

Vol. XVII. No. 428 **OCTOBER 4, 1941** 

### New "M.M." Feature Inspires H.M.V. "Collectors' Series"

### Winnick In **Phænix Variety**

AFTER a long period of inactivity, the Phoenix Theatre, in Charing Cross A inactivity, the Phoenix Theatre, in Charing Cross Road, started off what looks like being an extremely vigorous season of variety on Monday last, when, before a packed house in which were to be seen George Formby, Tommy Trinder, and other stars of stage, screen, and radio, Maurice Winnick and his Band were featured in that elegant production, "Dorchester Follies." "Dorchester Follies."

Winnick has been touring for some time with this well-produced, slick and very bright entertainment. His 11-piece band bears an extremely weighty part in it, being on the stage for the whole of the second half, playing several of its own numbers and handling many accompaniments. Although the band is on the

stage for such a lengthy period, it is not heard "solo" to a very marked extent, because the whole second half of "Dorchester Follies" is arranged as a kind of super-cabaret.

#### COMPETENT OUTFIT

After playing itself in with its

After playing itself in with its accepted style of sweet music, the band swings into a dance scena, "The Jitterbug Jump," going on to "Yes My Darling Daughter," in which Helen Ward—definitely a marked vocal asset of the band—is featured.

Another scena, bringing in the evergreen music of "In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree," is followed by a medley, "Blue Heaven," "Make Believe," and the stylish if inevitable "In the Mood," Later on Doreen Stephens sings "The First Lullaby" very effectively.

The band throughout is the

effectively.

The band throughout is the competent commercial stage proposition which those who have studied its radio work would expect. It carries out little comedy or extraneous entertainment of its own; neither does it defy established stage conventions by attempting to launch out into advanced elements of swing. Probably its strongest asset is its hard-working rhythm section.

Maurice Winnick himself shares the compering, plays his violin, and acts as all-round master of ceremonies very smoothly.

Among the impersonations of

that popular compère and racon-teur of very sophisticated stories, Harold Berens—who is a big feature of the show—is a particu-larly cruel but riotously funny impression of "Hutch," in which he is assisted by pianist Eddie

Winnick is described outside Winnick is described outside the theatre as purveyor of "The Sweetest Music This Side of Heaven." Although we hope to find something with just a little more style and refinement before our journey to those celestial gates is ended, we must never-theless admit that, as a stage band, Winnick's is both musical and showly competent. J. M.

IMMEDIATELY the MELODY MAKER was published last Friday, a steady stream of let-ters started to arrive in praise of our new feature "Collectors' Corner," and a large number of readers, intrigued by the men-tion of a record by McKinney's Cotton Pickers, wrote and tele-

phoned the Gramophone Company about it. So great was the demand, in fact, that the enterprising H.M.V. Company has decided not only to issue it, but to make its appearance the sig-nal for the launching of a special "Collectors' Series," tying up with the "M.M." feature.

#### OUT NOVEMBER

The first record in the series will appear on November 1, and will be the McKinney's record mentioned above — "Milenberg Joys" and "Shim - me - sha - wabble."

wabble."

Present plans are to run the series for a year, and H.M.V. certainly deserve congratulations for the initiative they are taking.

This news, following so quickly the "Jelly Roll" Morton releases,

makes 1941 a bumper year for all jazz fans as far as the issue of first-class records is concerned.

#### **GET THIS BOOK!**

Parly last year there appeared Wilder Hobson's "American Jazz Music," which was hailed everywhere as the book of all time on jazz. But the very limited American printed (though English bound) edition was soon sold out, and for 18 months the work has been unobtainable here. unobtainable here.

unobtainable here.

Now, however, thanks to the enterprise of our own record critic, the indefatigable Edgar Jackson, to whose efforts to obtain republication the publishers give unstinted acknowledgment on the fly-leaf, Messrs. Dent and Son have produced a new English edition of the book—and at the reduced price of 7s. 6d.

7s. 6d.

To say that this is a veritable boon is to put it mildly, for "American Jazz Music" is without doubt the finest treatise on jazz that has yet come our way,

#### "MIKE'S" PRAISE

Even that most hard-boiled of all authorities in jazz, "Mike," gave it unstinted praise when he reviewed the original edition.

"The fact is," wrote "Mike," "that 'American Jazz Music' is far and away the most interesting and intelligent book about jazz that I have yet read."

The greatness of this discourselles in the simple, easily understandable and absorbing way in which it tells the whole truth about jazz.

'And it does so partly by the And it does so partly by the

"And it does so partly by the insight it gives into the traditions, history, politics and economics, as well as the musical aspects, of jazz and those who have been responsible for its evolution, but none the less conclusively by the biting but obviously sincere and justified manner in which it debunks the synthetic music known as "commercial" jazz.

This is, we have no hesitation in saying, a book which should be read by everyone—for it is everything from a guide for the novice to a bible for the initiated.

# DOES THIS COUNTRY APPRECIATE GENIUS?

The Answer-In This Strange Story-Seems to be No!

DOES THIS COUNTRY RECOGNISE GENIUS? THIS QUESTION BECAUSE OF THE PECULIAR CASE OF THE SEVEN-YEAR-OLD "KID KRUPA," VICTOR FELDMAN, WHOSE AMAZING DISPLAY OF SUPER-DRUMMING WAS THE BIG SENSATION OF THE RECENT JAZZ JAMBOREE.

Victor has been hailed by the experts as the greatest jazz discovery ever, in this country. He has never been taught to play drums, yet some innate genius makes him perform the most incredible rhythmic feats on the skins—and every-body who has seen him is flabbergasted by his masterly technique, his adult ideas, and sheer drumistic wizardry.

Of his amazing talent there is no question, and it is safe to say that, if he were in America, no efforts would be spared to bring him before the public with every possible ounce of Press, radio, target and screen publicity, and stage and screen publicity and

stage and screen publicity and ballyhoo.

In fact, we will go further and say that, if Victor Feld-map were an American child, the powers-that-be in England would be turning heaven and earth to get records of him over here, to arrange broad-casts by him for English con-sumption, and generally to boost him in this country.

#### TOO YOUNG!

But, since he happens to be a home-grown product and to live in a London suburb so essentially English as Edgware, the typical apathy which we display towards our own talent is well in evidence, and we have regretfully to report that, apart from his appearance at the Jazz Jamboree and a huge amount of fan mail

and a huge amount of fan mail and sycophancy, his genius has gone entirely unrecognised by the people who matter.

B.B.C. producers who have heard Victor Feldman rushed to get him on the air. Harry Parry tried to get him into a Radio Rhythm Club programme. All their well-meant efforts fell down because no child under 12 is allowed to broadcast over the B.B.C.

But surely circumstances

B.B.C.

But surely circumstances alter cases? If Yehudi Menuhin had been in England when he was still a prodigy under 12, would not efforts have been made to put him on the air, by virtue of his amazing talent?

Film producers who have heard Victor have waxed enthusiastic about getting him into pictures, only to be thwarted by the apathetic excuse "He's too young!" The same goes for record companies and for the stage, despite the fact that you can get a licence for a child to go on the stage if his education is continued while he is touring.

#### LOSING HEART

The net result of the discovery of Victor Feldman is that thousands and thousands of dance music fans all over the country want to hear him, and tre denied the opportunity. The lack of interest shown in him has, quite naturally, caused him and his brothers to lose much of their incentive to practise and play their best. They have got as jar as the Jazz Jamboree, and that seems to be about as far as they can get.

hat seems to be about as they can get.

We indict the entertainment heads of this country. We say that a child who is such a genius on the drums ought to be fostered and encouraged.

We do not say this because of the money-making aspect of the case. for Victor Feldman's case.

the money-making aspect of the case. for Victor Feldman's parents are in comfortable circumstances, and do not need, nor desire, to make a profit out of their son's talent. It's lucky that they are so situated, because, if they had to depend for their livelinood on the commercialisation of their son's brilliance, they would all starve.

IF THIS CHILD IS ALLOWED TO WASTE HIS GENIUS AWAY THROUGH LACK OF INTEREST, IT WILL BE NOTHING SHORT OF A TRAGEDY—AND A CRIME.

Weaver Hall is the BBC Band

'Henry Hall is the B.B.C. Band of the Week commencing Monday (6th), and Billy Cotton (13th

#### RECOVERING



Pale and wan Pale and wan after his serious illness, fiddle stylist Stephane Grappelly limped into our office on Wednesday to receive some of his huge pile of fan mail, and in this "M.M." photo, taken on the spot, you see him reading letters from his well-wishers.

Stephane must now go to

Stephane must now go to the country for conva-lescence. He thanks his correspondents very sin-cerely, and regrets that, in-his run-down state, he ean-not reply to all of them.

### McPARTLAND IN ARMSTRONG FILM

FOLLOWING on last week's report in the Melody Maker that Louis Armstrong is to star in a forthcoming RKO Radio picture, it is now known that J im my McPartland, famed Chicago cornettist, has been assigned a rôle in the picture.

It is understood that several others of the old Austin High School gang have been approached, and names mentioned include Bud Freeman, Pee Wee Russell and Eddie Condon.

Russell and Eddie Condon.

The film will open at the time when Satchmo was a kid eight years of age in New Orleans, and a short sequence will even be devoted to the time he spent in the Waifs' Home; and thereafter Louis himself will play the lead. Orson Welles is not at all worried about the uncommercial aspect about, the uncommercial aspect of the picture, as he considers there to be easily enough enthusiastic supporters to warrant it being a box-office as well as an artistic success

#### HACKETT ON GUITAR

Other follow-up news concerns the signing-up of young Bobby Hackett by Glenn Miller, which sounds like good news for the swing fans, but not so good for those who consider Bobby too good an artist to ally himself to a band which primarily caters for the litterbug crowd.

a band which primarily caters for the jitterbug crowd.

