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from 1YA, Welsh Lidice, while it contains a good deal of very real interest to the ordinary listener, has also that monotonous quality which comes from the very authenticity of the recording of actual people on the spot. A little of this comes over well. Too much spoils the flavour.

GREAT FIGURES OF THE MOD-ERN THEATRE is a series of talks that seem to me to have been going on a long time. But unlike most series that go on a long time, they are rather gaining in interest than losing it. I was only mildly interested in the great figures of the past, Sarah Bernhardt, Eleanora Duse, Edmund Kean, and others whose names I knew less well, but as we got on to the actors and producers of to-day I found myself listening with far more attention. We know enough of Noel Coward, John Gielgud and the Lunts to want to know more-not just the story of the rise and fall of a reputation, but also what they are trying to do for the stage of to-day and how they are trying to do it.

THE LIVING THEATRE series continues from all ZB stations on Sunday nights. It astonishes me that they manage to keep such a steady level of mediocrity, but as I have not listened to all I may of course have missed the better ones. Last Sunday's play, Fishers of Men, described a Nazi-occupied fishing village where the fisher folk were organising the escape of Russian prisoners. As they are all foreigners-Bulgarians, Germans or Russiansthey are all made to speak with guttural and strained voices, and when they are Nazis they are brutal. Well, I do not doubt that many of these situations have a factual background but they are certainly not new, and I can't help thinking that someone is being paid good money for nothing.

## Music by Alfred Worsley

AT 8 p.m. on Friday, August 18, Station 3YA will broadcast a short programme of compositions by Alfred Worsley, a Christchurch organist and conductor. Mr. Worsley describes them himself as "some of my experiments in various styles that I have attempted during the last 50-odd years." We asked him to tell us something about the items to be heard, and here are some extracts from his reply:

"The words of three of the songs are by Johannes Andersen and the 'Storm-bird' is by Alan Mulgan. This one is really a triple effort which appeared in the Weekly Press many years ago-1916 I think. Mr. Mulgan wrote the words, 'Kennaway' (Henderson) painted the picture, which I have, and I wrote the music. Except for some children's pieces I have written only two or three pieces for the piano. The Adagio and Scherzo is a very early effort written about 40 years ago, but the Humoresque was written specially for my 50th Anniversary Concert last March. The other songs were written at widely separated periods, just when I came across words that appealed to me."