

THE WARSAW WEEKLY

Offices: Sewerynów 4, Warsaw, Poland, Telephone 273-77.
 English Distributors: W. H. Smith & Sons, London
 Subscription rates — zł. 1.75 quarterly, zł. 7.00 yearly.
 Foreign 2/8 or \$ 0.50 quarterly, 10/- or \$ 2.— yearly.
 Postal Cheque Account: 29898. Warszawa,
 Post Office Account: 615 Warszawa
 Appears on the 1st and 15th of every month.

5th YEAR

WARSAW, FEBRUARY 15, 1939

No. 4

London Letter

by "The Londoner"

The King's Public Engagements.

The Royal Family have returned to London after their winter holiday at Sandringham.

The year before them is to be particularly heavy. In March, the French President, M. Lelourin, is to return the visit paid by their Majesties to France last summer.

In May, the King and Queen will leave for Canada, and arrangements are being made for the London "season" to open earlier this year, in order that four Courts may be held before they set sail.

On their return, they will find the Duke and Duchess of Kent preparing to leave for Australia, and a certain amount of the heavy round of public engagements which would have been utilised by the Duke and Duchess will then fall upon the King and Queen.

Increasing Burden.

In Queen Victoria's day there was no lack of "Royal Highnesses" to open bazaars and lay foundation stones.

The burden is the greater nowadays, as the serious "social service" engagements of the Royal Family — for example the Duke of Gloucester's forthcoming tour of the distressed areas — have eclipsed, though they have not taken the place of, these less onerous duties.

That there are so few royalties to perform these functions today is partly due to the Royal Proclamation of 1917, which restricted the title "Royal Highness" to all children of the Sovereign and to grand-children of the male line only.

New Defence Co-ordination.

The appointment of Admiral of the Fleet Lord Chatfield, formerly First Sea Lord, as Minister for the Co-ordination of Defence, has given the greatest possible satisfaction to the Services and to the public.

Lord Chatfield is one of the most brilliant of living British sailors, and has been recalled from his retirement from the Navy to take over this vitally important post.

He served under the late Lord Beatty, and acquired a great deal of that famous sailor's "Nelson" touch. That touch was never better demonstrated than at the Battle of Jutland (Skagerrack).

At that time Vice-Admiral Sir David Beatty, as he then was, was in command of the Battle Cruiser Squadron which first made contact with the German Fleet.

The Nelson Touch.

Owing to faulty methods of protecting the magazines against "flash," the great ships "Indefatigable" and "Queen Mary" blew up within a few seconds of each other.

This left Beatty with three ships out of five. By then his flagship, the "Lion," was on fire beneath his feet, and a few minutes later

the signalman reported "Princess Royal blown up, Sir."

The "Princess Royal" had been very heavily hit, but had not, in fact, suffered the fate of her sister ships.

Still Beatty did not know this, and at this black moment his only remark to Lord Chatfield — then his Flag Captain — was, "Something seems to be wrong with our damned ships this afternoon, Chatfield. Turn two points to port" (i. e. nearer the enemy).

"A Farmers' Man".

Sir Reginald Dorman-Smith, who succeeds Mr. W. S. Morrison as Minister of Agriculture, is essentially a "farmers' man".

When ill-health caused him to retire from the Indian Army, he settled down to farming, and did much useful work in the local agricultural interests of Hampshire and Surrey.

He has twice been elected President of the National Farmers' Union, the body which expresses the views of the farmer, from the big landowner to the small.

He has thus been identified with much outspoken criticism of the Government's agricultural policy.

The Grave of Reputations.

His appointment to the Ministry of Agriculture is therefore a bold stroke. It may have been made on the old theory that "the best poacher makes the best gamekeeper".

British farmers are awaiting the outline of his policy with interest. Owing to the particular difficulties which face agriculture in a predominantly urban civilisation like that of Great Britain, successive Ministers of Agriculture have found themselves confronted with a task that is always formidable.

In fact the post has succeeded the old Irish Secretaryship as the "grave of political reputations" — but Sir Reginald Dorman-Smith's well-wishers hope that he may succeed where so many others have failed.

The Mystic of Irish Nationalism.

By the death of Mr. William Butler Yeats Ireland has lost a distinguished son and the English language one of its foremost poets.

Yeats was one of the great protagonists of the "Celtic Revival" movement in Ireland, representing the romantic, half-mystical side of Irish nationalism which had its practical, political expression in gunmen, ambushes, civil war and the final establishment of the Irish Free State.

Always the poet and dreamer, Yeats shrank from the bloodshed which was the practical application (in the hands of those who were neither poets nor dreamers) of his nationalist doctrines.

He was a man of great charm, and his tall, myopic figure was a familiar sight in Dublin, where,

Youth Movements in Britain

by John Connell

There is in Great Britain no Youth Movement, organised and cohesive. There are, however, a great many organisations, all unofficial and with various kinds of semi-official sanction and interest, which cater for the needs, interests and enthusiasm of the young.

The main aims of all these organisations are purely social and non-political. All youth movements in Britain are expressions of that very typical Anglo-Saxon conception — "welfare work". Their purpose is to make boys and girls happier and better, and more useful citizens; to more immediate practical purposes they do not admit.

