

TELEVISION EDITION

PROGRAMMES FOR

MAY 8-14

RADIO TIMES

JOURNAL OF THE BBC

PRICE TWOPENCE



WHEN 'IGNORANCE IS BLISS'

Pandemonium reigns as usual at the Brainless Brains Trust now back in the Light Programme on Friday evenings. Harold Berens thinks it's safer under the table while an enraged Stewart MacPherson disposes of his useless script; the unperturbed onlookers are, of course, Gladys Hay and Michael Moore

A RECORD which is certain to have a permanent place in the BBC's archives will be broadcast in the Third Programme on Wednesday. It preserves for posterity the voice of the greatest living physiologist, Sir Charles Sherrington, O.M., F.R.S., Nobel Prizewinner in 1932, who is giving his first BBC talk at the age of ninety-two. The talk was recorded at his home last December and forms an introduction to a series entitled *The Physical Basis of Mind* in which scientists and philosophers of world-wide renown will examine the discoveries that have been made about the workings of the human mind and assess their significance. The BBC attaches so much importance to the occasion that it has taken the unusual step of publishing Sir Charles's script in advance. The full text appears in *The Listener* of May 5.

There will be two other speakers in Wednesday's half-hour programme: Sir Henry Dale, who will introduce Sir Charles, and Professor E. D. Adrian, who will open the series with a talk on 'What Happens When We Think.' (See article on page 4.)

On Tuesday evening Home Service listeners can hear a shortened version of Nesta Pain's programme *The Silent Areas*, which deals with the frontal lobes of the brain—one of man's most characteristic physical features—and presents some of the evidence which points to a connection between them and qualities of personality.

WELCOMING the appearance of *Listeners Answer Back* in the Light Programme earlier this year—there were three broadcasts, it will be remembered, one from East Anglia, one from Kent, and one from Warwickshire—radio columnists in both the national and provincial newspapers suggested that audiences in other parts of the country might well be given a chance to 'grill' a BBC platform party. In the new series there will be recordings made in Yorkshire, a London suburb, Devon, Lancashire, and probably Nottinghamshire.

Most listeners know the formula for *Listeners Answer Back*. Half a minute is allowed to any member of the audience for comment on or criticism of BBC programmes. Neither the BBC nor the members of the platform party are aware of the questions in advance.

THE broadcast of bird song from a wood in Kent on Sunday evening (Home Services) will give Percy Edwards, the bird mimic, an opportunity to demonstrate his skill. Edwards can reproduce more than a hundred and fifty bird calls and he claims that he can decoy any type of bird with his own song. Henry Douglas Home (the 'Bird Man' of the Scottish Children's Hour) will ask him to imitate certain birds which are known to frequent the wood, and it is hoped that the real birds will be deceived into answering.

W. FARQUHARSON SMALL and Graham Hutton spent a good part of last month travelling through Western Germany with a recording unit, talking with all sorts and conditions of Germans and recording their statements about industry, commerce, politics, and the ordinary conditions of life. They found Germany a very different country from the one reported on in the last *Focus on Germany* in August 1947. The shops are full, the people are better fed and better clothed, new buildings are rising from the ruins. The Germans are on the move again. Which way will they go? *Window on Western Germany* in the Home Service on Sunday evening will describe conditions and events in Germany today, and attempt an analysis of them.

THE course of world history may depend on the support which the peoples of Western Europe give to the growing structure of Western Union, and it is obviously important that every intelligent citizen should understand the implications of this new international grouping—the problems it creates and the obligations it imposes. There will be four more talks this week in the Third Programme series, *A Future for Western Europe*, and on Sunday, May 15, Sir Charles Webster, who gave the introductory talk, will sum up. The prose interludes in the Third Programme this week have been selected from writings about European Union.

