

## Four Years

IT would be foolish after four years of war to say that we can look back over the whole period without a moment of shame. We can't in New Zealand, they can't in Britain, it would be fatuous to say that they can in New York or Moscow. But it would be more foolish still to say that we dare not look back at all. For the best part of a year now the war has gone well for all the United Nations, and the three years before that were punctuated by events to which our children will turn in gratitude and pride. Let us acknowledge it without humbug or cant. And when we look more particularly at our own humble part in New Zealand, let us not shrink from feeling and saying that posterity will not have to blush for us. We were not ready for war physically or mentally. We did not believe until it happened, and could hardly be blamed for not believing, that our safety could disappear in a night. Yet all unready as we were, disarmed in body and in mind, we faced about and in 2½ years had half our manpower of military age armed and in uniform. Nearly all the others, and nearly all those who were over age but still young enough to serve in some capacity, had been enrolled as Home Guards or in the E.P.S., until the story in the end read like this:

Navy, Army and Air Force	....	189,000
Sent overseas	....	95,000
Home Guard	....	124,000
Civil Defence	....	160,000

Those of course are peak figures, and already are not quite accurate; but they are accurate enough to show that our children will not have to apologise for us if their children ask questions about the four years that ended last week. There is much to be done yet and much to be endured, much to be humble about, and much cause for gratitude to the great nation that protected us last year. But we can at least say that we faced the worst without flinching and prepared to defend ourselves with a thoroughness and speed that history will certainly commend.

## LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

### THE MAORI LANGUAGE

Sir,—Can you do anything to stop the awful mutilation of the Maori language? One member of Parliament recently suggested that "Maori" be taught as a compulsory subject in our State schools. One may retort that members of Parliament in "Noozillan" be taught English. However, I think that all broadcasters — particularly sporting broadcasters — should be made to pass some test in the correct pronunciation of Maori words.

The following story speaks for itself. Some years ago, the British Government was to hand over a new cruiser to the New Zealand Navy. The question arose as to her name. Someone suggested "Kupe." We had our Hoods, Drakes, Nelsons—why not call the New Zealand warship after old Kupe, who thrashed round the Pacific centuries before Drake and his merry men knew it existed. Well, why not? This is why not. It was pointed out that although there had been compulsory education in New Zealand for some 80 years, the net result was that if there was a wrong way of pronouncing a Maori word the enlightened New Zealand public would find it out, and our sombre fighting ship would be called "The Kewpie." My eternal thanks to the gentleman who averted that naval disaster.

IKA PIRAU (Wellington).

(We sympathise with our correspondent, but must tell him that the NBS has broadcast many talks on the pronunciation of Maori.—Ed.).

### OPERA COMMENTARIES

Sir,—While I agree entirely with "Writer of Commentaries" (Wellington), in your issue of August 13, that running commentaries make the operas more understandable, I contend that the names of the leading singers should be published in *The Listener*. Here in New Zealand we have not the opportunities of hearing overseas artists, and I am sure that if the leading artists' names were published, the interest in the operas would be accentuated. I think it is a tribute to an artist's performance that he or she should be known. I have often wondered whose voice has taken a certain Aria, and shall welcome the day when I can look up my *Listener* and read it there.—SOPRANO (Auckland).

(And we shall welcome the day when we can find room for it.—Ed.).

### NOT ENOUGH OF US

Sir,—No, I did not sidetrack. I said there would be no more in my family because of the lack of money to bring them up as they should be brought up. "One of Many" has not explained how to rear and educate 10 children on £5/10/- per week. Granted, I spoke of all the work entailed and am not ashamed again to say it. I certainly haven't done all the work "One of Many" has done, but I've seen the men when they've come in from doing it, and they are no more tired than the woman of the house, and I doubt if as tired. I still maintain that feeding a baby, plus the house, sewing, and gardening, is more tiring than three to four hours a day farmwork.

I didn't say a mother of ten was selfish with her children. I said it was selfish to

have ten children with absolutely no prospect of providing even moderately for them. I'm afraid I haven't got the cheek to let "God provide" as she suggests—in other words, sponge on relations and neighbours.

"P" (Christchurch).

(We have no space for further letters on this subject. "P's" letter has been severely condensed.—Ed.).

### THANK YOU

Sir,—In the middle of a busy Monday morning I must stop to write a few lines to say "thank you" to whoever is responsible for the remarkable change in the type of music now being put over from 1YA from 7.0 o'clock to 10.0 o'clock in the mornings. It is really a joy to listen to—not too highbrow, but lilting, lovely melodies, instead of the awful spate of dance numbers that greeted us from every station a few months ago. In case the present standard cannot be maintained, could I make the suggestion that the swing music be confined to one station in each centre. We are quite keen on dancing, by the way, and enjoy swing music when it comes at the right time.

I.R.P. (Auckland).

### ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENT

A.M. (Christchurch): Rene Gekiere (Donald North), photograph published last issue; Chris Ford (Dr. MacPherson); "Green Hornet" player's name not available.

### CORRECTION

We regret that "hell" became "hill" in C.M.L.'s recent letter on the Creeds.

### Cold Water

(By WHIM-WHAM)

[Dean Warren said that in addition to attending the international round-table, delegates had the opportunity for talks with leaders in State and international movements. They had found that the battle for world co-operation had been won on the intellectual front, was being won on the political front, but still had to be won on the people's front. . . . The Dean of Christchurch, on his return from the United States as delegate to the International Round Table of Christian leaders.]

On the Intellectual Front  
The World of the Future is planned,  
The Hosts of Misrule are retreating  
And Everything's nicely in Hand;  
Nice Work!  
The Intellect has it in Hand.

Along the Political Front  
The Cause is advancing, although  
The coming New Order has yet  
A little Bit further to go;  
In Fact,  
Our Progress is steady, but slow.

But the People—Ah, there is the Front  
Where Revival is lagging behind!  
World Unity hasn't the Place  
That it should, in the Popular Mind.  
Ah, me!  
The People are still a Bit blind!

The People, of Whom I am One,  
Perhaps are a Little obtuse,  
A Little inclined, when approached,  
To ask with a Shrug, "What's the Use?"  
Their Part

Is to wait, or to fight, or produce.

So often has Intellect proved  
That a World torn apart can unite,  
And Politics promised the Moon,  
That the People are probably right  
To wait  
Till Utopia's fairly in Sight!



**Replaces**  
TOILET CREAM AND  
COLD CREAM

Here, at last, is a  
NEUTRAL face  
cream . . . neither acid nor alkaline  
. . . and akin to the skin itself. Nutro  
Mercolated Wax is recommended to  
replace toilet cream and cold cream.  
It smoothes away, gradually but  
surely, acne, spots, freckles and  
blemishes.

OBTAINABLE  
EVERYWHERE

**NUTRO** 26  
**MERCOLATED**  
**WAX**

Made in New Zealand by Wilfrid Owen  
Ltd., Christchurch



**A little KIWI**  
**goes a long way!**

Kiwi fights dust and heat—keeps supple and  
preserves the boots of our Armed Forces.  
Kiwi is essential to our fighting men, so  
help them by being economical with Kiwi.  
Remember, a little Kiwi goes a long way.