Nevertheless Britain was a pioneer country in the formation and the growth of youth organisations. The most famous and the most international of all youth movements was the creation of a British general, Sir Robert Baden-Powell (now Lord Baden-Powell). Throughout the defence of Mafeking in the Boer War he had employed the boy population of the township as cyclists, runners and scouts. The opportunities of putting into use, in training for citizenship, the youthful qualities of adventure, of courage, of quickness of mind, eye and limb, occupied his mind more and more after his return to England when war was ended.

In 1908, therefore, with an experimental camp of some thirty boys on Brownsea Island he launched the Boy Scout Movement.

The camp was a great success. His boys had come from all classes of life, and they returned as missionaries of a new gospel. The Scout Law was evolved. Baden-Powell's book "Scouting for Boys"

incidentally, he made a number of incursions into politics as a member of the Senate.

His Dreams Came True.

Yeats was no poseur, but sometimes his friends felt that at all events he exploited to the full the dramatic quality of his position as Ireland's premier poet.

He will be remembered particularly for his lovely lyric poetry and his plays, of which "Cathleen Ni-Houlihan" is perhaps the most important.

Yeats greatly enriched the theatre of the English-speaking lands by his formation, with Lady Gregory, of the Irish players and the Abbey Theatre in Dublin.

It was in that Irish National theatre that a year or two ago I last met these two great figures of a romantic movement — a movement out of which the romance had been taken by the translation of its dreams into successful fact.

Both are now dead and the Irish scene impoverished.



King George VI in the Camp for Boys.

was published; and within a year or two the movement was nationwide, its principles and practice exactly those which it maintains today. Its motto "Be Prepared", its simple manly code of honour, its three-fingered salute, its uniform in its various modifications, are all now world-famous. The movement has become widely popular in many countries, and is proscribed only in some countries which have however learned for their own youth movements many lessons from it.

Important and spectacularly successful though the Scout Movement is, it was not in fact the pioneer in this kind. In 1883 a Glasgow business man founded the Boys' Brigade, an organisation with a semi-military form of organisation but profoundly unimperialistic. Its background was, and it remains, religious. Companies of boys are formed in connection with churches and chapels. The aim is to provide a sound disciplinary and moral training, and through that discipline to help boys in a critical period in their life and ultimately to retain them as members of the church. Though it seems now a trifle old-fashioned, the Boys' Brigade (and its counterpart, the Church Lads' Brigade) has kept its influence, particularly in London, Glasgow and other big industrial cities. It has widened its scope to include camps and physical training (in which its standard is very high).

The problems of the various youth organisations in Britain, and the approach to those problems, are conditioned largely by the educational system. The vast majority of working boys and girls leave school at fifteen to go straight into employment. Officially, the State has no further concern with them. But boys and girls, immediately on entering employment, contribute to the National Health Insurance scheme, and are entitled to the benefits for which it provides. The State continues to take a benevolent interest in their welfare, though much of the practical work is undertaken by the various voluntary organisations. These rely

largely on the support of sympathetic members of the public, which is generously forthcoming in response to the appeals made from time to time.

One such appeal was launched during 1938 by the Boy Scout Movement. Another valuable movement which relies on extraneous help to some extent is that of the Boys' Clubs. These clubs, of which there are now some 1,500 in the British Isles, offer to working lads, between the ages of fourteen and eighteen, some of the facilities and some of the background — spiritual and intellectual — which their weathered brothers are given in the "Public Schools".

The clubs express very aptly, in the variety of their outlook, methods and traditions, the diversity and individualism of the national temperament. There are huge, expensively constructed, richly endowed and professionally managed settlements and missions; and there are little one-roomed shacks with a membership of perhaps a score of boys. Every club is a unit by itself. There is only the loosest form of federalisation, in a consultative body called the National Association of Boys' Clubs, of which His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester is President. A unity of aim underlying all diversity of expression is the Clubs' chief characteristic.

All have their camps, their debating societies, libraries, dramatic societies, games and sport facilities, in various degrees of efficiency and importance. All seek, through these channels, to give to boys standards of civilisation and of citizenship, and to awaken in them the sense of a full and happy life in which they have responsibilities to fulfil and privileges to accept.

To a remarkable degree the Boys' Clubs, throughout the country, do represent a contemporary, democratic effort to grapple with a major contemporary problem.

These organisations for boys have, of course, their counterparts for girls. The Girls' Club movement

(Continued on page 2)

Youth Movements in Britain

(concluded)

is on similar lines to those of the Boys Clubs; the Girl Guides are a peculiarly successful adaptation of scouting practice and ideals to the needs of girls.

In London and other big cities, the joint club or settlement, with organisations for boys and girls using the same premises and sharing in certain of the recreational facilities, has proved valuable. But, largely because of British social conditions and customs, the system of separate organisations has in general been found more successful.

The average age limit for almost all "youth" organisations here is eighteen; after that those who desire it pass into "senior" organisations. The Scout becomes a Rover; the Girl Guide turns into a Ranger; boys' and girls' club members become "old boys" and "old girls". Marriage, developing interests at work and in leisure, migration from home to a new district — all these influences tend to take people outside organised youth movements in the twenties.