Bobby Hackett is to be featured on guitar as well as on cornet, and will probably only be used in speciality numbers on the latter instrument.

It will, of course, be remembered that Bobby used to play guitar before he took up the cornet, and was in fact featured on the guitar in the records which were made a couple of years back by Decca under Leonard Feather's supervision.

#### Alf Leah Is Convalescing

THE many friends of Hatchett bassist Alf Leah will be giad to know that, after three months in hospital at Highgate, he is making sufficiently good recovery to be sent away for convalescence.

Through the "M.M." he wants

"HIGH IN THE HILLS . . .

DOWN IN THE DALES"...

THEY'RE ALL PLAYING THE HIT OF THE YEAR

# DOWN FORGET-ME-NOT

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### DANCE BAND **NEWS FROM** GLASGOW

fill in the week intervening between the departure of George Scott-Wood and the coming of Oscar Rabin, the Playhouse management ar-ranged for a visit by Gloria Gaye and her all-ladies' ensemble.
This band was up here not so

long ago, and their return visit means that we have two all-femme outfits playing not so far from each other, as Ivy Benson and her Band have returned to the Locarno after their brief

and her Band have returned to the Locarno after their brief spell in Edinburgh.

George Scott-Wood had two accordion broadcasts during his Glasgow stay, and used some local talent, including Eric Spencer, one-time planist-with Alec Freer at the Plaza, now hiwar work, also Jimmy Lothian. on leave from the R.A.F.

A friend of Jay Farley's tells us that this clarinet and sax stylist was on leave not so long ago, although we didn't run intenim. Jay is now in the Royal Artillery, and is naturally a prominent figure in the unit band. band.

#### SORRY, DEANS!

Recent mention of "Mickey"
Deans as playing trumpet with
Harry Roy has tickled the locals
somewhat. Danny Deans is, of
course, the member of the family
at present playing some swell
trumpet with Harry, Mickey
playing his tenor back home here
with Ronnie Munro.

The third member, Maurice, is
still playing trumpet and vocalising with Alf Johnstone's band
at the Berkeley.

The dinner dances at the North Recent mention of "Mickey

The dinner dances at the North British Hotel, Edinburgh, are in-full swing for the season, and once again the music is in the hands of Syd Loseby, Glasgow

saxist.

Syd has had this job for some time now, and recruits his band from either Glasgow or Edinburgh, according to the state of the "market." He is in war work in Glasgow now, and does an occasional job for Louis Freeman, who still manages to pick up a wedding or two, despite gig scarcity

Another winter season success-

Another winter season successfully launched is that at the West End Ballroom, one of Glas-gow's oldest halls. Carrying on from last year, trumpeter Gerry Fitzgerald is in charge of the music, and is doing well, despite the usual band recruitment difficulties.—H. HINSHELWOOD.

YOU GET

**ORCHESTRATIONS** 

FOR

18/-



Proudly seated on the right in the front row of the above picture is Corporal Jack Nathan, the grand West End pianist who, since his rise to fame with Roy Fox, has been in

pianist who, since his rise to fame with Roy Fox, has been in the forefront of the profession's ivory-ticklers.

Now in the R.A.F., he is the leader of his station's brass band which you see above, and is also leader of the smaller dance band. Starting from small beginnings, this brass band is now nearly thirty strong, and plays for all official parades, in addition to giving regular concerts of straight and light music. In front of the band above is Flight-Lieut. Bentley, Station Adjutant and Officer-in-Charge of the station's music. He was originally responsible for the formation of the two bands, in January of this year.

CONTINUING the New Noises series, here is one (which also wins 5s.) from M. Wimborne, of Holland Park, London,

W.11:—
"I find that beating the temple blocks with a soft beater with the left hand, and beating out a tom-tom rhythm on snare drum with the right hand, produces a very original and unorthodox rhythm. Another original way that comes in well in 'Big Noise from Winnetka' is to play on wood block with cowbells, and, using Chinese cymbals, every time the cymbal is hit to do a rimshot with the right hand simultaneously."

That bit about playing with

right hand simultaneously."

That bit about playing with cowbells on wood block is a bit strange, Reader Wimborne, and certainly a new noise. But I imagine this effect very quickly palls—don't overdo it, emulators.

The first idea is all right, although not exactly "new."
The trouble is—what rhythm? It's easy enough to say "play rhythm," but the effectiveness of these ideas is what kind of rhythm to get out of the New Noises.

Name of Subscriber.... Address

M.M. 4/10/41

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### DOPE Savings Savings

WHAT are musicians doing to help the war effort? Striking answer is provided by Nat Allen and his Band, who have for some time been extensively engaged in connection with the National Savings Campaign.

What is more, the committee fully appreciates the answer—which is that the accompaniment of first-class dance music to savings appeals is a sure guarantee of the maximum amount of interest being takenin such appeals by audiences whose spirits have been roused whose spirits have been roused by first-class playing. Within 24 hours of the boys

playing in a factory canteen recently, over £600 had been subscribed!

Nat averages two such engagements a week, and it is no exaggeration to say that he and his boys (many of whom come straight from full-time Civil Defence work) have been instrumental in raising several thousand pounds already.

To-morrow (Saturday), at 3.30 nm they will be awnearing

To-morrow (Saturday), at 3.30 p.m., they will be appearing at Islington Central Hall in concection with that Borough Council's savings drive. Nat will be using a twelve-piece combination. bination

In addition to their regular Sunday broadcasts to Malta, the band is being kept busy with concerts and danees, and at the end of this month are scheduled to play at what is believed to be the first to the Angle-Russian the first joint Red Cross Ball. Anglo-Russian

#### RHYTHM CLUB NEWS

RHYTHM CLUB NEWS

No. 1.—The Bag of Nails is fast becoming a Sunday afternoon meeting-place for all the leading musicians, and last week the following were present and took part in another great Jam Session: Dave Wilkins, Kenny Baker. Norman Waring (trumpets); Ted Snoad (tenor): Frank Cordell, Norman Burns, Dick Katz (planos); Clinton Maxwell, Les Leston, Bobby Midgely (drums): Lauderic Caton, Joe Deniz, Gordon Soppitt (guitars); Russ Allen (bass) and Reg Weller (drums). Another on the same lines next week when Bill Elliott and Percy Pring will present the recitals. No. 5.—The N.W.3 Group are also having great meetings, and last Friday the chief guests were Beryl Davis, Harry Conn and Walter Stott, of Oscar Rabin's Band. The Jam Session included Ted Snoad, Andre Goersh, Tony Ayers, Norman Waring, Bob Mallah, and Dick Katz, whilst Don Webb, part-founder of the blub, made a welcome return, Next meeting, October 10, when Miss Alma Long presents "America" Dances" and Ron Chipperfield "Queens Of Jazz." A unique feature is "Jam Quession."

No. 6.—Hounslow meet again next Sunday at Conservative Hall, when there will be a competition and Jam Session. The secretary wishes to apologise to all members for the sudden cancellation of the last meeting.

No. 161.—Sidcup meet at the Station Halel on October 6 when

meeting.

No. 161.—Sidcup meet at the Station Hotel on October 6, when M. Orney will present a recital on Muggsy Spanier. All communications to J. C. Godbolt, 84, Willersley

a strenuous occupation.

He is now once again in an environment where his modernistic plane ramblings will receive their maximum appreciation.

J. M.

#### AMBROSE OCTET ON THE STAGE

SEEN this week at the Chelsea Palace, the Ambrose Merry-go-round, featuring the Ambrose Octet, leaves one with a mixed feeling of pleasant surprise and disappointment.

disappointment.

First of all, the whole show doesn't mean a thing to the student of jazz (writes Jerry Dawson), despite the fact that included in the personnel of the octet are George Shearing, Carl Barriteau and Teddy Foster. The outstanding feature of the

act—in fact, they completely steal the show—is the work of Carl Barriteau and Peggy McCormack, whose singing and dancing yes, I mean both of tirem!—is some of the best I have seen for many a long day.
In "Old Man Mose," in which

he doesn't play a single note of saxophone or clarinet, Carl's every movement displays an inborn sense of rhythm, and he is a "hoofer" of no mean order.

#### NO "AMBROSE TOUCH"

Equally as surprising was Peggy McCormack's terrific rendering of "South American Way," introducing "I Yi, Yi," Over a number of years I have seen and heard Peggy do all sorts of numbers from "Playmates" to swing but never has she approximated to the same of the same and the same approximates the same approximate the same swing, but never has she appeared to such advantage as in the "native" rhythm,
Anne Shelton, handicapped by a bad microphone, bad lights and

Anne Shelton, handicapped by a bad microphone, bad Hights and bad make-up, sings competently, yet without that inspiration which one feels is just around the corner, and George Shearing plays a rather fussy arrangement of "Softly as in a Morning Sunrise." Teddy Foster, sings and plays rather better than I have heard him in the past in "Hut-Sut Song," whilst the humour is capably handled, as usual, by Les Carew, assisted by Ted Fielding and Norman Hackforth.

One is bound, of course, to compare the show with previous offerings by the Octet, and whilst musically, the "Ambrose touch" is noticeable by its absence, the act is extremely strong in all-round entertainment value.

# Gaby With

WHEN Inga Anderson, that most sophisticated of Canadian songstresses, played in variety last week at the London Stoll Theatre, the audience found a pianist equally sophisticated in style accompanying her—none other than swingster - songwriter Gaby Rogers.

The type of show which Inga

Gaby Rogers.

The type of show which Inga Anderson puts over, featuring numbers old and new, with many changes of tempo, and with sentiment, humour and swing, requires an accompanist of very special qualities, and Gaby, who is nominally fully occupied with his songwriting activities and his writing and arranging work in the Harry Roy office, took over Jack Nathan's old job at the last moment when an accompanist for the Stoll engagement couldn't be the Stoll engagement couldn't be found.

