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tion-committee headed "Youth Service" requesting certain particulars about local youth-activities with a view to compiling a volume of information concerning youth-facilities in the district. This is good as far as it goes, and the additional offer of the services of a youth-organiser is helpful, but how far is it likely to take us? "A Headmaster" points out that the power of the Hitler Youth Movement "is derived from faith in Hitler and belief in the destiny of Germany," and he wants to see English youth stirred by a passionate hero-worship rising to the height of religious allegiance. There he leaves the matter, bidding us farewell with a paradoxical passage from Pascal.

That is better than the dangerous simplifications of the problem achieved by ignoring the religious elements in the situation. But is the Board of Education the appropriate body to initiate such a national youth-movement? We might have expected the church to give the lead in this matter, but so far it has failed to do so. However, as a rule such movements do not spring from well-intentioned committees, whether municipal or ecclesiastical, motivated by the conviction that "something must be done about it." One of the strange things in this strange world is that leaders often arise suddenly and in unexpected places, and Hitlerism is a fearsome warning that they are sometimes focal points of the spirit of the nations they dominate. This makes the moral and religious state of our country a fundamental factor in the situation which we ignore at our peril. By all means let our Youth Service Movement get on with its good work, but let us not delude ourselves with the hope that it will send British youth crusading with a creed and a cry, a belief and a banner, to fill us with assurance for the future. It may, of course, by organising skill and good publicity fashion a youth-movement, a conglomerate of various societies functioning as social centres and physical-training groups, but the heroic may remain untouched, and the instinct for worship whether of man or God, may atrophy or, worse still, express itself in morbid and debased forms. Like "A Headmaster," I conclude with some words from Pascal: *Jésus-Christ est l'objet de tout, et le centre où tout tend. Qui le connaît connaît la raison de toutes choses.*

—Yours faithfully,  
Grantham House, Ryde, I.W.

P. FRANKLIN CHAMBERS.

### WAR-TIME SPORT

SIR,—I sign myself as under and not by my name, because I believe that mine, with my family's, is an ordinary case, probably similar to that of most of those who took part as performers or spectators in what your correspondent Mr. Inwood calls "the scandal of the Derby and cricket's bad example of a representative match at Lord's." I am seventy years old. I have four sons and an adopted nephew, all serving—major, flight-lieutenant, captain, second lieutenant, lieutenant in the Navy. Of my daughters, one is married to a colonel commanding his battalion; the other keeps house for me, is her own housemaid, teacher in the Sunday school, runs a pack of wolf-cubs, is ex-president of the village Women's Institute, and looks after five evacuated schoolboys in the house. A fortnight ago my nephew in the Navy, after helping sink the 'Bismarck,' came home on leave, and for a single afternoon was joined by his brother, a police sergeant in hospital recovering from burns after being rescued unconscious from a bombed house in London. In a local paper we saw that four miles away there was a school cricket-match against a county colts' side, and we went to watch for an hour or two. I never enjoyed a game more; I had not heard the sound of a cricket-ball for two years. I should guess that most of those who went to watch the match at Lord's or the Derby at Newmarket were on leave, or away from their work, in some such way as this; and it is surely a good thing that they were able to go. Does Mr. Inwood realise what it means for commanding officers to try to keep their men fit and keen for months, for years together, in such times as we live in? A day off now and then is in the best sense of the word a Godsend.—Yours, &c.,

AN ORDINARY ENGLISHMAN.

### HELP FOR CHINA

SIR,—The China Medical Aid Committee appeals for assistance to carry on its work. For four years China has held out against the aggressor and war has produced devastation and destruction, not only of homes and industries but of hospitals, with an increasing number of wounded, sick and crippled needing medical aid. China, with slender medical resources, has valiantly attempted to deal with this suffering, and Dr. Robert Lim, Director of the Chinese Red Cross, has set up numerous medical units for treating the sick and wounded and for training first-aid workers for the fighting services; but in China the number of doctors with modern training is few, and in 1938 Dr. Lim appealed to the Western World for help. In 1939 this committee, in co-operation with a Norwegian Committee, sent out some twenty doctors who have now become heads of Red Cross Units and are striving with inadequate materials and very little trained assistance to create a medical service in the front line. The Chinese Red Cross, short of funds, asks us to maintain, at least in part, the doctors we sent out nearly two years ago.

In March of this year Dr. Lim wrote to us saying: "Let me say how grateful we are here to all of you for still taking an interest in poor China while England is being so battered from the air. It is

simply splendid of the British people, and the common aim of our armies to struggle on against aggression and the example given by Britain has given the people of China a new stimulus to fight on."

Will you help us to carry on this humanitarian work and let China see that we appreciate to the full, amidst our own troubles, the great service to our cause afforded by her continued resistance to aggression? All donations should be sent to: Dr. E. R. C. Hambly, Treharrock, Long Grove, Seer Green, Bucks.—Yours faithfully,  
3 Lemna Court, Lemna Road, London, E. 11.

HORDER.

### WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY?

SIR,—Re the article "Restraints on Parliament" in your issue of June 20th in which it asks "whose is the responsibility for the failure to warn the country of the German preparations for war?" Surely many of us, who read our daily papers, can answer this; the Government under the leadership of the then Prime Minister, Mr. Baldwin, was constantly warned by Mr. Churchill of the rate at which these preparations for war were going on in Germany, but they were given no heed, so that when Mr. Chamberlain went to Munich he was quite unprepared to meet the German demands on Czecho-Slovakia, and an agreement was made, at the expense of that country, of which most of us were thoroughly ashamed, and all Mr. Chamberlain brought back was a statement by Herr Hitler, which now we know was not worth the paper it was written on, that Germany would never go to war with England. Alas! It was only too true what Mr. Churchill said in a subsequent speech. It would have been far better for Czecho-Slovakia had there been no Munich!

Sad is the thought, had we gone to Munich as well prepared as Germany was at the time, there probably would have been no war, and none of the dreadful sufferings and expense it has brought.—

I am, Sir, &c.,

W. TOWER TOWNSHEND.

Bodiam Manor, Hawkhurst, Kent.

### A FALSE IMPRESSION

SIR,—I would like to correct an impression given in my notes of June 27th on the Icení estate at Surfleet. The sentence "its 1940 sugar-beet returns were 27 per cent. above the national average" should read "27 cwt. above the national average." Nor does this figure in actuality refer to Surfleet, but to the other group of Fenland farms operated by Captain Wilson. This does not, of course, detract from the achievements at Surfleet, which are in every way as remarkable as I indicated.—Yours, &c.,

H. E. BATES.

The Granary, Little Chart, Ashford, Kent.

### COMPARATIVE VERACITY

SIR,—In your issue of June 27th "Janus" writes: "In this authority's view the Russian *military communiqués* are likely to approximate in reliability to our own rather than to the German" (italics mine). It is common knowledge that the German claims in the air and at sea are widely at variance from the facts; but I am under the impression that the German High Command's *military communiqués* in this war have been generally accurate. Can "Janus" produce instances to the contrary?

In view of the scarcity of news of the fighting in the east independent of the *communiqués* of the two High Commands, the point is of considerable importance.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
23 Bedford Square, London, W.C. 1.

JOHN CARTER.

["Janus" writes: I used the word "military," as it often is used, rather loosely to cover all three services. I agree that the Germans' strictly *military communiqués* have been in the main reliable.]



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