Of recent years however there have grown up, spontaneously, hiking clubs and cycling clubs, which loosely coordinate these activities among young enthusiasts in suburbs, new building estates, and occasionally in the bigger business houses, shops and factories.

The Youth Hostel Association ("Y. H. A."), which provides, scattered over the country, cheap and good accommodation for these young weekenders and hikers and holiday-makers, is a valuable help to them. Its work is unpublicised but admirable. If the average cycling or hiking club of the younger town-bred generation had more than ephemeral, season-by-season existence, the Y. H. A. might well become a federating body for them, much as the National Association of Boys' Clubs has been for the various clubs all over the country.

The swimming club at the suburban pool, the tennis club and all the other purely athletic societies here, I think, a little outside the scope of this survey.

Youth movements in this country, though they have not had official Government assistance, have never lacked Royal interest and generous encouragement. King George VI, from his earliest days in public life, has always shown the keenest interest in the happiness and wellbeing of the younger generation.

As patron of the Industrial Welfare Society, the King founded, in 1919, the famous Duke of York's Camp for Boys. This now well-tried experiment (it has been repeated ever year since) brought together over two hundred boys engaged in industrial employment and two hundred public schoolboys, and set them together in camp for ten days, to find in work and play understanding, companionship and friendship. It has been steadily successful; some 8,000 boys and men have now passed through it; they have gone back into life and work taking its sensible ideals with them, and have been to that extent missionaries. Many of them have later returned to the Camp as leaders. The King himself, every year except once when he was ill, has gone to his Camp for at least one day, and has joined in all its activities. His interest remains far more than superficial.

In 1935 the nation's gift to King George V in memory of his Silver Jubilee took the form of a fund which would assist the youth of the country in its physical, mental and spiritual development. King George's Jubilee Trust, as it was called, evoked a great response; more than a million pounds was subscribed, and the fund, by careful administration, has a

ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

A Year's Inventions and Improvements.

Following are some of the principal inventions and improvements recorded in Industrial Britain during 1938:

January

Motor-car components and fittings consisting of bonded metal and rubber produced by a Leicester firm.

World's first self-contained factory for production of steel-clad mercury arc rectifiers completed in Birmingham.

February

Commercial scale production of new-type linen yarn resembling wool.

Britain's first wholly mechanised post office opened in Manchester.

New method of metal production installed at St. Helens, Lancashire.

March

New type of aeroplane, "The Motor-car of the Air," tested near Manchester.

April

Electric time recording device with an error of only a small fraction of a second a year constructed.

New staple fibre produced with dyeing affinity and properties like those of natural wool.

May

New process for preserving fruit and vegetables, "instant frosting," evolved in Wisbech.

Factory for development of an invention for printing coloured designs on washable fabrics planned for Ulster.

June

New artificial wool fabric perfected by a Lancashire firm.

July

New type of heat treatment furnace installed in Sheffield.

August

Production of lightweight tractor with multifarious agricultural uses begun in Durham.

World's largest gas-holder opened in Sheffield.

September

Gearless and clutchless motor-car demonstrated.

Process which prevents tarnishing of silver demonstrated. World's record run for steam-hauled train made.

October

Preselector motor-cycle gear-change invention patented by Lancashire engineer.

New method of dyeing, saving time and power, demonstrated in Scotland.

November

Labour-saving textile machinery demonstrated.

December

Experimental motor-yacht with unique hull construction launched on the Tyne.

World's most powerful tube plant opened in Chesterfield.

rendered great assistance to all kinds of youth organisations in the three years of its existence.

Its success, and the very large sum contributed to it, are a gauge of Britain's view of the movements which attempt to guide her youth. The country is fully awake to youth's needs. If there is no official and regimented organisation of youth in Britain, it is simply that the British have a deep-rooted faith in voluntary effort, voluntary service and voluntary leadership, and distrust of State interference.

And any attempt to turn to political ends these powerful factors for social good would be sternly resisted. By remaining outside the State and maintaining resolutely the voluntary principle, they preserve their strength and integrity and render a greater service to the nation.

"GLAND" TREATMENT FOR PLANTS

Wonders of Medical Science to be displayed at 1939 B. I. F.

A remarkable substance to be exhibited at the 1939 British Industries Fair 20th February — 3rd March, in the section devoted to drugs and pharmaceutical preparations is a substance so potent that the injection of as little as 2 c.c. every month is sufficient to maintain in health a person (previously restored to health by larger amounts) suffering from pernicious anaemia.

The injection of even so minute an amount once a month is equivalent to the eating of half-a-pound of fresh liver every day and to an expenditure of under 2d a day.

Hormones represent a significant advance in the treatment of organic weaknesses which have hitherto proved both puzzling and difficult to medical science. Now a number of these hormones can be prepared in a state of chemical purity and applied with success to combat certain glandular deficiencies.

Not only have hormones been applied to the strengthening and healing of physical deficiencies in the human frame, but a remarkable exhibit at the B. I. F. will show how plant hormones can stimulate and control the growth and division of cells in plants and the formation of roots.

These plant hormones are likely to play an important role in horticulture and agriculture, just as the "parent stock" is destined to readjust and balance many weaknesses in the organic structure of human beings.

