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Organ of the Bookhams Social Service Bureau

No. 39

JUNE 1943

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Editorial

That certain important problems in connection with unemployment will arise after the war cannot be doubted, but they should be capable of solution without any great difficulty. There is of course the question as to whether the Beveridge plan will be put into full operation to establish and develop industry and commerce both in this country and abroad. This may appear to be somewhat premature, but as so many pledges have been made by government spokesmen, it is well to be alive to the fact that a constant watch must be kept on the situation, which for the moment is in the hands of the ministry of Labour.

Questions of labour will naturally come to the front, and some employers have expressed their fear that when hostilities come to an end they may lose many of the operatives they have trained so assiduously. The fear seems to be ill-founded. It is unlikely that with wages and hours fixed upon a generous scale, and conditions of work in most cases so suitable, the female labour which predominates to such a degree in the factories will show any disposition to migrate in large numbers. Again this may be idle speculation, but it

is obvious that large numbers of women will wish to settle down to home life. After all, the matter of home life must exercise a great influence, while the course of their particular types of employment will not be so easy to pick up elsewhere. The chief problem will come about in the transitional stage from war to peace, and whatever plans may have been made a concerted effort must be put forward to prevent a similar period that existed immediately after the last war.

For the benefit of men serving in H.M. Forces, the affairs of persons in financial difficulties as the result of the war where a person has carried on a business or would have carried on a business, a scheme has been arranged to preserve that business or to recover it when circumstances permit. Any person who is in serious financial difficulties may apply to a Liabilities Adjustment Officer for advice and assistance to enable him to arrive at an equitable and reasonable scheme of arrangement with his creditors.

Your attention is drawn to the book "New Europe" by Bernard Newman, which gives a very clear and realistic picture of what Europe should be after the war.

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Citizens Advice Bureau Leatherhead & District

It is perhaps unfortunate that the *Bookhams Bulletin* can only be published quarterly, as it is the only purely local medium for diffusing information upon the very many matters which affect everyone in war time, and as far as is practicable many important items have been brought to the notice of the public through this journal.

As is generally known, the object of the Citizens Advice Bureau is to give information, and during the past three months the main subjects have been the special rationing of towels for certain priority users, service clothing coupons, shoe exchange, simplification of army pay, duty free concessions for gifts sent to the United Kingdom by members of the forces overseas, parcels for prisoners of war in Italy, etc.

Two matters of special importance should be noted: firstly, the restrictions on access to coastal areas, and secondly, utility furniture. The ban to the entry of pleasure visitors which was suspended for the winter months is reimposed, but only from districts in the Thames estuary to Hastings and the Isle of Wight. Over a more extended area a different system of restriction has come into force: the whole of the south and east coasts, and certain other

coastal belts are declared regulated areas, and within them access to particular places may be either restricted or completely barred by the military authorities without prior notice. Should your journey to any of these areas be necessary and you are not certain, ask at your Citizens Advice Bureau.

Leaflet U.F.D.7 gives instructions concerning types of persons who may apply for utility furniture is being revised, and information will be available at the Bureau as soon as this is to hand.

At the moment only the following classes of persons can obtain utility furniture:— families with children under 16, which covers those setting up house for the first time and also those supplementing existing homes to provide reasonable accommodation for their children; refugees who arrived in this country since the beginning of the war and propose to remain here permanently (excepting single persons); persons re-housed by local authorities, including agricultural workers, & persons provided with unfurnished accommodation as part of their work.

Your nearest Citizens Advice Bureau is Surrey House, Church Street, Leatherhead, telephone Leatherhead 3291.

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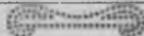
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A further Open Letter

Ladies & Gentlemen,

In our last issue a request was made to the voluntary organisations urging their support in the matter of War Disablement Pensions & the need for re-adjustment. So far there has been no response, and whether this is a matter of indifference by the general public or that the *Bulletin* is not read sufficiently, is difficult to determine, but the fact remains that action is necessary, as a concerted effort, in order to obtain better conditions of pension for those disabled men and women who have served their country. Your interest & action would be most appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

W. A. Muggidge.

A debate on war pensions took place in the House of Commons on March 23rd. A verbatim report can be had from H.M. Stationery Office.

