

(continued from previous page)

weak and frail human creature instead of a notable actor, and I have kept an entirely absurd feeling of kindly proprietorship for him ever since. So I was glad that the NBS were not pouncing like vultures upon his obituary but rejoicing that he had reached the noble age of 40. I enjoyed his readings of poems, all pleasurably familiar. The scene from *The Importance of Being Earnest* with Edith Evans seemed grotesque by contrast. Wilde, like Shaw, should read well over the air because his plays depend on wit, not action, but even Edith Evans and John Gielgud did not succeed in bringing him to life. Is it that the jokes belong to an age that has gone for ever?

NEW RADIO PLAYS

THE NBS Drama Department, which has been recording radio plays at the rate of one a week under its producer, Bernard Beeby, has completed a schedule of new releases for the months of May, June, and July. In the next three months, seven recently-produced plays will make their first appearance in the four main centres.

Light Sinister (1YA, May 7) is by Maxwell Dunn, and its setting is in a lighthouse—the keeper is jealous of his wife's affection for another man, and has it in his power to take a terrible revenge when he knows the man is on a passing ship.

Nowhere in Particular is a lighter affair—a fantasy in the "space-time bubble." It has already been heard from 3YA, and 1YA will present it in June. Its author is Victor Andrews.

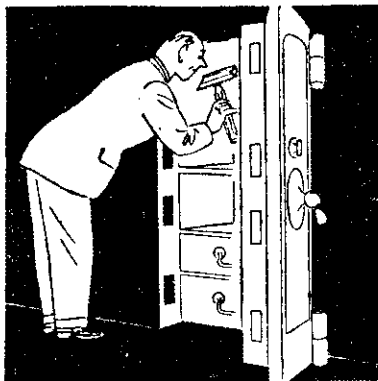
A new farce by H. R. Jeans, who wrote *This Sheep Made News* and many others of the most popular NBS productions, is called *The Great Barrister*. Its title character is the son of a baronet who grows up to be a lawyer and finally has to defend his father on a charge of shooting a poacher in the trousers.



Missing, Believed Killed is the work of a New Zealander, A. J. Darby, and its scene is the Libyan Desert, where a group of men in the long-range desert group attain the ambitions they had once talked about in Cairo, and attain them in a strange way. Station 2YC will present this play on June 18.

No Casualties (4YA, May 14) is by S. and M. Ellyard. A bus skids in a street where children are playing, and there are "no casualties," but the play proceeds to show, like *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, what the real casualties were for those involved in the day that was interrupted.

Closed Down (3YA, May 21) is by Tom Tyndall, of the NBS Drama Department. It concerns a beautiful but dumb actress and an American spy, in Germany, during the present war. Station 3YA will also present (on June 18) a play by Monica Marsden, an English writer, called *Tick Clock, Tick*, a comedy of an unwanted clock, and on July 16, a thriller by H. R. Jeans, *Ten Minutes' Walk*, a creepy tale of a dark night and a man with a limp.



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