Vitamin A (found in animal fats) has been known in highly concentrated form for some time, but until recently it has resisted all efforts at isolation. It has now been prepared in a form which is sufficiently pure to be crystalline at low temperatures.

Another advance in the prevention of disease is a tablet (also to be seen at the Fair) which enables the analyst to determine whether a person is suffering from a deficiency of Vitamin C (the orange vitamin).

One of the problems of blood transfusion is the rapidity with which blood coagulates. This greatly complicates the surgeon's task. Heparin, another substance to be seen at the Fair, keeps the blood in liquid condition and thus helps to make the most of the services of those who volunteer for blood transfusion operations.

THE CHANGE IN THE BANK OF POLAND STATUTE.

The most important change in the statute of the Bank of Poland proposed to the General Meeting of Shareholders convened for February 13th refers to the cover of the Bank's note issue. At present the note issue and all sight liabilities in excess of 100 million zlotys must have gold cover to the extent of at least 30 per cent, and this minimum cover may be abandoned only in quite exceptional cases. According to the proposed amendments the Polish zloty will range in future with such currencies as the British, Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish ones, which are being operated on the basis of a fixed fiduciary note issue without cover and an additional issue whose aggregate sum varies according to economic conditions and the requirements of economic life, but backed by gold in a relatively high ratio. The fiduciary issue of Bank of Poland notes is to be fixed at 800 million zlotys (about £ 32 million at the present rate of exchange) the Council of the Bank being empowered to

BRITAINS "HUNDRED-MILE AN-HOUR" TRAIN FOR AMERICA

By Colin Henry



The "Coronation Scot" at speed

The world-famous "Coronation Scot" locomotive has been shipped from England to America, where it will make a "Goodwill Tour" during March. It will later be exhibited at the New York World's Fair.

A little ceremony took place the other day at Euston, one of the chief London railway terminuses. In the presence of Lord Stamp, Chairman of the London, Midland and Scottish Railway, a brass bell was fitted to the stream-lined roof of the famous "Coronation Scot" locomotive.

Railway engines in England do not usually carry bells — level crossings are so carefully controlled that there is no danger to road traffic, and cattle are too well fenced in to stray on to the lines.

But the Coronation Scot is paying a visit to America; and there where the lines run across great tracts of open country, trains must carry bells to give warning of their approach. To comply with American law, the British locomotive's smooth lines are now broken by the necessary — though not very aerodynamic — bell.

The famous train was recently shipped from England to America in the "train-ship" of a famous Norwegian firm, the only one of

its kind the world which specialises in the transport of complete trains.

The Coronation Scot and its train of eight coaches will eventually be shown at the New York World's Fair during April and October 1939, but before that, it will make a "goodwill tour" over 3,121 miles of American railroads, visiting thirty U. S. railway companies cooperating in its movements.

Both engine and train are fully stream-lined, and the beauty of their design is enhanced by their "L. M. S." livery of crimson-lake paint with gold horizontal bands. Originally the Coronation Scots was painted in the Coronation colours of royal blue and silver. Now, however, it has been repainted in the normal colours of the London, Midland and Scottish Railway. The eight coaches of which the train consists are: — corridor first-class Coach, corridor first-class Coach, corridor first-class Lounge (with cocktail bar), first-class Diner, Kitchen Car, third-class Diner, first-class sleeping Car, and Club Saloon. The train weighs over 426 tons, but more than half of this weight — 262 tons — is accounted for by the locomotive.

The whole train is air-conditioned by the most up-to-date oil-filtered system, and other special features are the double windows which reduce noise and exclude dust, the cork and asbestos flooring which dampens sound and vibration, and the telephones which connect the passenger compartments with the restaurant car. The coaches are panelled inside in decorative woods from various parts of the British Empire.

The Coronation Scot is but one of five similar stream-lined locomotives — the others are named after members of the British Royal Family — which normally maintain the regular service between London and Glasgow in Scotland. The train does this journey of just over 400 miles (644 kilometres) twice every day at an average speed of 61.7 miles (98.4 kilometres) per hour, including one stop.

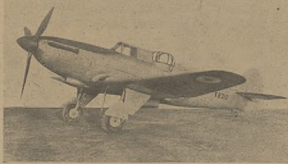
Of course, the locomotives are capable of much greater sustained speeds than their regular schedule demands. On a recent test run, the Coronation Scot attained a maximum speed of 114 miles (183 kilometres) per hour, in spite of head winds, and travelled the 158 miles (254 kilometres) between London and Crewe at an average speed of 79 miles (127 kilometres) per hour.

