



*So Sought
After...*

Bonds
SY-METRA
Regd. Trade Mark

Full Fashioned and True Fashioned

Worth seeking for, as every woman knows.
"I'd rather wait..." she says. The fine, lovely
texture, the clever Sy-metra lines.... are her
ideal in hosiery.

SY-METRA IS EXCLUSIVE TO BONDS HOSIERY

3.4



BLONDES!

**Bring back GOLDEN BEAUTY
to your darkened fair hair**

If your blonde hair is going dark and brownish, try
Stablond. You will make this amazing discovery...
that only Stablond can bring back that natural golden
beauty to faded fair hair. Stablond prevents blonde hair
from darkening and keeps it bright and burnished
always. It is made specially
for blondes.

Fassett & Johnson Ltd., 147
Manners St., Wellington.

STAB-LOND
The Blonde's Own Shampoo

HEARD BUT NOT SEEN

Noises Off In An NBS Studio

AN albatross flies lazily over the schooner. You can hear the beat of its wings. A sudden squall strikes the ship. The sails flap in their gaskets or whatever it is that sails flap in, and the cordage groans and strains.

But it doesn't.

The noisy albatross is the production manager's coat, flapped furiously with his right hand while his left holds the script. And those sails? A member of the cast is opening and shutting an umbrella as fast as he can. The forestay and the backstay and so on that groan? That's just another member of the cast,

the cast. Their job is timing. As each disc takes from six to seven minutes, careful timing in the script is essential, and here is where there is a good deal of responsibility on the operator. Some operators are so skilful that they can change over to a new disc in the middle of a word without splitting it and so maintain a perfectly even flow of speech.

There are times when three turntables are used at once, for three different yet combined sound effects. These might be booming guns, heavy rain, and a background of music. The NBS sound effects library has several hundreds of records capable of providing a play cast with almost every sound required. Quite often the producer finds that with the



THIS IS NOT A CHOIR: Bernard Beeby directs a cast in a play being produced at the NBS studio. Scattered around are various gadgets for making "noises off."

in an NBS production, enjoying himself with a rope and a pulley. And it all takes place in the calm unruffled air of the studio with the operator and other technicians a couple of yards away and separated from the actors by a window.

These are the parts of a radio story that are heard but not seen. Through experience the NBS can produce sound effects at a moment's notice—from the wail of a newly-born baby to an old man's wheeze. Making a play for a record, or for straight broadcasting, contains much more than hits the ear.

A Drama is Made

The other day *The Listener* watched the production of a play. Looking over the typewritten script we found curious markings in red and blue—red for sound effects and blue for musical interludes or backgrounds. The cast assembled and, coached by the production chief, Bernard Beeby, for a quarter-of-an-hour, limbered up the vocal organs and, in "swing" terms, "got into the groove."

Generally the producer, assistant-producer, one panel operator and one recording operator are required in addition to

aid of some very simple apparatus in the studio he can get even better effects than the recorded ones. He demonstrated for us.

Gurgle-Gurgle

"Here," he said, "is a squirrel running away." He ran his fingers lightly along a table-top. For water noises a tap and bucket are used. Those much pleasanter sounds such as "Say when" and the following gurgle are done with the real thing up to a point. A siphon of soda and a glass with a couple of fingers of plain water in it do the trick.

To take reality too far might produce a spoonerism or a verbal fumble from a member of the cast, and that would ruin a disc, which costs money. There are times, of course, when a tangled phrase crops up. The other members of the cast can then let go their mirth, for they know that that part of the record is ruined anyway, so a laugh won't do any more harm.

In a script we noticed the instruction "croak of bullfrog" and wondered just how that was done. Mr. Beeby obliged.

(continued on next page)