

More and More People

WE tend to think of the Asiatics as the fly in the ointment in the problem of the rising world population—but did you realise that in the last 300 years the rate of population growth in Europe has been very much the fastest. Today there are five times as many Europeans as there were in 1650, and they have risen from 19 per cent to 23 per cent of the world population, while the Asian proportion has dropped from 68 per cent to 56 per cent. And that doesn't take into account the millions of Europeans who swarmed across the oceans in that period to establish new European nations like our own. These are some of the rather surprising facts discussed by John E. Watson (see page 24) in the first of his talks on population. *All These People*, heard this week (May 5) from YA and YZ stations. All the same, we can't help thinking about our Asian neighbours. As Mr. Watson puts it, our feelings are mixed when we discuss population problems. We look forward confidently to having 3,000,000 New Zealanders in about 25 years, and regard rapid increase in our numbers as "a good thing"; but we get little comfort from realising that there are about 2,400,000,000 people in search of life in this planet, and that so many of them, after all, do live in Asia.

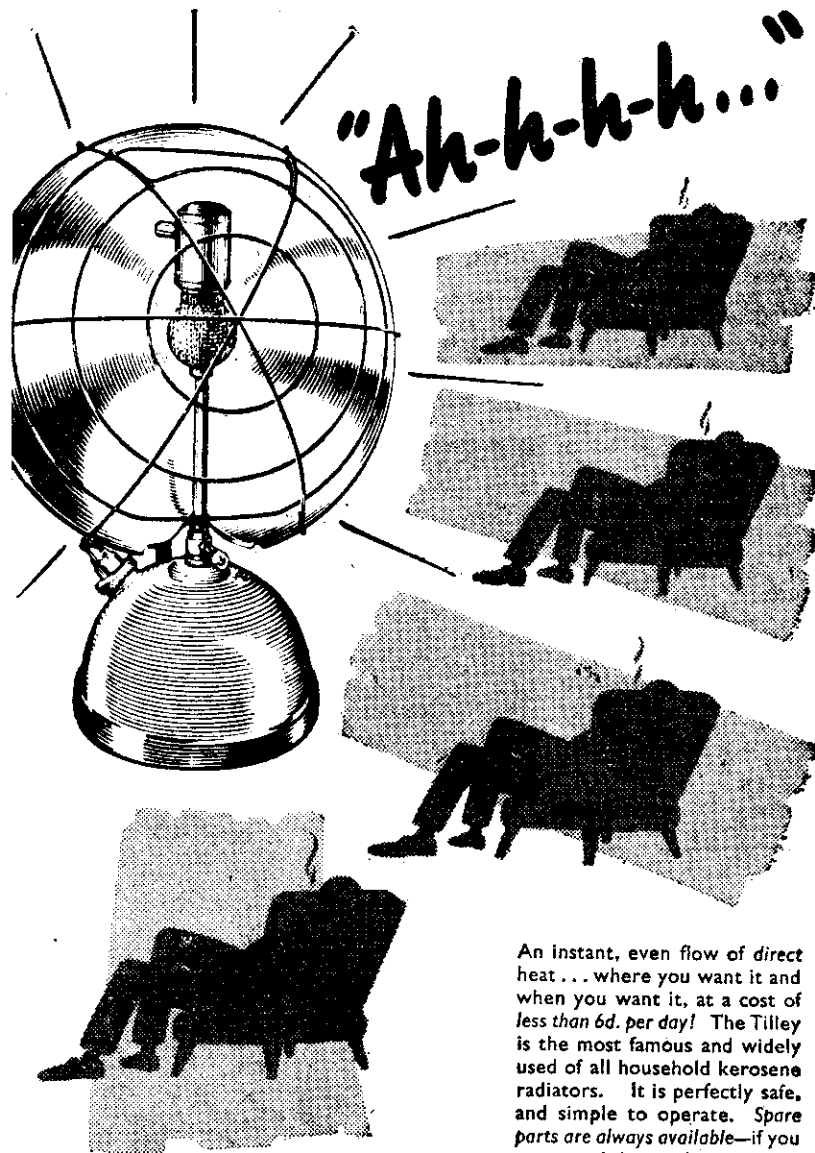
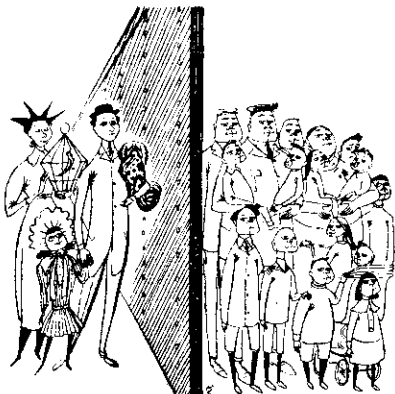
Mr. Watson will discuss the growth of European population in greater detail in the talk to be heard on May 12, and among the interesting points he makes is that the Soviet Union has one of

the highest birth rates in the world. By 1970, he says, with an expected population of 250,000,000, she will have outstripped Northern and Central Europe, which are expected to be stable at about 225,000,000 by that time. European countries with rapidly expanding populations (Poland, Rumania and Bulgaria) are also in the Russian orbit—in fact, in Europe the Iron Curtain divides the countries of maximum increase from those of minimum increase.