It is characteristic of British engineering that these magnificent trains are built with nothing more in mind than the maintenance of the best possible regular long-distance service, with the maximum amount of comfort for the passengers. This is what matters. The record speeds are an amazing, but it is the train's fitness for its work-a-day purpose which is the pride of the London, Midland and Scottish Railway.

increase this quota to 1,200 millions but with the consent of the Finance Minister. Notes issued in excess of the fiduciary emission and all sight liabilities are in future to be covered by gold in the ratio of 40 per cent. Poland is at present one of the countries with a very low issue of money per head of population, and all economic processes, particularly the investment activities under way, are hampered by the inadequate sum of money in circulation. The proposed change will enable the Bank of Poland to increase the note issue by about 1000 million zlotys. By another change of the Bank's statute, certain short-term credits granted in 1931 — 1928 for the relief of farmers and for investment purposes will be consolidated into an interest-bearing and sinking — fund loan to the Treasury. The shrinkage of the bill discounted portfolio caused by this operation will be compensated for by raising the maximum quota for collateral loans to 300 million zlotys and that for Treasury bills to 400 million zlotys. The Council of the Bank will also be empowered to issue securities for a total of 200 million zlotys of 150 million zlotys as at present, as also to grant the Treasury interest free credits up to 150 million zlotys instead of up to 100 million as now. At present, such credits of the Treasury stand at 40 million zlotys. The participation of the Treasury in the net profits of the Bank will in future begin after the payment of a 6 per cent dividend to the shareholders instead of 8 per cent as at present.

AVIATION NEWS

The Boulton — Paul
Defiant two fighter
monoplane



GUN-TURRETTED FIGHTER

Battle strength of Britain's Metropolitan Air Force, which is charged particularly with protection of the home country against bombers, is considerably augmented by the addition to squadron equipment of a new two-seat fighter monoplane. Outstanding feature of the craft — the Boulton — Paul Defiant — is the exceptionally powerful armament mounted in a gun-turret for the engagement of enemy raiders. The Air Ministry has placed large orders for the Defiant, which is believed to be the fastest military aeroplane in its category yet to go into production in the world.

Suitability for rapid production was a prime factor in designing the Defiant. All metal construction, embodying the latest ideas of "stressed-skin" load-bearing external covering and streamlining for high speed, is employed. Great pains were taken to ensure external smoothness commensurate with high performance. All riveting is finished flush with the surface, which is highly polished. The Rolls-Royce Merlin liquid-cooled engine is enclosed in a bullet-shaped cowling.

Amidships lies the secret of the Defiant's striking power. Here is located the power-operated gun-turret which enables the observer-gunner to direct an accurate stream of fire against enemy craft when flying at speeds so high that no man could move the gun unaided against the air pressure. Eye-witnesses of the new aeroplane's flying trials have been impressed by its high speed in level flight, though details of its performance remain closely guarded secrets.

GROUND ORGANIZATION

Delegates representing aerodrome owning interest in every part of Great Britain, and including for the first time an over-seas representative in Mr. R. Brown, of the Association of Municipal Airports and Aerodromes of South Africa, took part in the Fifth Annual Conference of the Aerodrome Owners Association, which was held in London last week.

They listened to a report of the Association's activities in 1938, which was marked by an increase in membership to the new high figure of 71 municipal authorities and private companies. During the year the organization finalized with the Air Ministry a standard of fees and charges payable for use of aerodromes by commercial and private aircraft and was concerned in important negotiations covering the use of aerodromes by the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and the Civil Air Guard. A new chairman of the Association — Councillor J. U. Pringle, of Perth — was elected to succeed Mr. C. M. Newton, chairman for 1938.

Sir Kingsley Wood in opening the Conference, emphasized the

importance of the Association. He forecast that 23 more aerodromes would be needed to cope with the rapidly expanding demands of the Volunteer Reserve.

Concurrently with the Conference, an exhibition of aerodrome equipment held in the same building gave delegates an opportunity to study latest ideas in the thousand and one articles headed in establishment and operation of the modern airport. The products on view ranged from radio approach beacons for "blind" landings in fog to tools devised for aircraft maintenance work and special treatments for grass surfaces. "Glaireless" aerodrome marker lights and beacons with reflected lighting to give soft and even illumination attracted much attention.

IMPERIAL AND BRITISH AIRWAYS JOINT STAND AT B. I. F.

The immediate programme for the expansion of Britain's world air lines will be graphically illustrated at this year's British Industries Fair at Earls Court.

For the first time Imperial Airways and British Airways will have a joint display at the Fair.

A feature of the display will be a map 9ft. long and 4ft. 6in. high, which shows the projected route from London to West Africa and across the South Atlantic to the principal cities of South America as far as Buenos Aires. Another line is shown from Hong Kong to Shanghai, and a third from New Zealand to Western Canada. This route, with the Tasman and Atlantic services, will combine with the trans-Canadian route to form a complete circle of British air lines round the world.

Another feature of the exhibit will be that it will show the fleets of both companies which include both the largest and the fastest luxury airliners yet to be put into regular operation anywhere in the world.

Imperial Airways will also appear at the Fair with a display in the stand of the Newfoundland Government, which will feature the northern route trans-Atlantic service to be opened this summer including the fleet of long-range flying boats and land-planes and their lighting areas at Hatties Camp, Gander Lake and Botwood, Newfoundland.

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THE "OLD VIC" THE PEOPLE'S THEATRE OF LONDON

From a Dramatic Correspondent

The Old Vic is the People's Theatre of London — the nearest approach Britain at present possesses to a national theatre.

