

# WARRIOR-ORATOR

ON November 30 Sir Winston Churchill will be 80. Everyone knows the Churchill story of the last 14 years; to younger people his career before that is less familiar. Where did he come from, this young-old man?

"He is a little squareheaded fellow of no very striking appearance, but of wit, intelligence, and originality," wrote Wilfred Blunt, when he met young Winston Churchill for the first time in 1903. Churchill had then been in Parliament three years, elected at his second try. That was the start of Churchill the politician and statesman. Still not thirty, he had done quite a lot of other things that were worth writing home about. At school he didn't amount to very much, and his form master said he never would. But like many other young people he picked up quickly enough the things he wanted to learn. He did pretty well as a cavalry cadet at Sandhurst and when he joined the Hussars and went out to India he didn't only play polo—he read Macaulay, Gibbon, Plato and Aristotle. But why should his military career always be a playing at soldiers? It seemed a pity to him, he said, that the age of war between civilised nations had come to an end forever.

It hadn't, of course, and Churchill was soon to see action in several parts of the world—in Cuba, with the Malakand

Field Force and the Tirah Expeditionary Force, and at the Battle of Khar-toum. And after his first, unsuccessful attempt to get into politics he was off to the Boer War as a correspondent. During those years he had begun also, with two war books, the literary career which was eventually to win him the Nobel Prize.

Churchill went into Parliament in 1900 as a Conservative, but he was a frequent critic of his own party and in 1904 became a Liberal, and a Liberal who warned others not to be afraid of discussing social reform measures because some old woman described them as socialistic. What's more he was in a position to be practical about it, for after having posts with the Colonial Office and the Board of Trade he went to the Home Office, where he could improve conditions for prisoners, miners and the unemployed. Even as Home Secretary he liked a fight, as he showed in the Sydney Street siege, and the Churchill of two world wars was already taking shape when in 1911 he became First Lord of the Admiralty. He stayed in that post through the first phase of the First World War, but resigned amid a storm of criticism after what many thought was his blunder at Gallipoli. Later, after a period in the army in France, he joined the Lloyd George administration as Minister of Munitions.

The period between the wars was not the most active of Churchill's life,



**DIPLOMACY** "At the Summit" has always been strongly advocated by Sir Winston Churchill. He is seen here in conversation with President Truman during a visit to the United States

politically at any rate. As Minister for War and Air he is chiefly remembered for his strong attitude towards the Bolsheviks. He had a spell also as Colonial Secretary; but in 1922 he lost not only his place in Cabinet, but his seat in the

House. When, after a period of writing, painting and enjoying his family and his new home, Chartwell, he was again elected in 1924, it was with Conservative support, and he immediately became a leading force in the Conservative Party and Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Baldwin Government.

That was to be his last Cabinet post for a long time. In spite of all his work on the "Prosperity" Budget of 1929 Labour was returned to office that year; and neither in the National Government of 1931 nor the Baldwin or Chamberlain Governments that followed was Churchill offered a post till, with the outbreak of war, he could no longer be passed over. A few months at the Admiralty and he became head of the Government in the phase of his career which we all know so well.

No Churchill is more widely known than Churchill the orator—many phrases from his wartime speeches have become part of the language. An amusing instance of this was reported from England recently, when a "40-year-old printers' reader of small stature" was alleged to have ordered a policeman from his room saying, "I will defend my little empire from any intruder and fight on the beaches if necessary." Thousands of New Zealanders recall the speech from which these words were borrowed, and many other Churchill speeches which they heard broadcast during the war. For others the wartime speeches are something they have only read or heard about.

The Churchill of those days—the orator and warrior—will be the main theme of a birthday anniversary programme which YA and YZ stations will broadcast at 9.15 p.m. on Tuesday, November 30. In this programme Sir Winston will speak for himself, sometimes jubilant, sometimes at time of disaster. Besides extracts from his more famous wartime speeches and one or two given after the war, listeners will hear part of a speech made before New Zealand troops in the desert; and there will be one reminder of the more distant past—a recording of a speech made by young Winston Churchill, then a Liberal, on the Budget of 1909. Even then the famous Churchillian style was already well formed.