#### ECHO OF HENNING

Miss Anderson, now famous in Miss Anderson, now famous in cabaret and variety over here, is the sister of the well-known Canadian musician Henning Anderson, who toured this country with Mrs. Jack Hylton's band some years ago, and who is now with a noted orchestra in Vanging and the street orchestra in Vanging with a noted orchestra in Vancouver.

Many interesting changes in

work and environment have come the way of Gaby Rogers since he used to delight clubland with his distinctly Harlem-esque selections in swingtime. In the meanwhile he has reached songwriting fame, especially with his "Good-Night, Children. Everywhere"; has spent a period with the "Sue and her Boy Friends" trio, has led the band at the Royal Bath Hotel, Bournemouth, and has played a period with E.N.S.A.

Injured in a bomb explosion in the plitz days, Gaby, after a slow recovery, sought revenge by work-ing in an aircraft factory, only to be discharged as unfit for such

Week commencing October 6

AMBROSE OCTET, Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Road,

ELSIE CARLISLE, Empire, Sheffield. BILLY COTTON and Band, Empire, Finsbury Park. EVELYN DALL, SAM BROWNE and MAX BACON,

Empire, Hackney. HERMAN DAREWSKI and Band, Empire, Glasgow.

Empire, Glasgow.

GEORGE ELRICK and Music Makers,
Empire, Nottingham.

GARRISON THEATRE,
Hippodrome, Ilford.

ADELAIDE HALL,
Empire, Nottingham.

"HUTCH,"
Hippodrome, Birmingham.

CELIA LIPTON, Empire, Croydon.

Empire, Croydon.

JOE LOSS and Band,
Hippodrome, Golders Green.
JIMMY MESENE,
Empire, Liverpool.

OSCAR RABIN and Band,
Broadcasting.

HAROLD RAMSAY and Ladies,
Hippodrome, Wolverhampton.

HARRY ROY and Band,
Embassy Club, London.

TROISE and Mandoliers,
Huddersheld.

HAL SWAIN and Swing Sisters,
Hippodrome, Birmingham.

MAURICE WINNICK and Band,
Empire, Shepherds Bush.



A LWAYS the same old ques-tion. I have dealt with it many times in this series, but still so many readers write in and ask it that I'm forced to the conclusions: (a) that nobody ever reads these tips; (b) they do and forget them; or (c) that they think there is something very exceptional about their own cases

cases.

It's high notes. "I can't get high D's when playing choruses," complains one. Well, how many can? That's a pretty good note for a really front-rank pro. "I can't get

can? That's a pretty good note for a really front-rank proplayer to toss into choruses.

"Is it the fault of my trumpet—it\_only cost £6 6s.?" says another. Well, an instrument at that price isn't the best that money can buy by a long shot, but it's still the man behind the run not the gun.

gun, not the gun.

I think the general trouble may be classified thus: (a) trying to do too much with an unformed embouchure; (b) playing at relatively rare intervals and wondering why the lips get tired quickly: (c) worrying too much about top notes and thereby getting a fatal inferiority complex ting a fatal inferiority complex about them.

Notice that I don't mention the instrument at all. Once in a hundred times it IS the instrument; the rest of the instru-ment; the rest of the time it's the player. Answer: practice, patience and be satisfied with A and B flats, at any rate for a long

#### U.S. HIT PARADE

In response to numerous requests we recommence this feature, which tells you the ten most popular songand-dance twees in Arrerica as assessed by the weekly nation-wide ballot conducted by the American Tobacco Company and broadcast every Saturday night in their "Your Hit Parade" programme over the Columbia network.

We discontinued the feature last February, when A.S.C.A.P. numbers were withdrawn from the networks. Pending settlement of the A.S.C.A.P. Networks dispute, it still mentione only B.M.I. compositions.

But as many of these are being published here and repeating their American success. the list should oprove helpful to all band leaders and other professionals, as well as interesting to our non-performing readers.

1. DADDY.

2, 'TIL REVEILLE.

3. GREEN EYES.

4. THE THINGS I LOVE. 5. HUT-SUT SONG.

6. MARIA ELENA. 7. INTERMEZZO.

8. YOURS. 9. YOU AND I. 10. DO YOU GARE?

This list is received by short-wave adio by our technical contributor, Dabbler."

No. 8.—The Norwich Rhythm Club is now under way. Meetings will be held each Sunday at the Music House. 167, King Street, at 7 p.m., and all interested should contact P. Pinching, 30. Golding Street, Norwich.

F & D's Orchestral Club first parcel contains BOA NOITE (Good Night) CHICA CHICA BOOM CHIC Thanks to Love From the Film "THAT NIGHT IN RIO" The Johnson Rag HEARTS DON'T LIE
From FIRTH SHEPHARD PRODUCTION "FUN AND GAMES" It Doesn't Mean a Thing No. 10 Lullaby Lane This Heart of Mine YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME, I KNOW The Road That Leads To Home FRANCIS DAY & HUNTER, LTD.

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TRIO (P.C. and any other two parts), 12/-,
Mark with X combination required.

# THIS RE-ISSUE BUSINESS

AST week I promised to deal with Bill Elliott's remarks on what he believes to be my outlook on recording, and in due course I shall.

But in reading again through his "Classics of Jazz" in the "M.M." of July 26 last, which started all the argument, I have noticed a statement which seems to call for more immediate attention.

He says: "... thanks to Wally Moody, of E.M.I. ..., who incidentally is doing grand work for

As a little innocent favour-currying to get Moody on his side, to continue the reissuing of old records which Bill thinks should be reissued. I don't blame Bill for giving Wally this harm-less little pat on the back. But it might be just as well to consider what justification there

may be for this slyly slipped in but gushing compliment.

I have known Wally ever since he joined E.M.I. some while ago, long before he was given his present responsible position there, and you may take my word for it that, in addition to being a very likeable lad socially, he is conscientious and hard

working.

But that doesn't prove any "grand work for jazz."

#### BOX-OFFICE

Perhaps however, the H.M.V. Swing Music Series and Parlophone Super Rhythm-Style Series releases, for which Moody is responsible, will. Let us see.

Generally speaking they have during Moody's control of them indicated a most commendable eye for the box-office and all that it can mean to the balance-sheet of the concern whose immediate interests our Mr. Moody watches so well, but a very questionable understanding of jazz and an arrest of the concern of the co equally questionable regard for the lovers of true jazz.

Although there have, of course, been many notable exceptions, the records have been mainly by the records have been mainly by a few established artists, sometimes playing tunes which haven't been treated as true jazz at all, while others have been by artists who, desirable as they may be for what they are, have no right to be listed under Swing.

And Moody cannot advance the excuse that he had no better alternatives.

alternatives

You good people know only of You good people know only of the records which are released. You do not know of the many better ones which are not— records not only by grand records not only by grand artists (e.g., Charlie Barnet) who seldom, if ever, get a showing in the supplements; but also by established artists (e.g., Goodman), who are often represented by their inevitably poorer performances of "commercial", titles, just because they are "commercial," while many of their best records lie rotting on shelves because there is not the added market appeal of a "commercial" tune.

#### THE LONG VIEW

All of which is understandable

All of which is understandable because Moody's job depends, of course, on his being able to show results as judged from the profit and loss account; but how it can be described as "grand work for jazz over here." I fail to see.

I should have thought Moody would have been doing a much grander job had he taken the long view and attempted to help the public to appreciate good jazz by issuing all jazz records purely on their merit, irrespective of such "commercial" contive of such ' commercial considerations as tunes and the all too well established drawing

power of certain artists.
Or, if he must,make money out of his "Amapolas" by his Benny

which one expects to be reserved for good jazz.

And there is yet another point

before I quit this matter

Swing releases.
The records which Bill Elliott induces Moody to reissue may be good jazz, but many people already have them, and every time that one is reissued a space is taken up in the supplement which could otherwise have been filled with a hitherto unissued record which nobody over here has heard.

#### DUKE ELLINGTON AND JIMMY BLANTON (Am. N.).

\*Body and Soul (Heyman, Sour, Eyton, Green) (Am. Victor OA053505).

J. B. Blues (Ellington, Blanton). (Am. Victor OA053507).

(H.M.V. B9211—3s. 8d.)

Blanton (string bass); Ellington (piano). (Recorded October 1, 1940.)

MOST informative way of reviewing these sides seems to be to quote a letter I recently received from one Alwyn J. F. Bettling, of Torquay, who writes:

received from one Alwyn J. F. Bettling, of Torquay, who writes:

Dear Eddar Jackson,—You may remember you concluded your review in the \*M.M." of June 14 last of the Blanton-Ellington duets of "Pitter Panther Patter" and "Sophisticated Lady" (II.M.V. Balta) by saying:—"To find him 'Ellington' wasting time on gallery-jetching exploits such as these is enough to shake anyone's confidence, and cause one to wonder whether, after all, even the greatest disciples of jazz can resist the templation, to pander to the yells of the crowd for what amounts, to, nothing more than mere exhibitionism."

It may interest you to know that a surprising confirmation of your views appeared in American "Down Beat" for last June.

Reviewing two more of these Blanton-Ellington excretions, "Body And Soul" and "Mr. J. B. Blues" imade, I believe; at the same session as "Panther" and "Lady," and, I gather, much the same sort of thing; "Down Beat's" Dave Dexter says.—"Quite possibly the most sickening, unmussical and thoroughly disgusting sides Duke has ever needled are 'Body and Soul' and soul' and mr. J. B. Blues' in the same sort of thing; "Down Beat's" Dave Dexter says.—"Quite possibly the most sickening, unmussical and thoroughly disgusting sides Duke has ever needled are 'Body and Soul' and mr. J. B. Blues' to the same sort of thing 'Time title, a jazz classic revered by all who ever sat in on a session, is hacked, slashed and brutally



#### JIMMY BLANTON"

butchered by Blanton's bullish bass bowings. The 'Blues' is easily as frightful, with Jimmy thumping his strings as well as sawilg them. "All standards for intonation are

Jorsaken."