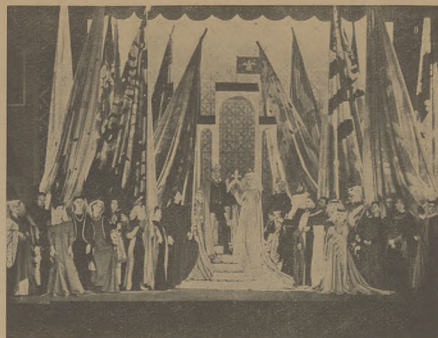
It is owned by a public corporation, its prices must be "within the reach of artisans and labourers"; it makes a practise of presenting the great classical plays of English literature regularly; and many of the finest actors of the day have appeared on its stage.

In these respects it is a national theatre. It is also a training-ground for the young actors of the future, and many members of the Old Vic company are young men and women — not particularly well-known now, names — who will go forward to fame on the London stage with the incomparable schooling and traditions of the Old Vic behind them.

The Old Vic has a history which goes back over 100 years. It was founded in 1818, named after Princess (later Queen) Victoria (the "Old" is a modern prefix) and enjoyed great prosperity in the early 19th century, when the great actors Kean and Macready played there. Later it fell into disrepute, from which it was rescued in 1880 by Miss Emma Cons, a pioneer housing reformer in the slums which then surrounded the theatre.

Emma Cons raised a public subscription, bought the theatre, and presented it to the Charity Commission (a public body concerned with a charitable administration) to ensure that it remained for all time a place of good entertainment for the people.

The people were not slow to respond to the good things showered on them, and today one may see a cross-section of the English people — from the costers in the "sixpenny" to the Countesses in the stalls — paying



The finale of an "Old Vic" production of Shakespeare's "King Henry V."

tribute to the masters of English drama.

The performances presented by Emma Cons were not restricted to the classics, but included concerts, penny lectures, and variety shows. In 1897 she was joined by her niece, Miss Lillian Baylis, whose passion was for music.

Lillian Baylis added opera and ballet to the activities of the theatre, and — for the Old Vic has never been a merely academic institution — she was the first person in London to devote whole programmes to "the moving pictures".

By 1923 the Old Vic had achieved the world record of having produced all the thirty-six plays in the First Folio of Shakespeare.

In 1931, Lillian Baylis raised a public subscription which acquired Sadler's Wells, another of London's historic theatres. Now opera and ballet are presented there, and drama at the Old Vic.

Almost all the leading British actors, musicians, dancers and

designers have worked for the Old Vic in their time. Many of them owe their first chances in classical work to the far-sighted management of the theatre. Lillian Baylis had a genius for discovering and encouraging dramatic talent. Many stories are told of this wise, clever woman who created a National Theatre from a slum music-hall, and although she died in 1937, she has left a permanent memorial in the two theatres which she managed so long and so successfully. She is portrayed, with her aunt Emma Cons, on the decorative new fire-curtain at the Old Vic.

It was she who persuaded the great actors of today — Charles Laughton, Robert Donat and many others — to return to the Old Vic periodically for a fraction of their "commercial" salaries. For they know that here they will be playing for a management which cannot exploit them for private gain, in the best plays, under co-operative conditions, and one of the most appreciative audiences in the world — the people of London.

LORD DERWENT.

Lord Derwent comes of an old Yorkshire family, the owners of a beautiful house, Hackness Hall, near Scarborough.

His career began in the Diplomatic Service, which gave him a wide knowledge of Europe, and considerable linguistic ability. He speaks and writes French as fluently as his native tongue, and among other languages can speak Roumanian.

Lord Derwent has made a considerable name for himself as a poet. His "Fifty Poems", published in 1931, was praised by the critics, and while he was still at Oxford he won the famous Newdigate prize for poetry. His other publications include the standard Life of the Spanish painter Goya, and a remarkable Life of the composer Rossini. The work on Goya was a result of the period he spent as attaché to the British Embassy at Madrid, when he conceived an intense admiration for the civilisation of Castile.

He has taken an active part in the artistic life of England, and is Chairman of the Georgian Group of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, which is particularly concerned at this moment to prevent the imminent destruction of some of the finest monuments of the greatest age in English architecture. Lord Derwent is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

Politically, Lord Derwent is a Liberal, and is President of the Yorkshire Liberal Federation. His recent speeches in the House of Lords have attempted to stimulate the inhabitants of democratic countries to a full of their responsibilities; the point about having democratic liberties, he holds, is to exercise them.



Lord Derwent

With this object in view, he has been active in encouraging Government Departments and other official bodies to publish exact accounts of the work which they perform.

Lord Derwent is a fine example of his own principles — a peer, an artist and a democrat, and active as all three.

Lord Derwent will hold a lecture on English Water Colour Painters from 1750—1850 on the 17th February at Warsaw at the Pałac Sztaszcy. The lecture is being arranged by the Polish Society for Cooperation with Foreign Countries and The Anglo Polish Society.

Lord Derwent will also hold the same lecture at Kraków on the 20th. On his way to Warsaw Lord Derwent stayed at Gdynia, where on the 13th of February on the invitation of The Anglo Polish Circle he delivered a lecture on "The 18-th Century Englishman".

BROADCASTS FOR 1939.

What broadcast programme of to-day is most likely to appeal to British radio listeners 60 years hence? This is a problem that is causing Broadcasting House considerable thought.

