

The pen the whole world likes

the **BLACKBIRD** at 19/9



All the world loves a Blackbird! And here's why — 14 carat solid gold nib, Iridium tip, quick-twist filling, larger ink capacity — and all this at a very reasonable price! Full details below.

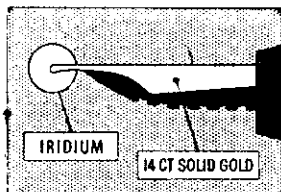
14 carat solid gold nib. Why gold? Because only a solid (not just plated) gold nib will keep its shape under the heavy strain of writing pressure. This hand-wrought, non-corrosive nib is available in Fine, Medium or Broad points.

And an Iridium nib. Costing £28 per ounce, Iridium is one of the hardest bearing metals known. A pellet of this precious metal is welded by skilled craftsmen on to the underside of the gold nib. This makes the point practically everlasting and ensures smooth, trouble-free writing all the time.

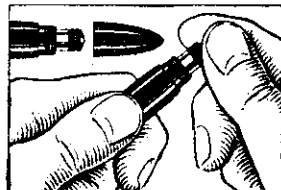
Quick-twist filling. This new method fills your pen quickly and *cleanly* and gives you a much greater ink capacity.

Elegant appearance. Smooth, streamlined body, flush-fitting screw-on cap plus a variety of attractive colours make the Blackbird one of the most handsome pens that money can buy.

Sole Distributors: Van Staveren Bros. Ltd., P.O. Box 2290, Wellington.



More precious than gold. A pellet of £28-an-ounce Iridium, welded on to the underside of the gold nib, makes the point practically everlasting.



Quick-twist filling. Just unscrew the cap, twist the knob, replace the cap and your pen is filled.

THE BLACKBIRD

MADE BY THE SWAN PEOPLE

1070-6

ORCHESTRAL CONDUCTOR

Applications are invited for the position of **Conductor to the Christchurch Orchestral Society Inc.** The successful applicant will require to produce evidence of good orchestral experience, but most important of all, he should be of sound integrity, and possess that measure of enthusiasm so necessary for a Society of this type.

The minimum honorarium is £150 per annum, and the position should prove to be most attractive, as the Society hopes to institute in the near future, a training scheme for young instrumentalists.

The Society will also be willing to give the maximum of assistance to the successful applicant (if living outside of Christchurch at present) to establish himself in the city.

Applications should be forwarded on or before **July 2, 1954**, to **The Secretary, CHRISTCHURCH ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY**, c/o 6 Darnley Street, Christchurch, N.Z.

NEW ZEALAND LISTENER

INCORPORATING N.Z. RADIO RECORD

Every Friday

Price Fourpence

JUNE 4, 1954

Editorial and Business Offices: 115 Lambton Quay, Wellington, C.1.

G.P.O. Box 2292.

Telegraphic Address: "Listener," Wellington.

Telephone 70-999.

Ideas Against Bombs

WHEN the Science Congress was being held in Auckland last month, Professor

Marcus Oliphant gave an address — broadcast by 1YC — on "Science and Mankind." One of his many interesting statements was that he could find no evidence of any improvement in morality in five thousand years of recorded history. This may well be true, though the opinion will not be popular. Because political and economic freedoms have become wider, we like to believe that there is a sort of moral evolution. If there is, it is very gradual, and must be looked for in periods of time far greater than five thousand years. Social changes and improvements occur, but men who help to bring them about today are no better than the reformers among their distant ancestors. Goodness and evil are what they have always been. There were saints among the Greeks and Romans, and tyrants of ancient times were no worse than Hitler.

Professor Oliphant seemed to believe that the moral nature of mankind is sufficient for its present task. Great reforms have their beginnings in the ideas of individuals and small groups who try to convince the majority by force of argument and example. It is true that their ideas cannot prevail until the world is ready for them. There were Greeks who preached against slavery; but an economic system without slaves seemed as unrealistic in those times as international government seems today. In the Roman Empire the decline of slavery, when at last it came, was the result of political and economic circumstances as well as humanitarian sentiment. Moreover, soon after slavery was abolished in Europe, it became rampant in Africa. The conscience of mankind had to be assaulted for more than two thousand years before there could be a final response. This tragic slowness might be used as an argu-

ment for inaction. The important fact, however, is that ideas can prevail in the end.

When, therefore, Professor Oliphant went on to speak of the only certain way he could see of avoiding a world war, he was not indulging an empty idealism. This way, he said, "is to give up our own national rights to armies and weapons of destruction, and to endeavour to rule the world, in matters affecting all the world — and those only — through a single organ of government which alone possesses military power." He was saying, in other words, that members of United Nations should be ready to surrender a larger part of their sovereignty, and in so doing to make UN an effective international body. It is not a new idea. Many thinkers said from the beginning that the Charter of United Nations did not go far enough. The objections, of course, were based on what was thought to be feasible or practicable; and they are perhaps even harder to answer today than in 1945. Yet the need for security has surely become greater than the difficulties.

Some thinkers, conceding that a world state is inevitable, have gone on to say that it is most likely to be established by conquest. Until recently, history supported them; but the opinion ceased to be valid when a mushroom cloud was seen above Bikini. No nation will rule the world if war comes again. Our hope for the future must be found in the possibility that men are nearly ready to acknowledge the essential unity of the human family. There is little evidence today that this can be done in politics. Yet who can tell? Slavery was an evil which came directly from war; and men said often that it could not disappear until warfare ceased. They were wrong. In the way that men rejected slavery — the ideas of freedom and justice slowly gaining ground — the larger evil may eventually be overcome. But there is not much time.

N.Z. LISTENER, JUNE 4, 1954.