In a later "Down Beat" I read that some long-hair bassist had protested that Dexter's remarks were unfair, as this was really fine bass technique; so to find out about that, Dexter is now taking bass lessons from Artie Bernstein. Like to follow him? My uncle in China has a bass for sale.

Then's

Thanks, Mr. Bettling

No, I don't think I'll try to learn the bass, because I don't quite see what it would prove.

But it's nice to know in these days, when so many people seem

to have such different ideas on Jazz, that someone else agrees with me.

There's just one thing more I want to say.
To save myself from being accused of being inconsistent, I ought. I suppose, to upbraid H.M.V. for issuing these sides. Instead I am going to say that their release is justified.

These records are something

ORCHESTRA nela (Shaw, Serrano, Arr. Still) (Am. Victor OA055098) (Recorded Oc-tober 7, 1940). Marimela

more than bad examples of some-thing of which there are plenty of good instances. They are attempts to do something differ-

ent in jazz, and as such, at least have the interest of all experi-ments undertaken by masters, even though this time the ex-

periment has been a complete

Moreover, what would have happened if H.M.V. hadn't re-leased them? There would cer-

tainly have been a shout. For the fact is that is's no use warn-

ing some people against fire. The only way they can be taught to keep away from it is by having

their own fingers burnt.

Personally, I'd prefer to have
my pocket burnt—by my 3s. 8d.

ARTIE SHAW AND HIS

I Cover The Waterfront (Hey-man, Green, Arr. Len \* Hayton) (Am. Victor OA 055257) (Recorded Janu-ary 23, 1941).

(H.M.V. B9214-3s. 8d.). (H.M.V. B9214—3s. 8d.).

055098—Shaw (clart.) with Les
Robinson. H. Plumb, C. "Bus"
Bassey, Jerry Jerome (reeds); G.
Wendt, J. Cathcart, Bill Butterfield
tpts.); Jack Jenney, Vernon Brown
(trmbs.); T. Boardman, T. Klages, B.
Brower, B. Morrow, A. Belfer, E.
Lamas (violins); A. Harshman, E.
Collins (violas); F. Goerner (cello);
John Guarnieri (pno.); A. Hendrickson (gtar.); J. de Naut (bass); Nick
Fatool (drums).

055257—As above, plus Ray Coniff

055257-As above, plus Ray Coniff

THESE are two of the many sides I had in mind when I said earlier that records were put into Swing series which had no right to be there.

right to be there.

Both titles are popular concert music "in rhythm," conspicuous for the fine recording of immaculate performances of rich, languorous arrangements.

As light, popular music, they are most attractive, especially, perhaps "Waterfront," with its Delius-like harmonies for the large string section, though

large string section, though "Marimela" is in its way a quite lovely little tune which has lent itself, ideally to the concert rhumba treatment it has been

But as jazz ... well, this just memorial releases.

### Reviewed by E.I.GAR JACKSON

The New Swing Records

isn't jazz in any real sense of the word, hence the impossibility of rating the sides with any stars.



TEDDY WILSON AND HIS ORCHESTRA (Am. N.).

But Not For Me (I, and G. Gershwin) (V. by Helen Ward) (Am. Columbia CO29235)

\*\*\*Oh, Lady Be Good (I. and G. Gershwin) (Am. Columbia CO29236)

(Parlophone R2815-3s. 8d.)

Wilson (pno.) with Jimmy Hamilton (saxes, clart.); George James (baritone); Bill Coleman (tpt.); Benny Morton (trmb.); Eddie Gishs (gfar.); Al Hall (bass); Yank Porter (drums). (Recorded approx. September, 1940.)

If there could be any reason for releasing "But Not For Me" at all, there cannot even be an excuse for Parlophone, issuing it in their "Rhythm-Style" series.

Even if it had been one of Gershwin's better tunes (which it certainly isn't), it would still have remained a sentimental

pop, and it's treated as such here.
The fact that Helen Ward's dire vocal is the worst thing about the side says nothing for the rest of it.

And there's not even the execute that the state of the rest of the r

cuse that this title was needed as a coupling for the, happily, considerably better "Lady Be considerably better "Lady Be Good." Parlophone have at least two other passable Wilson sides

"Embraceable You" and "I Never Knew." However, the "Lady" swings easily, and the solos by James, Coleman, Hamilton, Wilson and Morton (in that order), of which the record mainly consists, are worth hearing, and almost bring the side up to the standard of the earlier Wilson Vocalions, even though there is no Billie

Holiday. .
Thus ends this week's sorry tale.

Next week's should be much happier, for I hope to deal with the H.M.V. "Jelly Roll" Morton

## COLLECTOR'S CORNER: A NEW FEATURE FOR DISCORDING S

write those guys a letter That seemed to be the main Idea everywhere last week after reading the first issue of "Collector's

What a deluge of mail! But we're not complaining; we asked for it, and we like it. One thing.

What a deluge of mail! But we're not complaining; we asked for it, and we like it. One thing, however, we must insist upon—
If you want a personal reply regarding a query, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope; it's obviously impossible to answer everything in the Corner. First come, first served; so here is a reply to Mr. R. E. Ramsdell, of Derby. He wants to know the personnel of three of the records lately issued any Decca in their. American Jamparusle Album.

Six Blue Chips playing "Cheatin' Cheech"/"Steel Roof." Here we have Pee Wee Erwin (trumpet); Joe Marsala (clarinet); Frank Signorelli (piano); Carmen Mastren (guitar); Art Shapiro (bass); Stan King (drums). The fast side was supposed to be a transcription of the old ditty "Yes, We Have No Bananas." but the idea seems to have slipped somewhat, but what are bananas for, anyway?

Mound City Blue Blowers play—

are bananas for, anyway?
Mound City Blue Blowers playing "Muskrat Ramble"/"High
Society." These were the cornermen of the Bob Crosby outfit as or, if he must make money out of his "Amapolas" by his Benny Goodmans, and tunes about girls in people's dreams trying to look like anyone but themselves by his Ellingtons and Herb Jeffries. But let him put them out as ordinary "dance" records, and not take up with them some of the none- too many spaces allotted to these Swing Series,

DISCOPHILES Wingy Mannone and Ork in "Tar Paper Stomp"/"Tin Roof Blues." For this personnel see "M.M." of 31/5/41. This is the best bet of the album, and Decca best bet of the album, and Decca might be prevailed upon to release some of the others from the same session. The clarinet was George Walters, and not either Pee Wee Russell or Fud Livingston. We agree that his playing resembles both, and yet they were both Chicagoans, whilst George (now dead) played only in New Orleans; so what do we make of that? make of that?

The news about the "Jelly Roll" Morton records seems to have caused quite a stir among you pigeons, as we have several letters asking for the line-up of the 1939 sides.

This consisted of: Sidney de Paris (trumpet); Happy Cauld-well (tenor); Claude Jones (trombone); Albert Nicholas (clarinet); Wellman Braud (bass); Wellman Braud (bass); Zutie Singleton (drums); Lawrence Lucie (guitar); Morton (piano). In "High Society"/
"I Thought I Heard Buddy Bolden," and "Winin' Boy Blues"/"Oh, Didn't He Ramble," Bechet played clarinet and clarinet and Bechet played

soprano sax,

"Our Nap for the Week.—" | Can't Betieve You're In Love With Me"—
Red McKenzie's Celestial Beings, backed by "Little Girl"—Joe Venuti's Blue Four, Parlophone.

No. 20.—This club has started in Radlett Herts. Write to D. F. Nunn. 23. Cobden Hill, Radlett Herts, for all details.

No. 173.—Stratford-on-Avon reopen to-night at the Garrick Chambers, Ely Street, at 7.15 p.m. when D. J. Rouse will talk about the Blues. The Jam Session will follow.



R 2814

Louisiana; Moten Swing BENNY GOODMAN Board Meeting -Zaggin' with Zig' Six Appeal -R 2769 R 2770 These foolish Things SLIM GAILLARD

R 2771

R 2772

Chitlin' Switch Blues -Ghost of Yesterday -HARRY JAMES
Feet Dragging Blues JOHN KIRBY

Front and Center JOE SULLIVAN | can't give you anything but Love; Low down dirty shame Blues | Compiled and annotated by | Edgar Jackson

Complete in Album No. P:37 20/(+4/5\d. Tax)

The Parlophone Company Ltd., Hayes, Midds.

BENNY GOODMAN Good enough to Keep
A Smo-o-o-oth One
Take It; Yours
R 2816

COUNT BASIE

TEDDY WILSON

Feedin' the "Bean" -

But not for Me - - - }

JOHN KIRBY Coquette ; Rose Room JAZZ CLASSICS SERIES

CHICAGO RHYTHM KINGS Who stole the Lock
Someone stole Gabriel's Horn R 2812

BUD FREEMAN Prince of Wails
Muskat Ramble
R 2809 R10-Inch 3/- (+8d. Tax)



in the midst of Nazi brutality and on pain of death, take the trouble to circulate this humble sheet through the Gestapo net-work in order to keep themselves in touch with what is going on in the British world of dance

work in order to keep distinctions in touch with what is going on in the British world of dance music.

But those of you who still have friends in occupied territory—take heart. Incredibly, miracu-

Grass-skirt and beads do not disguise KAY HARDING, featured vocalist with the outstanding Don Marino Barreto broadcasts. This picture shows her as she appears in a current Pathe Pictorial short.