Under the Royal Warrant of 9th December, 1941, Command Paper 6326, members of the Home Guard are eligible for pensions and grants. It should be pointed out that no award will be made in respect of death or disablement if payments have been or will be made under the Superannuation Acts of 1887 and 1935.

The question of setting up Pension Award Tribunals has been the subject of much discussion and debate by the House of Commons as well as by the many conferences

of ex-service organisations, and it is learned that the Minister of Pensions has now decided to establish nine tribunals at the earliest possible moment. Should any ex-service man or woman or their dependant think that they have a claim for an award of pension, write to the Secretary of the local branch of the British Legion or the representative of the local War Pensions Committee, who will give all the assistance possible.

There are many ex-service men and women who have lost their sight as a result of war service. Their 100 per cent. disablement pension is 37/6, which is 2/6 less than for the same class of those who served in the last war.

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THE BOOKHAM BEAUFIGHTERS

"Wings for Victory" week in Bookham was marked by a *crescendo* of achievement & excitement from the "take-off" on May 1st to the happy "landing" on May 8th. Painsstaking previous publicity by poster and poem, and in pulpit and pub. prepared the populace: £8000 for a Beaufighter was the announced aim. Thirty-eight group secretaries went to it to such effect that this amount was assured by mid-week, and the modestly designed indicator at the Church corner was superseded. Thereafter, general interest rose as the flow strengthened, until a total of £17,030 was attained. Bookham's money thus pays for TWO Beaufighters. The amount saved within the group system was £12,554.

This very gratifying result was not the only surprise. Various events organised during the week provided rare entertainment to packed houses, and considerable sums to either the campaign or to charity. An outstanding example was Wednesday's triple bill at the Congregational Hall. Two short plays and a choral scene were faultlessly and charmingly performed by the Women's Institute drama group and choir. The audience also held its breath while for nearly 20 minutes F/O Rigler D.F.M. thrilled them with a closely spaced account of a fighter squadron's work since 1940. £11 proceeds was sent to the R.A.F. benevolent fund. The same fund

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also benefitted by £10 from a whist drive arranged by Mrs. Goodridge and Mrs. Kleboe, and another whist drive organised by Mrs. Bordycott & Mrs. Muggeridge was held in the school when raffles and ingenious cash extractors were resorted to, and over £16 went to swell Crabtree Lane group's total. Nearly £16 also resulted from the peripatetic progress of a pram pushed by Mr. Chaston and containing a dressed doll. This and other smaller amounts (£20 in all) were sent as gifts to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The top room at the first aid post (Church House) was lent and devoted to an Air Exhibition, where a quantity of R.A.F. equipment was on view, and demonstrated by an aircraftsman. Loans of model aircraft and a large loan collection of over 70 portraits of Bookham's sons and daughters in the R.A.F. & W.A.A.F. were very popular. The staff at the F.A.P. were indefatigable, but volunteer helpers were always forthcoming. No less than 32 took turns during the week serving at a savings selling centre in premises kindly lent by Birch & Gott, which helped to relieve the great pressure on the Postmaster's resources.

On the last night an enjoyable dance at the Old Barn Hall arranged by the Youth Council, resulted in sales of £2 in savings stamps in addition to entrance tickets. Three visits to Bookham were made by the loudspeaker van

giving news of progress throughout the Leatherhead district. A large bomb also stopped during its travels to receive a coating of stamps before taking its contents for disposal "elsewhere."

The week ended with the tonic of the Tunis victory adding a zest to our rejoicing, and inspiring the alliteration:

The ring around Rommel and
Arnim grows tighter,
Roll up both rogues with the
Bookham Beaufighters.

—G.

Would Lord Woolton do it?

I have a little wire-haired terrier which according to usual custom should have dog biscuits for food. After calling continuously at shops in this urban district I am lucky enough to occasionally get some, but this supply does not usually bridge the gap over to the next lot obtainable. My dog is not dainty in any way and is very good at clearing up the household scraps including various kinds of green-stuff. Some little time after the war started, purchasers of dog biscuits were offered cube shapes (made I believe of hops) but my dog declined to eat them, and I found that only when the cold was severe in the winter mice found and tried to eat them. Several shopkeepers who had these cubes apparently found they did not go so mixed a small quantity of the ordinary dog biscuits with them,



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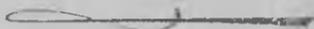
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but even then the sale was poor. Now, Lord Woolton, if you possess a dog (and I hope you do) would you refrain from giving it food fit for human consumption in order to make up for the loss of the usual dog biscuits? My Lord, you may have heard the question that was put to the Brains Trust a short time ago, viz.: If a shopkeeper offered you more than your ration would you refuse it? Commander Campbell, I think it was, said he would decline it as he considered it would be unfair. Would you in such circumstances lay your hand upon your heart and refuse such an offer for the same reason? I have asked some of my friends and they all seem to reply enigmatically "Just give me the chance"!