Workmen are now engaged in the summaries of an extension to Broadcasting House, which will double its size and make it the largest "Radio City" in the world. At the moment they are excavating the foundations for which they are digging 32 ft. wide trenches to a depth of 54 ft.

It is proposed to bury in these foundations a permanent record — indelibly inscribed on steel tape — of "three characteristic broadcast of 1939". This will be placed in a small iron-lined aperture in the foundations, to which access will always be possible, but which will not be opened for 60 years.

Opinions differ at Broadcasting House as to which three broadcasts should be locked away, and rivalry for the honour is at fever heat among the various B. B. C. producers, each of whom wants his work recorded for posterity.

It is generally agreed, however, that the record should contain one programme of light entertainment, another of music or drama, and the third a broadcast of national importance which does not fall into the category of "entertainment".

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THEATRES & MUSIC

WARSAW STAGE

Madame Bovary.

The popular star of the Polish stage, Maria Malicka has opened her second theatre — this time at Marszałkowska 8, in a new modern building. For the inauguration the management has chosen a scenic version of Flaubert's famous novel *Madame Bovary*, specially prepared by the Polish novelist, Mrs. Zofia Nakowska.

It seems to be unfortunately clear that among Polish writers this lady, although one of the greatest modern novelists, has the least qualities for the task. Under such conditions her version did not attain the colour and expression of a good play. The greater part of the 27 tableaux of *Madame Bovary* are narrative rather than scenic in their character while the tragedy of the heroine, so deep, original and moving in the novel, is reduced to an ordinary love-story with a stereotyped woman.

The level of the production was not always satisfactory. The stage director, Mrs. Krystyna Zelwerowicz has given to the performance a good tempo and happily struggled with the technical difficulties of a 27 scene — play. The sets by Stanislaw Kowalski are narrative rather than scenic in their character while the construction, the colouring being flat and cheaply lithographic.

The part of *Madame Bovary* was interpreted by Maria Malicka, who has given to Flaubert's heroine all her noble feeling and talent. The creation, as a whole, however, was monotonous in spite of some very moving and dramatic moments.

The remaining cast was composed in the greatest part by inexperienced or unsuitable actors and actresses, far from the style and epoch of the Flaubert's novel. The one exception was the fine character actress, Zofia Wierzejska, who as Madame Lefrançois radiated humour and wit, introducing into her performance a very high style of acting.

At the Teatr Nowy.

The *Teatr Nowy* has prepared a literary evening, presenting three Polish one-act plays *Mitaki czysta u kapłani morskich*, by Cyprian Kamil Norwid, *Odwieczny o zroczku* by Tadeusz Rittner, and *Czasu Jutrzennego* by Bronislaw Czechowicz. The idea was excellent and as such should be greeted by the public with satisfaction, but unfortunately the choice of the plays was indifferent. The three plays are either deprived of scenic values or are early products of the writers pen, as the comedy of Rittner. The work of the young modern poet, Czechowicz, on the other hand is so enigmatic and with so many influences of another writers that the decadent style is rather irritating than inspiring.

It is a pity, that such original and artistic achievements of the creative talent of Andrzej Pranszko, the stage designer, remain without any correspondence with the artistic level. If the poetic atmosphere of Norwid is well brought out by the excellent interpretation of such actors as Karolina Lubińska and Jerzy Roland, the production and playing in the remaining plays does not overpass or sometimes is only near a correct level.

Buffo Theatre.

The *Buffo Theatre* has given the second premiere of the season, presenting a Hungarian farce by Bekeffy, *Let him come on the first*. This comic play produced by Janusz Warnecki gives

opportunities to the splendid comic actor, Michał Znicz, a great favourite of the public. He is supported by Irena Górka, Janusz Warnecki, Karin Tichéa and others.

At the Opera.

The *Teatr Wielki* has recently given a revival of the popular operette, *The Girl from Holland* by E. Kalman. The title part is very well suited to the talented prima donna, Barbara Kostorzewska, whose pretty voice, scenic temper and personal charm have made of her an excellent operette actress. The charming lead finds a good partner in Tadeusz Chaveau-Zakrzewski, still developing his voice and scenic possibilities. The musical direction of Boleslaw Tyllia, the production of Tadeusz Wolowski, as well as the effective sets and choreographic productions (headed by the primaballerina Barbara Karczmarewicz) are warmly applauded by the public, foretelling a new success to the Opera.

J. M.

CONCERTS

The Philharmonic concert on Friday the 3rd inst. was rather an innovation. Instead of the usual symphony, that excellent violinist Szymon Goldberg played two concertos — Bach in E major and Mozart in A major with the accompaniment of a small orchestra whilst the second half of the programme was filled up by Beethoven's septet led by Goldberg. Goldberg is a first rate violinist of fine culture and his playing is distinguished by musicianship and refinements. His partners seconded him admirably so that the whole performance was entirely pleasing and satisfactory. At the last concert given by the Society for the Culture of Former Music a certain departure from the general rule took place inasmuch as the first part of the concert was devoted to the classics — Puccini and Handel, whilst the second part included a sonata by Brzeziński for piano and violin and songs by Respighi. M. and Mme. Ochlewski gave an excellent rendering of the sonata and the Puccini sonata for two violins was most admirably interpreted by Messrs Ochlewski and Wronski.