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on a different network at the same time. The Bishop, who is undoubtedly one of the finest speakers in America, presents a commercial programme of ad lib speech which he addresses to no particular faith. He combines meditative thought, astonishing humour and devoted patriotism into a concise and easily understood 26-minute address. Father James Keller, who uses many of the most famous of Hollywood stars in his Christopher series, has become a film producer of great merit. Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, who speaks as

well as he writes, attracts attentive viewers of all faiths, and during this year, too, we shall see the dynamic and convincing personality of young Billy Graham.

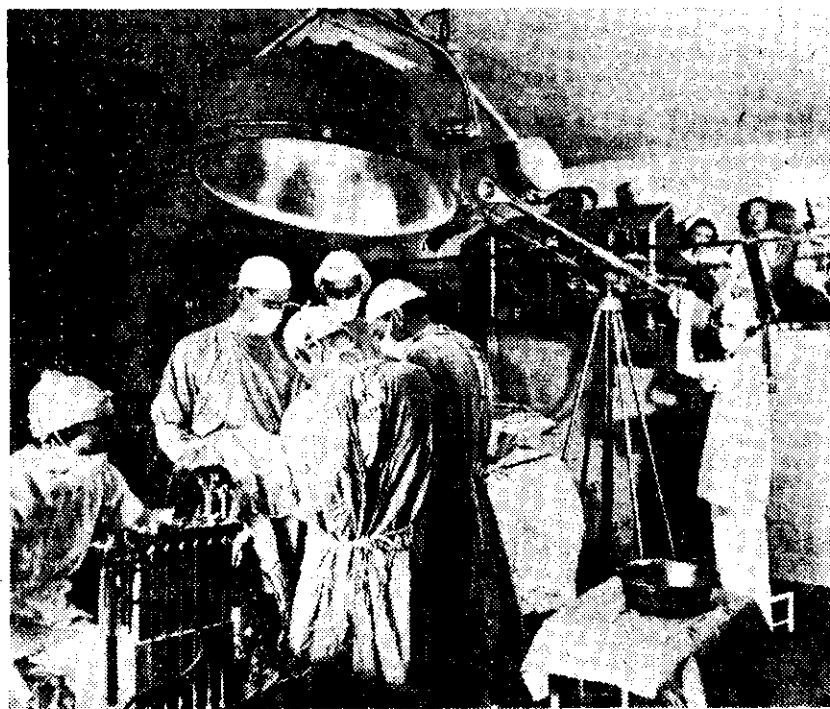
Quiz programmes seem to be with us forever. As they are designed to entertain but not to educate they demand little talent from the contestants. Question masters take care to see that the spot light of attention shines upon them rather than on the selected guests. The competitors receive their rewards in astonishingly valuable prizes of money or goods. Groucho Marx is the

best. His acid wit and cutting tongue have raised his half-hour *You Bet Your Life* to a place among the most highly rated programmes in the country.

Panel shows, too, have a constant viewing audience, which has retained *What's My Line?* among the top ten for a long time. In this show a permanent panel of four celebrities has to guess the unusual occupations of invited guests. It is spoiled by seven rounds of applause before it gets under way; one when the name is announced, one for each of the panelists, one for the moderator and one for the first guest. This enforced approbation is in keeping with the policy of the American television industry to endow performers with an aura of glamour and personality whether they deserve it or not.

Despite the increase and variety of programming, and the inevitable casualties, one type of show seems to remain unchanged. This is the soap-opera; 15-minute episodes of daytime serials, five times a week, which go on and on and on. . . Usually sponsored by soap or detergent manufacturers (hence the new name, detergent drama) the shows are even more affectedly sentimental on television than on radio. Criticised by some people, despised by others, these eye-moistening, melodramatic programmes are, nevertheless, much loved by their steadfast followers, and because they are good sellers of soap they are cherished by their sponsors.

So it goes. The American television audience has much to enjoy this year and, possibly, something to learn, too. The unexpectedly early arrival of colour of remarkable clarity will again change the complexities of this entertainment industry. It will not be long before producers will add brighter aspects to their commercials. Then we shall find our living-rooms glowing, not with the misty reflection of black and white pictures, but with the kaleidoscopic radiance of brilliant, nearly natural colour. That day will soon be here.



**SURGICAL OPERATION BEING TELEVIEWED**

"No TV acting has yet had the impact of the tense, efficient work of the doctors"