness and flavour. Remember, more cups per pot with

B3.3

**BELL Tea** IDENTIFIED by its FLAVOUR