Window on WESTERN GERMANY

A radio documentary on Sunday evening in the Home Service

SIR CHARLES SHERRINGTON

The distinguished physiologist opens the important talks series 'The Physical Basis of Mind' in the Third Programme on Wednesday

'THE REBEL MAID'

The light opera, with music by Montague Phillips, d Thursday in the Home Service

Focus on PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL

Tuesday in the Light Programme

LISTENERS ANSWER BACK

from Keighley in Yorkshire Thursday in the Light Programme

JUDY CAMPBELL

in an adaptation of Felix Salten's play 'Royal Highness' on Wednesday (Light)

Tour of the BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Broadcasts from Nottingham (Tuesday) Leicester (Wednesday) and Truro (Saturday)

JENNIE TOUREL

in excerpts from Bizet's 'Carmen' with the BBC Theatre Orchestra on Monday (Home)

SILVERSTONE GRAND PRIX

Commentaries on Saturday afternoon in the Light Programme

The Prisoner in the Palazzo

HENRY REED contributes an introduction to 'The Unblest' (Third Programme, Monday and Tuesday), in which he has dramatised the early life of the nineteenth-century Italian poet Leopardi

GIACOMO LEOPARDI is the only Italian poet of the last three hundred and fifty years to have been much read outside his own country, and even he is probably more known about than known. There is a clear reason for this. His early life, which is very fully documented, is a strikingly tragic one, with simple, vivid, and painful outlines: I have known people who had never read a line of his poetry and could yet recall the setting and the protagonists of his history.

He was born in 1798 in the small remote hill-town of Recanati, not far from the Adriatic coast; he was the child of provincial aristocrats, and in the palazzo Leopardi, the family home, he spent—in a state of virtual incarceration—the first twenty-four years of his life. The three elder Leopardi children—Giacomo, Carlo, and Paolina—were touchingly devoted to each other; but their lives were all but unbelievably restricted by their parents, with fatal results in the case of Giacomo and Paolina. Their father, Count Monaldo Leopardi, is less to be indicted than their mother, Adelaide: of her the poet himself wrote that she thought it reasonable to rejoice if her children died or approached death in infancy. . . . 'She considered beauty a true misfortune; when she saw that her children were ugly or deformed, she thanked God for it . . . nor did she neglect any opportunity of pointing her children's faults out to them, or of enlarging on the miseries they would inevitably lead to.'

Escape to Rome

Under her ministrations, Giacomo grew up. He became a hunchback, periodically blind, and afflicted with a variety of maladies that accumulated as the years went on. He was not allowed alone outside his home until the age of twenty; after many frustrated attempts to get completely away from Recanati, he was at last allowed to go to stay with relatives in Rome. He hated the great city, and returned, broken in spirit, some months later to Recanati. There were further sorties into the world in later years; there were long and excruciating intervals at home, usually necessitated by poverty. He discovered a certain happiness in Bologna and in Pisa; but it is a curious psychological fact that only at home—as his brother Carlo observed—did he write his best work; only there, and in Pisa, which seems, I think, to have provided him with an image of home divorced in some way from painful associations. He eventually left Recanati for good in 1830. After a tragic love-affair in Florence, in which he seems to have been unscrupulously ill-used, he fled to Naples with a devoted friend, Antonio Ranieri; there, in his thirty-ninth year, he died.

I do not think one can look at the

facts and incidents which fill in this outline of Leopardi's life without feeling—if only for the moment—that human existence stands much condemned by them. One feels, as one reads and writes about him, that the lament of Hyllus in the *Trachiniae* of Sophocles is a just comment on life:

*Sore for him who bears the blow,
Sad for us who feel his woe,
Shameful to the gods, we throw.*

Leopardi's life seems to carry the implication that hope, reconciliation, religious consolation, are only shabby illusions. These illusions he had fought hard to preserve, until, one by one, they had all deserted him. The facts, black and atrocious, of childhood and manhood, closed in. He seemed to me, therefore, a good subject for a play. His life is no more the whole of life, perhaps, than anyone else's; but one has the feeling that it is worth groping about in, and retelling, as best one can, without qualification.

Of Leopardi's work, it is worth while saying a commonplace thing: that his losses were our gains. Out of the interstices of his sufferings he contrived to force the incomparable, shining, immaculate flowers of his verse; it is also worthwhile repeating the comment of the Italian critic, De Sanctis, on him: 'Leopardi does not believe in progress, and he makes you long for it; he does not believe in liberty, and he makes you love it. Love, glory, virtue, he calls illusions, and he inflames your heart with an unquenchable desire for them. You cannot leave him without feeling exalted; you cannot approach him without first seeking to amend and purify yourself, for you will not wish to feel ashamed in his presence.'

I have written a dramatic study of him in two parts. The first, called *The Unblest*, deals with his early life in Recanati, and is to be broadcast this week; the companion-piece, dealing with Leopardi in the world, is to be done later in the year.