HARDENED readers of this column will remember, back in March this year, my telling them the story behind MAX GELDRAY'S two Decca recordings: his hazardous journey across war-torn Europe, under machinegun fire and bombing, his encirclement by Nazi troops, his voyage to this country aboard a tiny, overcrowded cargo vessel, his meeting here with one or two Continental friends, and his making four sides for Decca prior to joining the Dutch Army here.

A lot of you, bless your hearts, HARDENED

A lot of you, bless your hearts, wrote afterwards to thank me for that write-up, since it introduced them to what they agreed with me was just about the best harmonica playing they had ever heard.

monica playing they had ever heard.

Last week Max himself came in to thank me. But for a different reason. For he had just heard from a Dutch bass-player who has recently landed here after escaping from the Nazis (I can't give you his name lest "reprisals" be effected upon his friends and family still in Holland) that a copy of the "M.M." carrying that story had filtered through and reached his (Max's) family, thereby informing them for the first time that their son was safe and sound.

I can take no thanks for that. Nor can I adequately express my admiration for the courage and determination of those who, even

lously, these pages are reaching them. Weeks after I write this, maybe months, somehow, they'll be read by Hun-governed musiclans . . and the news will be passed on through the invaded cians countries

Max, as you know, has been in the Royal Netherlands Army for over a year now. But thanks to the co-operation of his Com-manding Officer, Lieut. de Groot, he has been given every oppor-tunity to avail himself of offers

In fact, had it not been that he was at the time in hospital, you would have heard him in the Jazz Jamboree with Johnny Claes and his Band.

Recently, he was featured with Billy Ternent's Eand in "Hooray for What!" and at the time of writing there is a likelihood of his appearing in a regular Forces series, apart from other dates. His public is growing, as it should—and dare I whisper a plea in Decca's ear for a few more sessions by him?

Those first two, good as they were were made under considerable stress after his hazardous journey here.

Since making them, he has got right back into his stride, playing as he used to when he, Danny Polo, Louis Gasté on guitar and Louis Vola, on bass,

Temple Bar 1653

BRAND'S ESSENCE

formed the swing group in Ray Ventura's Band.

The trouble with the harmonica in the hands of most players, it seems to me, is that it is looked upon chiefly as a stunt instrument, rather as were the early "mighty" cinema organs. Max regards his as a component part of a dance band. In fact, he never listens to harmonica records. His favourite instrument is the clarinet, and it is with similar clean, clear phrasing that he plans and plays his arrangements.

His favourite clarinettist is, of course, his old friend DANNY POLO. And Danny was among the persons to whom, desperately and with little hope of an answer,

and with little hope of an answer, he sent greetings during his first, lonely Christmas in this country. To his astonishment, Danny replied, and a regular correspondence resulted. In fact, when he called in, Max brought interesting news of Danny.

Early this year, with Jack Teagarden's Band, Danny was in Hollywood making the Bing Crosby film, "Birth of the Blues," yet to be shown in this country.

In this film you'll hear Bing playing some astonishing clarinet. But will you? Take it from me, you'll be hearing Danny Polo!

That grand drummer BILL AIREY-SMITH lays down his sticks on Tuesday next when he goes into the R.A. as a driver.

Bill, although he looks young enough, is an Army veteran, for he was seven years in khaki, from 1916 to 1923. He served in France and (after the war) in India, and, in those days, used to play the trumpet.

Since then, of course he has switched over to drums and vocals, and has played with everybody who's anybody in the West End — Lipton, De bro y Somers, Howard Jacobs, Freddy Bretherton, etc. etc.

He is now playing in the pit for the "Me And My Girl" show at the London Coliseum, and all his many friends will wish him the best of luck in the Army.

A formal note from ex-Hyltonian JOHNNY RAITZ, 2nd Lieut. K.S.L.I. somewhere in England, corrects a statement made in this column a few weeks back when we said we had heard he had a commission and was in the Middle East.

The correction is to the effect that he is not in the Middle East—but we were right about the commission.

Last week the second issue of REG. KNIGHT'S Musicians' Social and Benevolent Council publication, "Jamboree," reached my desk.

It seems only the other day that I gave it a welcome on this page for its endeavour to keep Musicians' Union members in the Forces in touch with one another and with the musical world.

world.

"As you can i magine," Reg. quotes one reader, by the name of Hyman Cohen. "we are completely out of touch with events in Town, and something like this brings us a little nearer to civile street." In fact, to get hold of news from Town, we've even descended to the depths of huying the 'Melody Maker' when we can get hold of a copy."

Mr. Cohen and other musicians

we can get hold of a copy."
Mr. Cohen and other musicians starved for dance-band news can read all about the People's Convention on page 21, and a long article on the Red Army on page 5.

Now It Can be Told. Here's a true story of the bomb that fell outside Francis, Day and Hunter's. It blew a small crater in the pavement which necessitated the

pavement which necessitated the building of a wooden bridge into the entrance.

We were in the shop one day when the sirens went, and after the experience of one such "near miss," the staff hurried us down to the air raid shelter.

Arriving there, we took stock of the surroundings, lifted our

### PAT

eyes — and found ourselves staring straight through the shattered wall into Charing Cross Road!

We said nothing at the time, and shortly afterwards, when the all-clear went, took our leave, thatting for a few minutes as we stood on the little wooden bridge. stood bridge. week or more later workmen

A week or more later workmen came to take away the little wooden bridge, mend the shattered drainpipes, and fill the hole. Working away with a pick, they came upon an obstruction that wouldn't shift, and they resourcefully applied to the R.E.s. who were bridging the road-wide crater outside Selmer's, for the loan of their mobile crane. mobile crane The R.E.

mobile crane.

The R.E. officer came to see what had to be shifted, caught his breath for a moment, and dashed into the shop.

"Everybody out!" he cried.

"Leave the premises at once! There's a 500-lb delayed-action bomb under your pavement!"

To LEO MURPHY and the five To LEO MURPHY and the five boys of his R.A.S.C. Band—apologies. Hammering out this column for September 20, my finger fell upon an M instead of an S. and they became thus suddenly transformed into an R.A.M.C. band.
Which shows that playing the piano is easier than typing. For although I stayed in the chord R.—C, the "accidental" completely upset the entire phrase.

R—C, the "accidental" completely upset the entire phrase.

A. P. SHARPE, fretted broad-caster and "B.M.G." editor, has figured in a new (if unconscious) rôle—that of breaker-up of rôle—that burglaries

rôle—that of breaker-up of burglaries.
Rehearsing with his new Hawaiian band in the West End on Sunday, he decided to leave some music at his office in the Clifford Essex building in Shaftesbury Avenue, and on returning there found the place looking as if it had been blitzed.
Burglars had broken in during the week-end and had created chaos and confusion, but, unbeknown to him, they were still in the offices when he came back, and his return put them to flight.

flight.

and his return put them to flight.

Actually, apart from damage and general devastation, the sum total of their raid was £5 in cash, but Mr. Sharpe thinks the crowning insult was that the marauders took his portable radio set up to the floor on which they were working. They had been trying to bore through the floor to enter a jeweller's shop next door, and the condition of the radio set showed that it had been played to entertain them during their operations.

"Music while you work," with a vengeance!

ARCHIBALD JOYCE, the "English Waltz King," is not dead. I must make this very clear because, following our front-page story last week that Archie Joyce (the Cardiff band-leader) had died, the Waltz King received countless 'phone calls and telegrams of sympathy, since the similarity in names led people to believe that he had passed away.

Archibald Joyce is, of course, one of this country's leading composers of light music, and is still busy with his pen, concentrating, as usual, on those delightful waltzes he knows so well how to write.

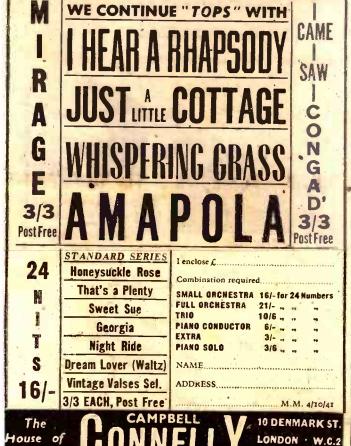
I am very happy to say that he is still extremely alive.

Now, don't crowd around. But here's a drop of good news for swing-discollectors, just to round off the week's work. If you want some brand-new swing discs—Would you mind getting off my foot and standing back, sir? Thank you! — AC1 N. THEAKER has a large number for sale or exchange.

for sale or exchange.

Write to him, enclosing stamp for reply, at his home address: 28, Leslie Road, Sheffield, 6.

No. 87.—Hitchin had guitarist Jean Sasson as guest at a recent meeting, and on October 4, Peter Jenkins will talk about Jack Teagarden.



Ellington and his Orchestra (H.M.V. B9048)

Duke Ellington (pno.); Barney Bigard (clart.); O. Hardwick, Johnny Hodges (altos); Ben Webster (tenor); Harry Carney (baritone); Rex Stewart Cooty Williams, Wardell Jones (tpts.); J. Nanton, Juan Tizol, Lawrence Brown (trmbs.); Fred Guy (gtar.); J. Blanton (bass); Sonny Greer (drums).

So Edgar Jackson has at last got round to reading my column in the "M.M." last July 26. I was beginning to wonder if my little effort had passed unnoticed. There was no question of a "pretty compliment" though, Edgar, and I was certainly not trying to spike any opposition guide. On the contrary with have

On the contrary, you have tried a flank attack and avoided the direct issue of what I wrote.

direct issue of what I wrote.

The whole purport of my remarks was a criticism of you for giving a bad review to the "Higginbotham Blues" record, and anyone who reads that particular "Classic" through carefully will see that I made one fact clear—namely, that as you gave Higgy's record a slating, what were you likely to do to another old disc which, though excellent, was still not so good as the Higgy one?