In later talks Mr. Watson will discuss first Japan, China and India, and then South-East Asia and the Pacific Islands. His fifth talk—a case study of the Maori population—will be of special interest to New Zealanders, for Mr. Watson forecasts among other things that the increase in Maori population in the next 25 years will amount to the same thing as a continuous

inflow of migrants at an average rate of 5000 a year. In 1980, he says, with 250,000 people, the Maoris will be more or less back where they started from 200 years before.

Mr. Watson's last talk, on population policies, ends with a suggestion that we can perhaps learn something from Swedish experience in encouraging a higher birth rate. True, he says, our birth rate is high, but with a good deal of evidence that many New Zealand families are not the wholesome environments for growing children that they might be, there seems to be room for an approach to population planning directed at improving attitudes to family life.



An instant, even flow of direct heat... where you want it and when you want it, at a cost of less than 6d. per day! The Tilley is the most famous and widely used of all household kerosene radiators. It is perfectly safe, and simple to operate. Spare parts are always available—if you ever need them. Invest in real warmth this winter—buy a Tilley Radiator.

PLAYS ANCIENT AND MODERN

LOUIS MacNEICE'S 1935 poetic translation of Aeschylus's *Agamemnon* will be heard from YC stations shortly. This is another in the BBC *World Theatre* series, and stars Francis de Wolff as the tragic king, Catherine Lacey as Clytemnestra, his faithless queen, Hugh Burden as her lover Aegisthus, the murderer of her husband, and Marjorie Westbury as Cassandra, the daughter of King Priam of Troy, carried back to Argos as a slave by Agamemnon.

Aeschylus, the author of the tragedy, is described by Louis MacNeice as "not only the most prophet-like of Greek poets, but also the greatest master of imagery." Earlier, Swinburne described the *Oresteia*—the trilogy of which the *Agamemnon* forms the First Act—as "on the whole the greatest spiritual work of man."

The *Agamemnon* will be broadcast by 1YC at 7.15 p.m. on Monday, May 9; 3YC at 9.30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 10; and 2YC at 8.30 p.m. on Sunday, May 15.

War through the ages has a terribly familiar ring—the struggle, the sacrifice, the loyalty, the doubts. War in Europe ended ten years ago, in the last days of the pre-atomic era which now seems so long ago. In memory of the time when the few fought and conquered the Luftwaffe in the skies over England ZB

stations are to broadcast an NZBS production of *The Way to the Stars*, by Terence Rattigan. Those who saw the memorable Carol Reed film will recall the setting—an airfield "somewhere in Britain" to which comes Pilot Officer Peter Penrose, just commissioned and feeling distinctly a "new boy." We follow his career in the air and on the ground, getting to know his friends on the station and in the village.

The Way to the Stars was produced by William Austin with Gavin Yates as Peter Penrose and Michael Beegleman as Johnny Hollis, the American. It will be broadcast at 9.35 p.m. in ZB *Sunday Showcase* on May 8.

Not since Oscar Wilde, perhaps, has anyone written a fairy tale as charming as Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's *The Little Prince*. Saint-Exupéry became an airman and his most famous stories, including *The Little Prince*, deal with his experience of flying. He did not return from a mission over Southern France with the French Air Force in 1944. *The Little Prince* will be heard from 1YA at 9.45 p.m. on Sunday, May 15, and later from other YA and X stations.

It Won't Be a Stylish Marriage, an NZBS comedy, will be heard from YA stations at 7.30 p.m. on Sunday, May 14, and later from YZ stations.

TILLEY RADIATORS

Sole N.Z. Agents:

JOHN BUCHANAN & SONS (Wgtn.) LTD., WELLINGTON, C.I.

1.4

THE GREAT NEW MID-CENTURY Chambers's TWENTIETH CENTURY Dictionary

is now available at the amazingly low price of

TWENTY SHILLINGS 20/-

From all booksellers

1374 pages, 150,000 references, Over 2,000,000 words.

Supreme for Crosswords.

NEW ZEALAND REPRESENTATIVES: Thomas C. Lathian Pty. Ltd., Wellington.