JAMES JOYCE, the Irish writer who died a few years ago, is acknowledged to be one of the most important figures in contemporary literature. In the Third Programme this week there will be two talks about him—one of them recorded for the BBC in Trieste by his brother, Professor Stanislaus Joyce, who was his confidant and adviser for many years. Admirers of James Joyce's writings will be particularly interested in what he has to say about *Finnegans Wake*, which some have declared unreadable and others a work of genius. Professor Joyce's talk will be broadcast on Wednesday. On Saturday Third Programme listeners can hear Joyce's own voice in an excerpt from one of the earlier sections of *Finnegans Wake*.

TELEVISION THIS WEEK PRESENTS

Nancy Price in 'Whiteoaks' Margot Fonteyn Joyce Grenfell
Dennis Lawes, Norman Wisdom, Max Bacon, Stanelli, Joe Linnane,
Diana Morrison and Derek Guyler at Ted Kavanagh's 'Cuckoo College'
Diana Churchill, Elizabeth Welch, Max Adrian in 'Oranges and Lemons'

Television Programmes, news, and gossip—with, of course, the Home, Light, and Third Programmes—are provided in a special edition of 'Radio Times' which all viewers can obtain from their newsagents at the usual price of twopence.

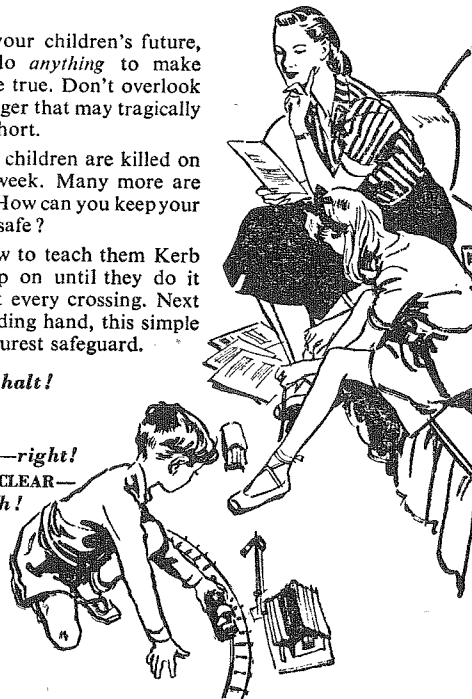
One plan you must make for their future

PLANNING your children's future, you would do *anything* to make your hopes come true. Don't overlook the everyday danger that may tragically cut that future short.

Nearly twenty children are killed on the roads each week. Many more are gravely injured. How can you keep your own youngsters safe?

Start tomorrow to teach them Kerb Drill—and keep on until they do it automatically, at every crossing. Next to your own guiding hand, this simple routine is their surest safeguard.

- 1 At the kerb, halt!
- 2 Eyes right!
- 3 Eyes left!
- 4 Glance again—right!
- 5 Then IF IT'S CLEAR—quick march! Don't rush. Cross calmly.



ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

Betty Grable

takes up new beauty-massage

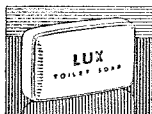
BETTY GRABLE has adopted a new routine of beauty care! It's the Lux Toilet Soap massage technique. Famous screen-beauties of Hollywood and Britain are now using it.

This method does wonders for the skin! And it's so simple. All you do is make a rich creamy lather with Lux Toilet Soap and work this into the skin with a gentle rotary massage movement, going all over the face and neck. Rinse very thoroughly with warm water, then splash with cold. Pat dry with a towel.

Start this treatment *now* for quick, new beauty. Get a tablet of Lux Toilet Soap and give yourself this film-star beauty routine daily. In a fortnight your skin will be clearer—your whole complexion beautified.



Betty Grable, star of 20th Century-Fox film 'Mother Wore Tights.'