—R.A.

Music ?

Recently it was announced on the wireless that some people consider there are two kinds of music, classic and jazz, and then proceeded to give a sample of a third, viz. a Viennese waltz.

First of all, the view that that combination of discordant sounds in which the sobbing saxophone plays a most important part and which is known as jazz (even although it may recently have been modified somewhat and dubbed "swing") can never really be music. Regarding "classic" music, some of it must appeal to all listeners, but there is a variety

known as "chamber music" which can only be appreciated by "high-brows," and fortunately for most of us is disappearing from the B.B.C. programmes. This variety reminds me of a very old joke in "Punch." Fifty years ago the great musicians were occasionally given an opportunity of displaying their talents to audiences in society drawing rooms, and on one particular occasion a pianist (who delighted in sudden pauses) was giving an exhibition of his great skill and in one of these stops a lady in the audience was heard to remark to her neighbour "so I gave her a month's notice on the spot."

I have seen people who, by their facial expressions were apparently enthralled at the musical recitals to which they were listening, and on the other hand others who could only find something ludicrous in the facial contortions of glee singers when they were performing.

It is really wonderful the divergence of opinion that prevails, and as an instance, although it has nothing to do with music, is a good illustration of this. Last year when we had the Navy war savings week, with the show concerning Lord Nelson and Lady Hamilton, a man well in the fifties remarked to me that he considered it disgraceful that the love affairs of Lord Nelson should be paraded before the Leatherhead public!

—R.A.

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George and Bob, the Country Gardeners

We are very near to tomato planting time now, George, and since I saw you last I have prepared my border, put in some hop manure and a dressing of tomato fertiliser which I made sure contained 5 per cent. of potash, and I shall of course use fish manure as a top dressing when the first truss of fruit sets, and then continue with it to the end of the season. I am growing the same two varieties, Market King and Essex Wonder, which gave me so much satisfaction last year.

Well, Bob, I planted Early Market as I found the fruit ripens on this variety a week before the two you mention. Don't forget we shall have to spray with Bordeaux mixture towards the end of July and the middle of August if we want to keep our plants free from potato blight, and should in no circumstances be neglected.

I am going to plant my leeks before the end of June, and by the way, George, I'm trying a new variety of cucumber which the nurseryman recommended, which grows the size and shape of an apple and is very crisp and sweet. Its name, if you would like to get some, is Crystal Apple, and I consider it well worth trying by the good accounts I have had of it. The marrow and cucumber plants I obtain within the first fortnight in June, as well as all my annual

bedding plants such as stocks, asters, etc., for even during the war I shall still grow a few flowers to brighten things up a bit, as they take up very little room and that where in the ordinary way you wouldn't or couldn't grow food.

I quite agree, Bob, and another point on which I know our views coincide is that of keeping the hoe going during the next few months to destroy the weeds as much as possible, as they harbour all kinds of pests such as turnip flea, green fly and a host of others which in time would make a permanent home of the vegetable plot, eating up all the growing crops, so let our motto be "hoe-de-hoe."

So long, George. Hi-de-hi, Bob.

—BOB.

Bookham Poultry Club

July 7th, Visit to Mr. Watanabe's farm, with the special object of discussing and demonstrating the culling of old stock.

Aug. 4th, Vaccination. Blood-testing. Backyarders' ailments. What to order for 1944, and how to order it.

All Club particulars from Hon. Sec., Mrs. D. I. Wootton, 1 New Parade.

Local Organisations

Owing to apathy of local organisations to keep us up-to-date, this feature has been discontinued. Any organisation desiring particulars in our future issues should advise the Editor, "St. Jean," Crabtree Lane, Gt. Bookham.

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