

## Medtner Concerto

PERFORMANCES of the second Piano Concerto of Nicolai Medtner are very infrequent, but listeners will have the opportunity of hearing this work in a studio concert by the National Orchestra on Thursday, May 23, at 9.5 p.m. The soloist will be Leslie Atkinson (below). Medtner (1880-1951) was born in Moscow and made a reputation as a composer for the keyboard. His style of writing is invariably suited to the instrument and at times extremely difficult. He was of a retiring disposition and his music is of an intimate nature. He went to live in England during the war and in 1946 the pianist Edna Hles introduced his three piano concertos to English audiences. Of these works the second, dedicated to Rachmaninoff, is described as "uniting poetry with interesting workmanship," and the third as "representing the composer's qualities in their fullest maturity."



## THE ROAD BACK

"PERHAPS the greatest tragedy of our century is that the banner of Marxist socialism was seized by Lenin and transplanted to the unfertile soil of Russia and the Asiatic plains."

The statement could only be made by a socialist. It is in fact made by an ex-Communist, Sid Scott, in the course of two broadcast talks entitled *The Retreat from Moscow*. In the first, Mr Scott outlines briefly the historical and philosophic base on which Soviet Communism rests, the reasons for the broad sympathy with which the 1917 Bolshevik revolution was greeted by the world outside, and the policies which steadily alienated that sympathy. He looks also at the proximate causes of the recent mass "retreat," to wit, Krushchev's report to the 20th Congress of the C.P.S.U., and the Soviet armed intervention in Hungary.

In his second talk, Mr Scott deals with certain underlying fallacies of thought and consequent wrong actions which led the Soviet party, and with it the world Communist movement, inevitably away from socialism's fundamental ethic—the brotherhood of man. In a passage reminiscent of Albert Schweitzer, he concludes: "Without liberty, without justice, without reverence for every individual man, woman and child, we can only build on sand."

*The Retreat from Moscow*: All YA and YZ stations, 9.15 p.m., Thursday, May 23.

N.Z. LISTENER, MAY 17, 1957.



(C) Punch

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