LUX TOILET SOAP

Used by 9 out of 10 Film Stars

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MONDAY

MAY 9

1,500 m. (200 kc/s) 261.1 m. (1,149 kc/s)

Light Programme

9.0 a.m. Big Ben
NEWS9.10 HOUSEWIVES' CHOICE
Paul Adam
Introduces your request records10.0 Greenwich Time Signal
MUSIC IN YOUR HOME
Fredric Cooper
and his Tipica Orchestra
with Isabelita Alonso (soprano)10.30 Forces Educational Broadcast
CITIZENSHIP
The Land and the People
1.—Victor Bonham-Carter discusses
the economics of the British country-
side with James Bowker10.45 AT THE CONSOLE
Tom Jenkins
at the organ of the Plaza, Swansea11.15 MID-MORNING STORY
'The Secret of the Heather-Ale'
by Neil Munro
Reader, Duncan McIntyre11.30 Bandstand
BAND OF THE ROYAL
MILITARY SCHOOL OF MUSIC
(by permission of the Commandant)
Conducted by
Capt. Meredith Roberts, M.B.E.
Director of Music
with Robert Easton (bass)
Coronation March.....Tchaikovsky
Overture: Idomeneo.....Mozart
The Floral Dance.....Moss, arr. Barsotti
An Album Leaf.....Wagner
Father O'Flynn.....Stanford, arr. Barsotti
Ballet Suite: The Devil's Forge.....Byng
March: The Great Little Army.....Alford
(BBC recording)12.15 MUSIC FROM HAMBURG
N.W.D.R. Radio Orchestra
Conductor, Wilhelm Stephan
Siegfried Palm (cello)
Heinz Munkel (piano)
(By courtesy of the North-West
German Radio System)1.0 SANDY MACPHERSON
at the BBC theatre organ. (Recording)1.15 FRANK WEIR
and his Orchestra
with the Ray Ellington Quartet2.0 WOMAN'S HOUR
Introduced by Olive Shapley
'Good Cooking with Asparagus,' by
Hilda Whitlow
Today's Guest: Sir Adrian Boult on
'The Conductor and the Orchestra'
'A Letter of Sympathy to the Woman
who is a Good Listener,' by
Macdonald Hastings
'Portrait in the Gallery: Elizabeth
Barrett Browning,' by Janet Dunbar
Serial: 'This Brittle Glory,' by
Stella Morton. Abridged by Evelyn
Howland. Read by Olive Gregg3.0 Greenwich Time Signal
MELODY HOUR
Music for the Housewife
Arthur Birkby and his Octet
with Roland Robson (baritone)3.30 Music While You Work
Tommy Kinsman
and his Dance Orchestra4.0 MRS. DALE'S DIARY
Script by Lesley Wilson. (Recording)4.15 PIANO PLAYTIME
Frank Baron and Peter Knight
at two pianos
(BBC recording)4.30 Monday Matinée
'THE GENTLE PEOPLE'
by Irwin Shaw
(Saturday's recorded broadcast in the
Home Service)5.50 WEEKEND-HYTENS
CHOIR and ORCHESTRA
of Denmark
on gramophone records6.0 JOSEPH SEAL
at the BBC theatre organ6.30 John Rorke introduces
COMMUNITY SINGING
Conducted by Glyn Jones
with Bert Cecil
and The Good Companions
At the two pianos:
Eric James and George Myddleton
(BBC recording)

HERE'S HOWARD!
Michael Howard takes the lead with a
distinguished company in 'Show Parade'
at 8.0 tonight

