

designers of new models are greatly under the influence of Vandyck portraits, and men and women of the time of Charles I. are dominating the styles of to-day. Changes of late have been sudden and complete, and this year the revolution has been as great as that in the reign of George III, when willowy figures proved their attractiveness, straight fringes were worn, and many styles introduced which have proved more or less of an inspiration to fashion experts ever since. A definite fact to be considered is that last year's coats and dresses must be worn as they are in spite of the possibility of looking odd, or else must be scrapped. There is no alternative, alteration being simply not possible. The long and slim garment is slightly flared below the knees, and everything must fit well over hips and at least indicate waistline. It seems as though I were encouraging extravagance, said Mrs. Lewis, but just now we can be well and economically dressed at the same time. It is true we are all hard up, but the present fashion for not spending money is to be deplored, as to wear the right things is a duty to our surroundings, our families and ourselves. "I adore good picture shows, but would rather cut them out for a time and achieve a good winter dress," she said, and proceeded to describe colours and textures of enticing tweeds and friezes, and different materials applicable for sports clothes, coats and skirts, with a separate eulogy for facecloths and diagonal weaves, so becoming to "the older woman." Many fascinating fabrics were described, the need of suitable "foundation garment" emphasised, and special comment made on the black and turquoise vogue that is imminent. The lecturer commended this decorative combination as peculiarly charming on blonde and brunette alike, particularly for evening frocks, blue shoes adding an intriguing touch. Lucky possessors of turquoise ornaments, no matter how ancient, are to be envied, Victorian jewellery being *le dernier cri*, and many effects, in clothes and trinkets, absolutely enchanting. For her next topic this interesting speaker has chosen wool, in its relation to present fashion indications, which to New Zealand is a subject of quite absorbing interest.

Two Great Manufacturers

WE reproduce elsewhere a picture of the heads of two of the biggest businesses in the world in conference. Mr. Henry Ford needs no introduction, and his photograph has been published countless times, but how many of our readers have seen a portrait of Dr. A. F. Philips, the head of the manufacturing concern which bears his name?

The Philips laboratory has been the birthplace of a number of electrical inventions, including the Metalix X-ray tube, the Argenta lamp, and the pentode wireless valve. It is of enormous extent and staffed by famous scientists.

The business was founded in 1890 by Dr. Gerard Philips, who retired some five or six years ago, leaving Dr. A. F. Philips, his brother, with whom he had worked in close association for many years, in control. The present head of the business is 57 years old.

Maurice Besley, the British Composer

Prison Camp Reminiscences

By C. T. ALISON

RECENTLY a short paragraph was devoted to E. M. Besley, prior to the presenting of one of his orchestral pieces at 2YA.

Now that the public taste is turning in the direction of the younger British composers, the following brief sketch of this talented musician, as I knew him, may be of interest to listeners.

In 1918, during the last months of the war, it was my misfortune to be a prisoner in Germany. My final place

known to all listeners through "The Meanderings of Monty," Besley gathered together the musically-minded and formed a concert party, to which was given the name of the "Mainzprings." The Citadel's rifle range was transformed into a theatre and the party produced a series of original shows in the form of revues.

The proscenium and stage were made from old packing cases, and the scenery was the production of artists unknown, who worked on pieces of brown paper pasted together. The resulting effects were good, and these creditable examples of the scene-painter's art formed a background to performances that were greatly appreciated.

Other theatrical parties sprang up, in all of which Besley had a large hand. Practically the whole of the music was of his composition and he was responsible for a number of the lyrics. A Dramatic Society produced "The Alternative," and for this he composed incidental music.

ANOTHER effort on the part of Maurice Besley to relieve the tedium of prison life was the delivery of a series of lectures on the operas. One, especially, remains in my memory—"Tristan and Isolde," in which the lecturer carefully analysed each "leit-motif," illustrating his points with the piano and the assistance of a gifted fellow prisoner who sang the various arias.

He also gave several pianoforte recitals from the works of the great masters.

A string band was brought together with the aid of Besley's never-failing energy, and he entered into the task of knocking it into shape with great enthusiasm. I yet smile when I call to mind the vociferating conductor, shaking his baton to the laggards. Attired in khaki shirt, riding breeches, held up by fancy braces, and shod in vivid-coloured socks and patent leather pumps, he looked anything but a captain of engineers! Additional colour was furnished by the yellow-spotted handkerchief he always wore about his neck.

He was a contributor to the camp magazine, "The Queue," which publication attained a high standard of literary quality. Alec Waugh, the youthful author of "The Loom of Youth," who was also with us in "durance

vile," contributed some sketches and verse.

Since those memorable days Maurice Besley has made a mark in the musical world and has had the honour of conducting the famous Halle Orchestra. He is quite at home before the microphone, having been starred in several B.B.C. orchestral concerts.

It is quite possible that some of the tuneful airs since given to the world by him have grown from seeds sown in his efforts to enliven the monotony of his comrades while a prisoner of Mainz.

The accompanying caricature is from the pages of "The Queue," and is the work of Capt. R. T. Roussel, to whom I make due acknowledgement.

New Type of Receiver

Cabinet Six Feet High

ECONOMY of space and improved tone quality are two advantages claimed for a new type of radio receiver which recently appeared on the American market. The cabinet is nearly six feet tall, but occupies a floor area of only ten by twelve inches. Aside from its handsome appearance and adaptability to the modern in interior decoration, its height and design have given the acoustic engineers an opportunity to improve the tone quality.

The ordinary speaker grill has been eliminated from the face of the set and is placed vertically so that it is directed upward through the top of the cabinet. This arrangement provides a five-foot column of air under the speaker, an important aid to tone improvement. Controls and dials are mounted flush on the sides of the cabinet.

A Radio Museum

THE German radio industry has undertaken the task of establishing a national radio museum in Berlin. Displays of transmitting and receiving apparatus dating from the inception of public broadcasting will form the main feature of the museum, while a room is also to be set apart for busts of leading German experimenters and inventors. For many years past in England the Science Museum at South Kensington, London, has been building up on the same lines a permanent record of Britain's predominant contributions to the science. In addition to preserving examples of the earliest apparatus developed, the museum contains such vitally interesting pieces of apparatus as the first Fultograph still-picture transmitter and various Baird television instruments, as well as numerous examples of different types of receivers developed by leading radio manufacturers.

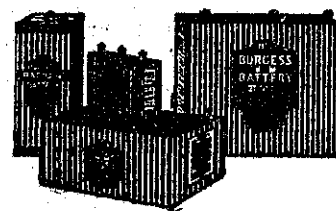


of internment was Mainz, in the old citadel overlooking the Rhine, which building had been arranged to suit the purpose of an officers' "gefangenen-lager."

Here were immured some five hundred officers, of all ranks and regiments and from all parts of the Empire; and it was here that I made the acquaintance of the former music-master of Tonbridge School, Captain E. Maurice Besley, of the Royal Engineers.

A man of pleasant and unassuming manners, full of energy, he occupied a prominent place in the prison life. Having a good knowledge of the German tongue, he formed an important link between ourselves and the authorities. But it was to his musical talent that he chiefly owed his popularity.

In conjunction with another prisoner, Lieut. T. Milton Hayes, M.C., since



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