#### MIND-CHANGING

As for referring to the "Gramophone" for May, 1934, that is nothing to go on. Critics change their minds more often than a Scotsman changes a pound note, and you are no exception to that rule. The mind-changing, I mean, not the

with reference to my sequence in "Who Stole The Lock?" Really, my dear Edgar, you are an artful old so-and-so! I admit quite honestly that I made a small slip, but your remarks last week read as if I completely left out Froeba's piano and Foster's bass, and you also in sinuate that Red's trumpet rocked a terrific.

This week's Ellington disc is a grand example of modern Duke, and I rank it.

"Jack The Bear" features some superb carinet by Barney Bigard, while Blanton on bass and Carney (baritone) both shine. Cooty and Tricky turn in some piano and Foster's bass, and you also in the solor, and the ensembles are sinuate that Red's trumpet rocked a terrific.

October 4, 1941

and bass before instead of after Red's solo; any reader is welcome to turn up the "M.M." in question and see which of is right.

Your remarks, Mr. Jackson, re "nitwits with ears finding out things for themselves," are rather unfortunate. In the Meloov Maker record review dated hay 17, 1941, you review a record by the Blue Chips. You mention the fact that no personnel is available, and list it

#### WHITE AND COLOURED

Surely, Edgar, a nitwit—sorry, critic—of your experience knows a white band from a coloured one, and can recognise the appealing liquid clarinet of Joe Marsala, to mention but one of the stars in this all-white band.

Your custard pie returned, Edgar, and I've added the dish for interest. I note that you promise to come back to me in the near future. Delighted; but remember you have four times my space, and I can't cut my "Classic" every week.

I hope I shall be forgiven for all the above digression, but needs must, etc.

This week's, Ellington disc is a grand example of modern Duke, and I rank it—as one of his finest recent issues.

"Jack The Bear" features some superb charinet by Barney Bigard, while Blanton.

piano and Foster's bass, and you also in sinuate that Red's trumpet rocked a drum solo.

This. Edgar, is my exact paragraph that you carefully misquoted; I have italicised the words you so artfully missed out:—

"Piano and bass have a few bars solo, and then a short vocal from Red, who, and then a short vocal from Red, who, are solo, and then a short vocal from Red, who, and the solos, and the ensembles are solos, and

As a young and inexperienced convert to jazz. I am writing to you to inquire whether you can help me in the following question.

Just recently the gramophone companies seem to have been waking up to the fact that the British public do want jazz, and have been issuing more and more records of good jazz. For instance, the recent "New Orleans Jazz Album" by Brunswick: all the recent "Jazz Classics" by Parlophone, and the not yet issued "Jelly Roll Morton" discs by H.M.V.

classics of Pariopione, and the not yet issued "Jelly Roll Morton" discs by H.M.V.

Now, what I want to know is, as a person of limited means who cannot buy more than three or four records a month, and who works in a country town where the music shops do not appear to know what jazz is, and certainly do not care to find out. how am I going to find out which of these records to choose each month?

It is all very well to go by the reviews—apd, indeed, I have pieked out quite a lot of records I have liked in that manner—but sometimes Bill Elliott's and Edgar Jackson's ideas have differed from mine as to whether a record is worth getting or not, and as a result I have found myself landed with several records which I have had to order specially, and consequently had to buy, and yet there are probably ten other records that I would have liked better. Not that I'm blaming the critics!

The whole trouble is that I get no opportunity these trouble is that I get no opportunity that the created the second of the second

liked better. Not that I'm blaming the critics!
The whole trouble is that I get no opportunity to hear records before I buy them.
The only solution seems to be the radio or the rhythm clubs. The only time records of good jazz are played on the radio seems to be in the middle of the day when nobody but the housewives and other stay-at-homes, and the critics, whose job it is to listen to such programmes, can listen, and I'm certain that at least 75 per cent. of the former don't want to, anyway.

least 75 per sent. of the former up to anyway.

The Radio Rhythm Club, which I listened to regularly and with great interest for the first two months, I now find totally inadequate—half the programmes are devoted to the Sextet, which I find to have such a sameness running through all its performances that it now bores me—and the other half to record recitals which, apart from the fact that the numbers and, in some cases, not even the titles of the records are given, are still not enough.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

May I express my appreciation of Edgar Mekson's "inside story" of the recent Radio Phythm Club Jam Session.

If feel, moreover, that Mr. Jackson was very successful in placing the faults—e.g., wrong atmosphere, uncomfortable musicians, and a strained audience. Actually this matter of udlence is of paramount importance, and it is here. I think, that criticism is invited. Apparently the B.B.C. asked for a specially selected audience of Rhythm Club members, yet Mr. Jackson tells us that the main is udience was composed of some 200 members of only two London Rhythm Clubs. Without is only two London Rhythm Clubs. Without is off the Rhythm Clubs in question is well known, yet it would be interesting to know why the 200 available seats were not distributed equitably.

200 available seats were not distributed is equitably.

I have been in communication with several litome Counties and Outer-London Rhythm of the same of the same

Kenton, Middlesex, CLIFFORD H. JONES.
Bill Elliott, of the No. 1 Rhythm Club, on eading the above, said: "Clifford Jones' reaarks about the audience being chosen at andom are completely wrong. The No. 1 Club numbers and, in some cases, now even titles of the records are given, are still not enough.

If it weren't for "Detector." the only way to find out would be to write to the B.B.C. and I'm sure that there are not many who wish to the B.B.C. enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, whenever they want to know the name of a gramophone record.

Surely it is about time the B.B.C. realised that the time they reserve for the ever-increasing numbers of "swing" fans in this country is inadequate, to say the least Instead, all we get is a string of corny musical programmes interspersed with dance music which, with all due respect for the merits of the same, does become a little wearying when you find yourself listening to the same tune two or three times in the same evening.

The other alternative—the rhythm club. That should help you, you say! Unfortunately, I have not one within practicable distance from my home, otherwise I would gladly join one, and as to starting one in my own village, the question is: Do I know enough about jazz in the same who were."

"The same procedure was adopted by Eric Preston, who also has a large membership. "With regard to Mr. Jones' remarks about the audience being chosen at paradom are completely wrong. The No. 1 Club has a members, and they did so. The No. 1 Club has a members who by their keenness in attending of these, who, by their keenness in attending of the seeken, had to be disappointed.

"The same procedure was adopted by Eric Preston, who also has a large membership."

"With regard to Mr. Jones' remarks about the both club have a large precentage of lady in the proceedings," I should like to point out that both club have a large percentage of lady in the proceedings, I should like to point out that both club have a large percentage of lady in the proceedings, I should like to point out that both clu reading the above, said: Cityora sones remarks about the audience being chosen at vandom are completely wrong. The No. 1 Club and the N.W.3 Group were invited by the B.B.C. to form an audience of their members, and they did so. The No. 1 Club has a membership of over 200, and they picked out 100 of these, who, by their keenness in attending neetings regularly, had made themselves trigible for this occasion. The other 100, no less keen, had to be disappointed.

"The same procedure was adopted by Eric Preston, who also has a large membership.

"With regard to Mr. Jones' remarks about a diese present who hardly seemed interested in the proceedings," I should like to point out that both clubs have a large percentage of lady inembers who are equally as keen as any of he males, and as such had a definite right to be invited.

### Classics of Jazz IT'S HEALTHY TO ARGUE No. 43.—" Jack The Bear "/" Morning Glory," by Duke So Let's Argue About Ellington says "MIKE" Our Critic-at-Large

it is good and when it is bad.

Particularly when it's bad.

Duke, in the space of something under 10 years, has achieved a reputation in the narrow, limited world of jazz somewhat akin to that enjoyed by Mozart. Beethoven and Bach in the sphere of "straight" music. To the out-and-out fan he is sacrosanct.

It is only when you get to know your Bach and Beethoven and Mozart well that you are able to tell the pot-boiling from the great inspirations. There are Bach cantatas, Mozart serenades, and at least a couple of Beethoven's followers.

Beethoven's "Schlacht bet Vittoria."

Are we then, to suppose that merely because Duke Ellington has written good jazz in his time must inevitably continue to produce work which is 100 per cent.?

But that is what the unthinking fans of Duke's music apparently claim for him. Good luck to them: they are on to a more certain winner than Beethoven's followers.

Beethoven's followers.

But that is what the unthinking fans do not seem to appreciate is the Beethoven works which would what the unthinking lans do not seem to appreciate is the it were not that they bore the state of the world we live in—or names of three geniuses who, between them, wrote the B Minor Americans live in.

What the unthinking fans do case.

### **COMMERCIAL RECORDS** Reviewed by "CORNY"

TETTER this week from JOE LOSS'S manager, Charlie Böhm, apropos my criticism the week before last of Joe's "Dancing Time For Dancers" record of "Pretty Little Busybody" (H.M.V. BD5696).

He says:

"Apart from 'Amapola, this is his Joe's best-selling record of today, and possibly the best-seller of any record on the market, with that one exception.

"If it were not for occasional recordings of such a number in such a manner, other recordings that might please you more might not be an economical proposition, as it is definitely a march, but any sar-

"Apart from 'Amapola, this is his [Joc's] best-selling record of today, and possibly the best-seller of any record on the market, with that one exception.

"If it were not for occasional recordings of such a number in such a manner, other recordings that might please you more might not be an economical proposition, as it is only by the sale of these so-called corny records that it is possible to do a few titles that interest the fans alone."

Well, as Mr. Böhm admits it's corny, there seems to be no more to be said on that score.

But why bring in that hoary old failacy about fan records being paid for by "commercials"? I can hardly believe that Mr.

heavy session fees they have only

note only because in place of heavy session fees they have only royalties to pay.

So while we all deeply appreciate, I am sure, Joe Loss's gesture in recording fox-trots as polkas so that away fans may, according to Mr. Thur's belief, have their ration of true jazz, I do not think there is any real need for our Joe to desecrate his art by way of charity which is neither needed nor asked for.