7.0 Greenwich Time Signal
News and
RADIO NEWSREEL7.25 Sport
Including cricket close of play scores7.30 FAMILY FAVOURITES
Tunes you have asked us to play8.0 Show Parade
Michael Howard in
'HERE'S HOWARD'
with Jean Kent
Richard Dimbleby, Norman Shelley
Pat Coombs, Lionel Stevens
Doris Nichols, Terry Scott
BBC Revue Orchestra
Conducted by Frank Cantell
Script by Laurie Wyman
Produced by Leslie Bridgmont
(Jean Kent broadcasts by permission of the
J. Arthur Rank Organisation, Ltd.)
To be repeated tomorrow at 7.15
(London Home Service)8.30 Robert Beatty, Brenda Bruce in
'SPOT THE LADY'
A Philip Odell serial
by Lester Powell3—'Crime and Old Brandy'
Philip Odell.....Robert Beatty
Heather McMarra.....Brenda Bruce
Supt. Simon Rigby.....Andrew Paulds
Sir Alexander Besard
Geoffrey Wincott
Philo Kite.....Preston Lockwood
Gloria.....Patricia Laffan
Mel Page.....Jon Farrell
Albert Connolly.....Ernest Setton
Quink.....Laurence Harvey
Landlord.....Alastair Duncan
James.....Ronald Sidney
Voices of Marguerite.....Thelma Hughes
Produced by Cleland Finn
(BBC recording)
To be repeated on Friday at 4.459.0 Christopher Stone presents
AMONG YOUR SOUVENIRS
A reminiscence programme
Henry Wendon
Mantovani and his Orchestra9.30 FANFARE
Heralding Variety in the North
with Tessie O'Shea
Stainless Stephen
Jimmy Campbell, The Kordites
and Douglas 'Cardew' Robinson
(resident comedian)
Northern Variety Orchestra
Conducted by Toni
Produced by Bowker Andrews10.0 Greenwich Time Signal
NEWS10.15 Francis de Wolff in
'GORDON GRANTLEY, K.C.'
by John P. Wynn
4—'The Way Out'
Gordon Grantley.....Francis de Wolff
Dr. Maira Ashfield.....Molly Rankin
Markham.....Lionel Stevens
Matron.....Ann Codrington
Brian Dolman.....Gladys Spencer
Mrs. Garland.....Elsa Palmer
Produced by Alastair Scott-Johnston
(BBC recording)10.35 HARRY GOLD
and his Pieces of Eight, with
Stephane Grappelly and his Quintet11.15 MUSIC TAPESTRY
The Spa Orchestra
directed by Tom Jenkins
with Dorothy Poulshnoff (piano)

11.56 News Summary

12 midnight Big Ben
Close Down

Third Programme

514.6 m. (583 kc/s) 203.5 m. (1,474 kc/s)

8.0 p.m. BBC
SCOTTISH ORCHESTRA
Conductor, Ian Whyte
StanfordOverture: Shamus O'Brien
Symphony in F minor (The Irish)6.50 A FUTURE
FOR WESTERN EUROPE
The Growing Structure
by Richard Scott, Diplomatic
Correspondent of the Manchester
Guardian

Next talk: tomorrow at 7.5

7.10 JOHN REDFORD
BBC Singers
Conducted by Herbert Murrill
Susie Jeans (organ)Motet: Vestri praecincti
Organ:
Miserere; Christe qui lux es; Lucem
tuam
Motet: Rejoice in the Lord
Organ:
O Lux on the faburden; Eterne
rerum conditur; Glorificamus
Motet: Christus resurgens
Programme devised and
introduced by Denis Stevens
From Cleveland Lodge, Dorking
To be repeated tomorrow at 11.07.45 'THE UNBLEST'
A study of the Italian poet
Giacomo Leopardi as a child and
in early manhoodWritten for broadcasting by
Henry ReedProduced by Rayner Heppenstall
Leopardi.....David King Wood
Count Monaldo Leopardi, his father
Countess Adelaide.....Carleton Hobbs
his mother.....Gladys Young
Pietro Giordani.....Abraham Sofaer
The Children: Denise Bryer, Margot
van der Burgh, Cecile Chevreau,
Yvonne Churchman, Hugh Munro,
and Marjorie Westbury
Others taking part are: Joan Hart,
Beryl Calder, Malcolm Hayes, David
Markham, Robert Marsden, Lydia
Sherwood, Barbara Trevor
Time: 1808-22. Scene: Recanati and
Macerata in E. Italy
To be repeated tomorrow at 9.309.15 HAYDN and BRAHMS
The Latvian String Quartet
String Quartet in G, Op. 77 No. 1
String Quartet in C minor, Op. 51
No. 1.....Haydn
.....Brahms
followed by an interlude at 10.1510.20 'IN DEFENCE
OF THE BEARD'
A reading of this pamphlet by
the painter James Ward, R.A.,
(1769-1859), with an introductory
talk on the history of the beard
by Reginald Reynolds
Reader, Lockwood West
(BBC recordings)10.50 FAURE
John Simons (piano)
Nocturne No. 12, in E minor (Op. 107)
Barcarolle No. 13, in C (Op. 116)
Impromptu No. 5, in F sharp minor
(Op. 102)
Nocturne No. 13, in B minor (Op. 119)
Last of eight recitals of piano music
by Fauré11.15 THE HYPOCRITE
A study, with illustrations, of
the mechanics of his character
by V. S. Pritchett
(Recording of broadcast on Jan. 9)

11.55 Close Down

Prose readings in interludes between
programmes this week have been
selected by Hermione Oliver from
writings about European Union