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minutes, a quarter of an hour, twenty-five minutes, half an hour. There are items which cram into three-quarters of an hour as many as six variety turns with a quantity of roguish personal introductions."

(This sounds very like the 2YA Saturday night *The Stage Presents BBC* programme.)

Miss West continues:—

"This means the end of good broadcasting. A radio item, like a good article, must have a beginning, a middle, and an end. A comic variety turn depends on the presentation of a character to the audience, and the exhibition of that character in certain circumstances. This cannot be done in a fluster . . . This means that the listener . . . feels caught up into one of those nightmares which torment the influenza patient by taking him from station to station, always missing his train, and dropping his luggage."

* * *

So much for bits and pieces. Miss West also thinks that listeners at home in the Forces could have more talks. "It may be said that men overseas do not want intellectual fare. This is flat rubbish. In the last analysis, man does what it amuses him to do. If he has cultivated his mind through the ages, it is because the cultivation of the mind is fun. Few people who have never mountaineered can believe that toiling over snowfields and forcing aching limbs up rock faces is fun, though those who have done it know there is no better. The BBC would not be using their monopoly conscientiously if they did not put talks of sound intellectual character before people who have been prejudiced against the intellect by economic handicap."

And with that Miss West goes on to suggest some of the brains which could in England be drawn upon for talks and some of the topics which would be welcomed—even simple radio lessons in Russian for example. Would more talks and more serious talks be welcomed here? There are after all alternative programmes from other stations. On the whole we have very few serious talks if we exclude the news commentaries from London. There are gardening talks and book reviews (not enough) and now some excellent Winter Course talks once a week from each station, but they are only 15 minutes. During the day there are A.C.E. Talks for the housewife twice a week, and these could be classed as serious in so far as they are instructional. Most other talks are intended as light entertainment full of anecdotes and reflections and quotations and sometimes laughs. Why not half-hourly Winter Course talks during the day on the lines of W.E.A. lectures instead of "Music While You Work"? Those who didn't like it could get another station and would miss nothing of any consequence, and those who did listen might gain a good deal. It would be a change for the woman at home to feel that her intelligence and understanding were over-rated and not under-rated by radio authorities.

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