

"ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR MORLEY!"

Sherlock Holmes Set To Music

THE feats of Sherlock Holmes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's fictitious detective of international fame, have been set to music by a New York businessman, Harvey Officer. Mr. Officer is a member of a small and select Sherlock Holmes fan-club, the "Baker Street Irregulars," and he has produced "A Baker Street Songbook" (containing 13 ballads and a suite for violin and piano) privately printed for his fellow club members.

Officer was formerly a music teacher, and had composed an operetta "The Magic Garden," as well as many songs and string quartets. Always interested in the Sherlock Holmes technique, he entered with enthusiasm into a Sherlock Holmes cross-word puzzle contest promoted in 1934 by Christopher Morley, well-known American author. At a dinner held for the successful contestants, the "Baker Street Irregulars" was founded. Before the last annual meeting, Morley proposed to Officer that he write a "symphony or sonata" for the occasion.

"Well," commented the composer, in a recent interview, "one doesn't dash off a symphony or a sonata in a couple of weeks."

However, he appeared at the dinner with the first half of his "Baker Street Suite," and fiddled it cheerfully for his audience. At odd moments since, he has completed it. On the same occasion, he read a paper on "Sherlock Holmes and Music," in which he offered the opinion that Holmes should be ranged among the great musicologists of the period.



"The Great Musicologist"

"In the story entitled 'The Bruce-Partington Plans,' Officer pointed out, 'we read that the great detective was immersed in the study of medieval music; that the results of his study eventually appeared in a monograph upon the polyphonic motets of Orlando di Lasso; and that this monograph, printed for private circulation only, was the last word on the subject.'"

Most of Officer's ballads apostrophise characters from Conan Doyle's books, including Gregson and Lestrade, Irene Adler, Mrs. Hudson and the Famous Dr. Watson, alter ego of Sherlock Holmes. Claiming nothing for his lyrics except that they scan, Officer's style is exemplified in the lament of Mrs. Hudson:

*He keeps his papers in a mess,
He's careless, too, about his dress.
He will not let me tidy up
Nor tell me when he wants to sup.
I cannot keep his lodgings clean,
And I suspect he takes morphine;
I greatly fear, I really think
He's just the sort to die of drink.*

The toast to Holmes himself has become an accepted part of the "Irregulars" gathering. It goes as follows:

*Lift up your glasses, then, and drink to
Sherlock's fame
'Tis we Irregulars who fan his sacred
flame;
Each year we congregate
To keep this joyous fete,
Once more to celebrate
The glories of his name.*

Sherlock Holmes has always been as popular in the United States as in other parts of the world.

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But Hot Springs confined itself to long-run "recommendations" on how to produce plenty or cut costs. UNRRA, its successor, has been out to get immediate, practical, concerted action.

They Listened to New Zealand

Our New Zealand representatives have been much consulted. George Duncan, Director of the Export Division of the Marketing Department, who was our second delegate at Hot Springs (the third was R. M. Campbell, Secretary of the High Commissioner's Office in London), was chosen chairman of the Committee concerned with "Improvement in Agricultural Marketing, Processing and Distribution"—a tribute not only to our agricultural efficiency but even more to our overseas marketing organisation which enables butter to sell in Newcastle or Manchester with less distribution-toll than American farmers frequently have to face to get theirs to their own cities. Dr. Campbell again headed the UNRRA group, assisted by Geoffrey Cox, the Otago Rhodes Scholar, who went from Oxford to Fleet Street and from Fleet Street to the Spanish War, and now heads our Washington staff; by Bruce Turner of the Prime Minister's Department; and by Dr. Allan G. B. Fisher, once Pro-

fessor of Economics at Otago University, and more recently of the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

Though no government is bound by these conferences beyond its own interest or conscience or the weight of local or world opinion, they are of far-reaching importance.

First, and not least, they should ensure the impoverished people of Europe against a recurrence of their experience in 1918, when relief was held back for six months after the Armistice partly from lack of transport but partly for punishment. The Allied armies will come this time as liberators—from tyranny first but also from starvation. OFRRO fed and reconstructed Africa and South Italy from the day the troops arrived. UNRRA will be ready for worse needs in wider areas.

Winning the Peace By Work

Secondly, these conferences suggest that the leading governments realise that peace is secured not merely by negotiations or by unconditional surrender, but by practical hard work. In other words, these Food and Reconstruction Conferences are attempting to plan peace ahead of its outbreak. Whatever the politicians say later, the experts, the practical men, are getting their say in first.

—A.M.R.

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