

# FATE OF THE COMPOSER

## UNDERPAID SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE LITERALLY WORKED HIMSELF TO DEATH

A BOY that was born of a runaway, mapcap match between a young West-African doctor and a pretty English girl was to grow up and become a brilliant composer. The son's name was Samuel Coleridge Taylor.

Deserted by her waster of a husband, the young wife was left to battle for her son and herself, but, thanks to the help and sympathy of the poor for the poor, she was enabled to bring up her son in respectability and spur him on in his musical studies.

At the age of 23 he composed the first part of "Scenes from the Song of Hiawatha," which is known as "Hiawatha's Wedding Feast." Although a college composition, it revealed a master hand.

Coleridge Taylor's copy of Longfellow, a cheap, vilely-printed edition, such as in those days were common in drapery stores, is scored with underlinings and suggestions which show that the plan of the cantata was completed in his mind before composition began. He then, as was his wont, committed

the poem to memory and lived with the words until they became part of himself.

The work, in spite of its imperfect first performance was a great success and came in for much praise from numerous critics who heard it. Novell's had undertaken its publication for which the composer received the most sum of 15 guineas, and later, when the score was at the height of its popularity and was selling by hundreds of thousands, he was given a further £25.

In later years, when Coleridge Taylor completed the remaining two parts (for which he was paid £250 in all), he had no more money from "Hiawatha" with the exception of occasional small unsolicited gifts.

All Coleridge Taylor's composing had to be done at night after work. The living came first. He had to give music lessons all his life.

Coleridge Taylor died at the age of 37, having literally worked himself to death.

Listeners to 4YA will hear Coleridge Taylor's "Hiawatha's Wedding Feast" performed by the Royal Choral Society under Dr. Malcolm Sargent, on Sunday, July 10.

### Contest

ENTRIES for the 4ZB harmonica contest have now closed, and this week the first of the competitors will be heard from the southern Commercial. It is hoped that this contest will reveal latent talent, perhaps a "Larry Adler." Sessions will be held until all the competitors have been heard, then comes the judging.

### At 4YA

AMONG "flesh and blood" artists to be heard from 4YA next week will be Mr. Alec Blyth (cello) and Miss Eunice Steadman (piano), on Monday night, and Mr. Trevor Thomas (baritone) and Miss Aileen Young (soprano) on Saturday night.

### Farewells

SOME farewells to a departing chief executive are merely excuses for sycophantic murmurings and hypocritical back-patting. It was not like this, however, when the 3ZB staff met to farewell Merton S. Bullivant and Ian Mackay, before they left for Wellington on promotion in the NCBS. Both were given presentations.

### Plays

WHEN the Civic Players, Christchurch, did "The Right to Die" from 3YA studios a week or two ago, they won plaudits from drama-lovers. The combination will be heard again from 3YA on July 7, when "One Goes Alone" will be presented. This is a play by Edward Williams, dealing with France, 1918, and the flying daredevils

of the period. After a musical interlude, the Civic Players will offer, on the same programme, a rather queer piece of mystery and horror by Edmund Barclay, "Murder in the Silo." This is a story in which an Australian swagger, bagman, or what you will, recounts the tale of a killer. Mr. Harold Shaw is the producer of the Civic Players' pieces—ranked among the finest plays 3YA has put over the air.

### Air Defence

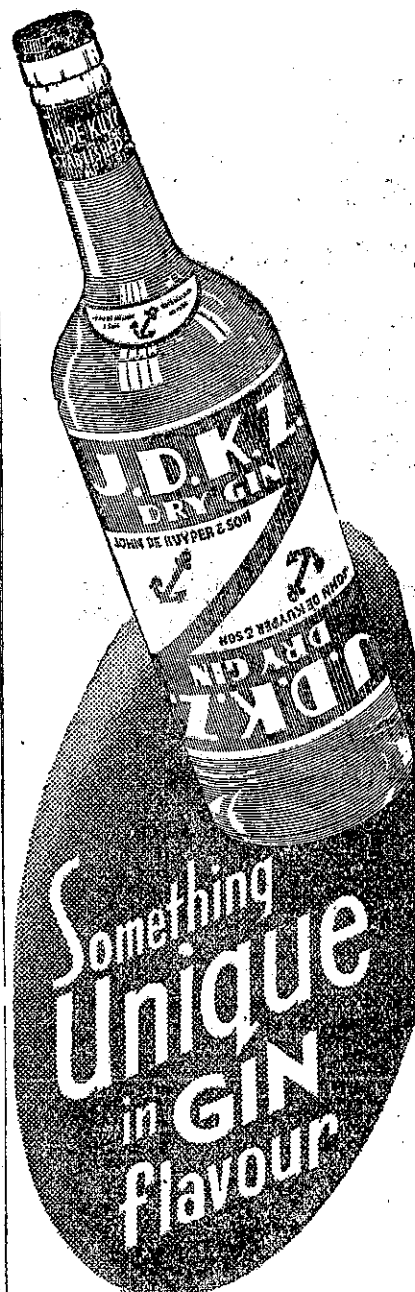
DR. H. WANSEY BAYLY, Harley Street specialist who visited New Zealand as a ship's surgeon recently, takes a keen interest in aerial defence. Dr. Bayly made recordings of two talks bearing on this subject, for the NBS. One is entitled "Food and Fuel" and the other "Targets and Missiles." They throw light on the difficult and complex problems of defence against aircraft that are now facing the British Government. These are to be heard at 1YA on July 12 and 14.

### Part Singers

CONDUCTED by Mr. H. Temple White, the Tudor Singers, a group of twelve picked voices, present another of their interesting programmes from 2YA on July 14. This small combination specialises in part-songs, accompanied and unaccompanied.

### You Ask One

NEWEST page in the Children's Magazine of the Air at 1ZB is the "Question Box," conducted by the "Professor and Albert Throgmorton." Children are invited to send in any questions which puzzle them, and the professor finds the answers. So far



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