And I am glad to find that he has not done so in his latest "Dancing Time For Dancers" offerings, "In The Mood" and "Oasis" (H.M.V. BD5705). While these are, of course, intended to be also commercial, they are certainly good enough to appeal to the fans.

tamly good enough to appear to
the fans.
On the other hand, purely
"commercial" is the only way of
describing Joe's new "Dolores"
(H.M.V. BD5701), and "Dear Old
Lady, London Town" and
"Mister Brown Of London
Town" (BD5699), but that's not
meant sarcastically.
These are nice, musical records
with a rhythm that is the acme
of style compared with the aforementioned cause of all the
to-do. Pretty Little Busybody."

backer of "Pals." This is definitely a march, but any sar-casm about it being one is nipped in the bud because it may well be meant to be one.

#### NO DESCRIPTION

H.M.V. have wisely refrained on giving any description on H.M.V. have unsely regrained from giving any description on the label—a procedure which might advantageously be applied to many records, as no description is obviously better than a misleading one.

"HUTCH"—whose latest recordings include "Just A Little

I can hardly believe that Mr. Böhm is referring to any of Joe's records when he talks about uneconomical propositions, so I presume he must be alluding to American swing releases.

ART DESECRATION

Often these enjoy comparatively small sales because it is still only the more enlightened minority that really appreciates them.
But I have ample grounds for saying that they are a source of very considerable profit to the English recording companies, and success the english recording companies, and the first proposed to the English recording companies, and the first proposed to the English recording companies, and the first proposed to the first proposed to

(BD950)—has a rival as a femswoon creator, and who do you think it is?

None other than our old friend DON MARINO BARRETO, who sings to his own piano accompaniment, on Parlophone F1857.

"Amap la" and "To-Night."

Girly if these don't make you go all co-da nothing will.

Personally, however, I preferred DON MARINO BARRETO AND HIS CUBAN ORCHESTRA'S "Minnle From Trinidad" (from the Lana Turner-Hedy Lamarr-July Garland film "Ziegfeld Girl") and "Babalu" (H.M.V. BD5704).

Those of you who like rhumba bends should make a point of

BD5704).

Those of you who like rhumba bands should make a point of hearing also "Babalu" and the Beguine version of "Intermezzo" by XAVIER CUGAT AND HIS WALDORF - ASTORIA ORCHESTRA (Parlophone R2811). With its ambitiously used choir this most exotically effective band gets near to providing a new touch in popular music.

No. 174.—At the last Putney meeting. Eric Preston gave the recital, and Norman Waring, Ted Snoad, Andre Goersh and Jack For also took part in the session. On October 9, Peter Tanner will give a Bunny Berigan recital. "Duke's Head," Lower Richmond Road, at 7.15.

I CAN see we're all in for another long and tedious argument about Duke Ellington, which is a very healthy sign, since Duke is almost the only person in the whole of jazz whose work is worth arguing about. We argue about it when it is good and when it is bad. Particularly when it's bad. Duke, in the space of something under 10 years, has achieved a reputation in the long and tedious die Ninth Symphony. When you are as professionally when the Ninth Symphony. When you are as professionally when you are as professionally a prolific as Bach, Mozart and like the Marx Brothers can produce a picture like "The Big Store," when Walt Disney can draw as badly as he did in the creative life when your genius draws on its reserve of power; it ticks over, provides music for the thick over, provides music for the choir to sing next Sunday, as background to an aristocrat's dinner party or a monstrosity of "occasional" music such as Beethoven's "Schlacht bei fenders of the later Ellington is

ty of standards.

What riles me with the defenders of the later Ellington is that they are so completely uncritical. Indeed, of all the fans of the arts of the Twentieth Central and the standards.

of the arts of the Twentieth Century, the jazz fans seem to be the least discriminate.
Your film fan is faithful—but only up to a point. The film fan will queue for hours to see his or her favourite: but after seeing the picture nothing in the world will prevent the film fans from saying it was a lousy film if they really thought that was the case.

#### PHYSICAL APPEAL

But in jazz? "My country, right or wrong," is almost a compromising, appeasing attitude by comparison.

comparison.

The precise reason for this I do not know; but I suspect it is principally because the appeal of jazz is primarily physical. It is a dope to the unthinking; its intellectual content is extremely low; its associations are physical; it is music for the unmusical; food for the undeveloped palate.

Do you think that is an exaggeration? Yes? Well, take a look round you at a jazz jamboree, watch the expressions on the faces of your rhythm club

on the faces of your rhythm club devotees caught by an overdevotees caught by an over-candid camera, see the almost schizophrenic grimaces and schizophrenic grimaces and movements of those discriminate supporters of swing "— the "jitterbugs."

Are these manifestations of en-

Are these manifestations of enthusiasm manifestations of properly balanced minds? Ask yourselves, you who adopt the attitude that everything in the garden of jazz is lovely. Aren't there a suspicious number of half-witted fairies at the bottom of it?

Not that I would dream of accusing even the most unwaveringly loyal of neo-Ellington fans of being half-witted; not altogether. But there are times when their enthusiasm and

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narrow-mindedness become very, very trying.
You might think, from the way

trey write about me in their letters to the Editor, that I had never criticised Duke Ellington's music until the notorious "Sophisticated Lady."

Since these critics of mine seem to possess every back number of the "M.M.," perhaps they will refer to some of them.

will refer to some of them.

And while they're at it (particularly Mr. Bellerby), they might check up on whether "Showboat Shuffle." "Cootie's Concerto," and "In a Jam" were. in fact, "pre-Sophisticated Lady," as Mr. Bellerby alleged in his letter last week.

Perhans Mr. Bellerby is right.

Perhaps Mr. Bellerby is right, who knows? Perhaps Duke, whom I knew intimately in the first six or seven months of 1933, kept these three pieces very quiet; and preferred to let his friends know only of "Sophisticated Lady." I wouldn't know...

#### SUPERFICIALITIES

Whether Otto Hardwicke was or was not, primarily responsible for "Sophisticated Lady" is beside the point. The fact remains that this piece and all that it stands for had an appreciable influence for the worse on Duke's artistic make-up. I have never said that everything that Duke-

bad.

All I have ever said is that "Sophisticated Lady" marked the beginning of Duke's preoccupation with the superficialities of jazz. A germ got into his blood so that—for instance—"Dragon Blues" had to be retitled "Bundle of Blues."

Duke remained musically quite healthy for quite a time after; but the symptoms remained.



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COOD news for you would-be arrangers this week. Reader F. Freeman, who lives at "Gatineau," Ashley Park Crescent, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, has a band with the following instrumentation: two altos (both doubling trombone piano, bass and ling trombone, piano, bass and drums, and he offers to play the arrangements of any reader who

cares to submit them.

Mr. Freeman also says that he will be glad to have these readers down as guests to hear their work

In addition to this magnanimous offer, Mr. Freeman says that he is even prepared to pay for successful arrangements. and

he is even prepared to pay for successful arrangements. and altogether this seems to me an heaven-sent opportunity for tyro-arrangers, and my especial thanks are due to him.

The tenor doubling trombone gives you, an excellent opportunity to write some interesting effects, and, if you are within reasonable reach of Walton-on-Thames, then the chance of hearing your arrangements actually played should be irresistible. I can sympathise with those of

I can sympathise with those of you who are not connected with a band of any sort, but most local semi-pro. leaders are only, too glad of the chance to play "specials" for nothing.

A word of advice at this pome.

Don't make your scores too com-plicated. Remember the value of silence.

common fault is to be too must have ensemble all the time.

must have ensemble all the time, forgetting that some of the most telling scoring lies in simplicity. Think of the crystal clarity of Mozart compared with the turgidity of some of the present-day writers. The same thing applies to jazz. Arranging simply might be said to be one of the principal axioms for success.

axioms for success.

And now I've occupied all my quota of space without any real meat! Never mind, next time we'll get down to the important business of modulation. S.R.N.

meeting.

# AN "M.M." RADIO IAM SESSION?

War Time Radio Reviewed by "Detector"

BULK of my mail continues to be about the Radio Rhythm Club's Jam Session last Sunday week. Not for a long time has any broadcast so interested the swing fraternity.

Opinions vary from wildly to calculatingly eulogistic critical, but all seem agreed that this was a step in the right direction which must be followed up.

Interesting suggestion comes

Interesting suggestion comes from Geoffrey Small, of Huddersfield, who writes:—

While I am by no means a yesman to other people's ideas just because I read them in print, but prefer to think for myself and work out my own opinions, I cannot help feeling how absolutely correctly Edgar Jackson must have hit on the true causes of the faults this Jam Session had.

traces of the factis this Jam session had.

It is the old, old story of too many people who know too little about a subject having too much of a say in it. The B.B.C. ought to have handed the production of this broadcast over to someone who really-understood jazz and the temperaments of its players and fans thoroughly and given him an absolutely free hand.

Which brings me to my real reason or writing to you.

I suggest that the B.B.C. invites the Melody Maker to present a Jam Session, and then leaves every single detail in its hands. How about it?

Well, it's an idea and we are always ready to try to practise

always ready to try to practise hat we preach.
So we in turn invite the B.B.C.

to let us stage a Jum Session for the Radio Rhythm Club. How about it, B.B.C.?

#### SQUADRONAIRS

Last Monday we had one of the all too rare opportunities of hearing the R.A.F. Dance Orchestra, directed by Sgt. Jimmy Miller.

Shortage of space prevents a detailed report of the performance, but it may be said that once again this band proved itself to be the greatest thing jazz that this country l produced.

Exciting a tear-up as Jimmy Durante's arrangement of Drummer Man," with Cummings' grand brass and hide walloping and Tommy McQuater's was, the high-spot for taste and grandeur was undoubtedly "Slow Freight." Other fine numbers were the

Other fine numbers were the opening "South Rampart Street Parade," with Andy McDevitt's swell clarry, and Chisholm's arrangement of "Way Down Yonder In New Orleans."

