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Natives of Birmingham and...

The number of people who have achieved eminence in Birmingham but are not natives of the city may be large – as indicated in yesterday's *Gazette* – but it is to a considerable extent, it is urged, counterbalanced by the number of Birmingham-born people who have gained distinction in other parts of the country – or the world.

People leave their home town for various reasons: some because they regard scope or opportunities for their ambitions limited: others are lured by definite offers of improved circumstances: still others regard it essential or desirable to add to their experience; and often there are temperamental reasons.

But, whatever are the reasons so far as Birmingham natives are concerned, there is no doubt that the number of citizens of the Metropolis of the Midlands who have attained honours elsewhere in various walks of life is numerous.

Perhaps the most outstanding example in the political world at present is the Chamberlains. Both Sir Austen and Mr Neville are natives of Birmingham, but their every-day work keeps them for the most part away from this city.

Among musicians are examples. One is Albert W Ketelbey. He left Birmingham early in his life to take up residence in London, but he is not afraid to confess some liking for his home town.

Another eminent musician is Tom Jones. He was born in Birmingham of Birmingham parents: in fact, his father still lives in Small Heath.

Then there is Jack Payne. He left Birmingham and, after going through several difficult times, he made a success with the BBC and now he tours the theatres of the country.

On the screen one sees Brian Aherne, a brilliant actor, born in King's Norton: and behind all the making of films there is Victor Saville, one of the foremost of directors this country has ever produced.

These are merely a few names with which the public in general are familiar.