A recital at the Conservatoire by a young American pianist Mr. Ozanne Marsh is reported to have been successful. The Symphony concert on the 11th inst. brought a novelty in the shape of a cantate for chorus, orchestra and solo by Stanislaw Kazuro, a pleasing and melodious work if somewhat monotonous in places. The chorus proved to be well-trained. The pianist of the evening was Wilhelm Kempff one of the greatest living virtuosos. His performance of Mozart is always a revelation full of poetry, delicacy and refinement. The concert concluded with Cesar Franck's *Condemned Freshwater*.

K. M.

THEATRES AND MUSIC

ATENEUM. Jaracz and Maszyński in "Dziękuję z lasu" (a new comedy by Jerzy Sztautauskas).

BUFFO. "Let him come on the first" by Bekeffy. (Hungarian).

CRICOT. "Trójkat i kole" (by Ribemont Dessaignes).

CYRULIK WARSZAWSKI. "Kochajmy zwyciężkę" (Musical 7.30 and 10).

FILHARMONIA. Symphony Concert every Friday and Musical Matinée every Sunday.

KAMERALNY. Elisabeth, Femme sans home" (French drama).

KONSERWATORIUM. Occasional Concerts.

LETNI. Irena Eichler and Janusza Stegowski in "Madame Sans Gene" (by Sardou).

MALE QUI PRO QUO "The Big Four" (Musical 7.30 and 10).

MALICKIEJ II. Marszałkowska Street Malicka in "Madame Bovary" (scenic version of Flaubert's novel).

MALY. Zbigniew Ziemiński in "Temperaments" (by Cwojaziński).

NOWY. Cwiklińska in "Week End" (by Noel Coward).

NARODOWY. Leszczyński and Stankiewicz in "Big shots" (comedy by Batecki).

TEATR 8.15. Szecepański in "Skowronek".

POLSKI. "Obrona Ksantypy" (by Morstin).

TEATR WIELKI — OPERA. Latvian Ballet on the 16—19th inst.

WIELKA REWIA. "We are looking for a star".

CIRCUS. Great Aquatic Show.

PREVENTION

It has been said that the Chinese pay a doctor only as long as he keeps them in health. We of the Western world have only just begun to learn the value of preventive medicine. It does seem absurd not to take measures to avoid contracting a disease when preventive means are ever ready to hand.

Influenza is among the most important of these preventable diseases. The great epidemic of this ailment which swept the world in 1918, showed how fatal this could be. In the years since the mortality tables have listed this disease prominently. Recovery from it is slow. Rest and care are necessary.

It has been shown that a small dose of quinine, only three grains a day, will almost certainly protect against this infection. No one has ever seen the virus of influenza, but when the weather begins to become damp and cold spells set in, the disease spreads. Then is the time to start the preventive simple treatment.

Modern "Robinson Crusoes".

Apparently there are no fewer than eight hundred and fifty would be Robinson Crusoes in England today. The N a t i o n a l Trust, which owns the "Calf of Man", a small island used as a bird sanctuary, advertised for a warden and received that number of applications for the post.

The warden will have to live entirely alone on the island — though he may take his wife if he has one. His residence will be a disused lighthouse and his only connexion with the mainland will be a telephone, installed at great expense, and a rowing boat. Storms often make it impossible to reach the island for weeks on end.

The 850 applicants came from all over Britain. Some of them simply said that they were "tired of modern living and wanted primitive"; others were "just disappointed with life" — and a Robinson Crusoe existence would be a good substitute for the traditional big-game-hunting of the jilted lover.

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C I N E M A S

*ATLANTIC. Anne Neagle in "60 Years a Queen" (new version).

*BALTYK. Norma Shearer in "Marie Antoinette".

*CAPITOL. Barszczewska in "Klamstwo Kryształ".

*CASINO. Gigli and Morlay in "Verdi" (French).

*COLOSSEUM. Errol Flynn in "Desert Patrol".

*EUROPA. Annabellina in "Hotel du Nord".

*IMPERIAL. Fernandel in "Kibic" (French).

*PALLADIUM. Loreta Young in "Suez".

*PAN. Andrzejska in "Zapomniana Melodia" (Polish musical).

*RIALTO. Cooper and Oberon in "The Lady and the Cowboy".

*ROMA. Robert Taylor in "A Yank at Oxford".

*STUDIO. Erna Sack in "Nanon".

*STYLOWY. Jene Gabin in "Le Messag" (French).

*SWIATOWID. Corinne Luchaire in "Conflic" (French).

*VICTORIA. Andrzejska in "Moi rodzice roznądy się" (Polish).

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113940	SCHAPIRA Jochowec	35	D	*	*	88 Grodzka, Lwow
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113852	REBRIN Itak	19	D	*	*	Dielsowa 11, Krakow
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113854	DAAR Moses	20/3	D	*	*	Szczerzyń, c/o Daar
113856	FINKELSTEIN Szlama	16	*	*	*	Centra 7, Szary M. Rokito
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116840	ALEXANDER Heinrich	35	A/I	*	*	c/o Palestine Office Krakow
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