But why must they put this band of all British swing bands on at 11.15 in the morning, when comparatively few people; can hear it? And why will they persist in billing it as just "Dance Orchestra of the R.A.F.," so that no one knows which R.A.F. dance orchestra it is going to be? I have mentioned this latter point time and time again, but it seems that either the B.B.C. or

seems that either the B.B.C. or the R.A.F. officials are too care-less or too arrogant to comply with a request made on behalf of literally thousands, if not tens of thousands, of listeners.

Congratulations to all concerned for the excellent radio version of "Ziegfeld Girl," and particularly to Beryl Davis, who, in the Judy Garland part, stole the show.

the snow.

Only criticisms are that the balance between orchestra and voices was occasionally very bad (particularly in "Minnie from voices was occasionally very bau (particularly in "Minnie from Trinidad"), and that some of the characters spoke so softly and intimately that you couldn't hear them.

# But it was a grand show. GREAT MINDS (Our Readers' and Ours)

THINK ALIKE.

Announcer in "Who's Who in Light Music" last Sunday week seemed to think it a miracle because Jan Berenska could be heard on a record playing violin, 'cello and piano all at once.'

at once,"

American Victor have a record of Sidney Bechet playing all at once sopration and tenor saxes, clarinet, piano and drums.

Stunt is, mechanically quite simple. Artist records part for one instrument first. Then that record is rerecorded while he listens to it through earphones and records with it a second instrument, and so on.—F. J. D., Dulwich.

Under "Readers Write" the week before last, someone made rude remarks about "Going Places" and "Send For Doctor Dick."
They'd have done better to have saved them for "Just Kidding" (Tuesday, September 23) and "Hooray For What" the following evening. evening.

The so-called humour in these so-called variety shows gets more and more of an insult to listeners' in-telligence as time goes on. Do the B.B.C. really think them tunny: or only think that listeners do?—" Fed Up," Tooting,

Everyone I know is quite heart-broken that the Jack Benny broad-casts have finished. They were among the few really funny shows that come over the air. Wild you ask the BBC, to try to get us another series from America?—S. T. W. G.. Leeds.

I agree with your readers who complained about those dire "Going Places" and "Send For Doctor Dick" broadcasts. But they might remember that two others are still going strong, which almost make un for all the bad ones—"The Old Town Hall," and even more outstandingly "Happidrome." "O'dinary Listener," Oldham.

Why hasn't "Detector" reviewed the American recordings of Louis Prima, Benny Carter and Tridy Wilson which the B.B.C. has roadcast during the last three weeks?—"Hot Fan," Torquay, and others.

[If the Editor's listening, it's (a) because of shortage of space, and (b) because they've all been broadcast before. If he's not, it's because I don't like getting up at 8.30 in the morning.—"Detector."]

to keep his band applied particularly to the afternoon sessions.

The Carlton directors some months ago installed a Lafleur organ in the ballroom, which freddie now plays at the Tea Dances, accompanied by drums and trumpet.

For evening sessions, when most of the boys have finish their daily toil, and seem the first of the boys have finish services.

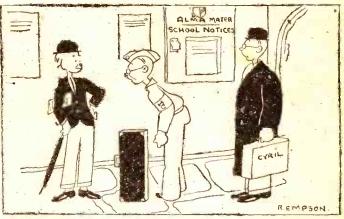
The Carlton directors some months ago installed a Lafleur organ in the ballroom, which freddie now plays at the Tea Dances, accompanied by drums and trumpet.

For evening sessions, when most of the boys have finish their daily toil, and seem their daily toil and seem their daily toil.

In adding my kicks to those of the others who are disgusted with the B.B.C.'s alleged humour shows (e.g. "Doctor Dick" and the more recent "Just Kidding"). I send a bouquet for the Drama department.

Last Sunday's "Time Amazing Doctor Clitterhouse" was grand, and I thoroughly enjoyed "The Laughing Mirror" last Saturday, although I had heard it before.

No praise is too high for the way these plays are acted.—P. L. (W.11).



"I think I'll leave my sax here while I go BILLY PLONKITA in to register for fire-watching, fellers . . . just in case they stick all musicians on top of the Albert Hall!"

## ORTHERN NEWS NOT

#### by Private JERRY DAWSON

DROPPED across an old case, for never has the ball friend the other day in Laurie Kelly, still "swinging it" at the Ceylon Palais, Manchester, whilst waiting to be ""." whilst waiting to be called upon for service in the R.A.F.

or service in the R.A.F.

Since I last saw him, before I joined up six months ago, he has lost most of his men to the Services, including lead alto Bob Mills (R.A.F.); second alto John Sheridan (Army); and drummer Lou Frazer and pianist Roland Harrison (both R.A.F.).

In spite of all this, however, Laurie still manages to offer a ten-piece outfit, which, with himself leading on tenor, lines up as follows: C. McCullen (piano); Bill Murphy (drilms); Bill Rowan (bass): Albert Risley and Syd Forsyth (trumpets); Jack Lea (trombone); Les Whiteley and Oliver Singleton (altos); and Jack Appleford (guitar and vocals). Jack Appleford is, of course, the ex-Nat Bookbinder vocalist who was so popular on the Northern air in pre-war days, and who appears to be singing as well as ever.

who appears to be singing as well

Waiting from a Northern' Mili-Wating from a Northern Military Hospital where he is receiving treatment for a fractured leg, sustained whilst playing soccer for his battery eleven, Gunner Harry Kinsey, in pre-war days drummer with Idris Jones' Carlton Band, writes asking me to convey his good wishes to all the boys in the Liverpool and Wirral areas.

areas.

Prior to his accident, Harry was kept very busy in his off-duty hours with a four-piecer which he led, playing at camp and country have a company areas. civilian dances around station.

Even though his particular battery was a fairly large one, he was only able to find trumpet, guitar and plano players with which to form a band, and even though they had a perfectly good alto sax available, they couldn't find anyone to blow it.

Nevertheless, even with this en-

Nevertheless, even with this enforced instrumentation, they managed to get by in grand style, and Harry is looking forward to the day when he can leave hospital and get back into harness once more. One thing he is particularly thankful for, and that is that the leg which he has damaged is not his "pedal leg." Best of luck, Harry—may soon be beating it out again. may you

With most of his boys doing jobs of National importance, maestro Freddie Platt at the Carlton Ballroom, Rochdale, has been hard put to keep his band up to strength, and this has applied particularly to the afternoon sessions.

old case, for never has the ballroom

Pleasant surprise for all on Wednesday of last week at the Palace Theatre, Manchester, when Gerry Moore reappeared to play for Adelaide Hall. Gerry plays a short medley in the act, and on Thursday, when I dropped in featured "Honeysuckle Rose," "Way Down Yonder In New Orleans," and "Lady, Be Good," much to the delight of the audience.

He is looking very fit these days, and has actually put on weight during his convalescence. He sends his best wishes and thanks to all those who wrote him during his illness. him during his illness.

On the same bill was George Elrick and his Music Makers, whose performance has been recently reviewed.

George is tooking for a tenor player to complete his sax section, and if anyone in the Northern or Midland Counties is interested, he can be contacted to-day (Fri-day) and to-morrow at the day) and to-morrow a Empire Theatre, Speffield.

After many years of playing a "one-man orchestra," famous Blackpool organist Reginald Dixon is now leading a small dance band at his R.A.F. station. Reg. of course, is playing piano and with him are: Ted Shuttleworth (piano); Len Lee (violin); Jan Smits (alto); and Bill Saville (drums).

Reg Dixon's ex-Blackpool col-league, maestro Norman Newman, was home on leave recently, re-splendent in his uniform as a Pilot Officer of the R.A.F. Norman is expecting to be promoted to Flying Officer in the near future, and also expects to move from this country to take up active flying duties abroad.

His many fans in the north will ish him luck and "Happy Landings.

On several occasions I have written about the band which Manchester drummer - pianist Jack Anderson had formed in his battalion of the South Staffs Regiment. Now comes the news that Jack has had to forsake his band owing to the fact that he has been transferred to another battalion.

This is very hard luck indeed

This is very hard luck indeed, as he built the band more or less from nothing, and has had a busy and happy time entertaining the boys and playing gigs as well. However, the Army has some funny ideas—don't I know it!—and this is apparently one of them.

No. 28.-Crosby had a meeting on September 24, when the Jam Session included Harry Gerrard (alto and clar.); Len Eckford (piano); R. Knight (clar.); Cpl. Ryall (drums); and C. Cunningham (trumpet).

No. 65. — Manchester met on Company Comp

and C. Cunningham (trumpet).

No. 85. — Manchester met on September 27 to hear Pete Kennedy present the Jelly Roll Morton Album, followed by a Jam Session with Frank Dickson, Murray Mayall, Jack Duart, Harry Benson and A. N. Other. Meetings. Saturdays. at 3 p.m.. Mameloks Hall. Oxford Road.

No. 33. Southsea met on September 27 to hear Louis Watkins and Roy Legett on "Americans in Paris" and "Bix" respectively. The Jam Session featured Roy Legett, Roy Cresdee, Jack Restall, Ted King and Louis Watkins.

# No. 41. Leeds had a large crowd on September 28, when Vic Alman's Band gave a show at the De Grey School of Dancing. A Jam Session followed which was enthusiastically received. All letters to J. Fields. 35, Somerville Green, Crossgate, Leeds. No. 150. Last week's meeting of the Ilford Club presented Ronny Smith on "Bass Players." and the usual Jam Session. On October 7 there will be a debate between Doug. Mead and Tommy O'Callaghan on. "Was Bix Overrated?" A record auction and Jam Session will conclude the meeting.

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