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combe has a gift for writing fluent and unconfined melodic line, and I look forward with interest to hearing more of his work.

From the Studio

THE 4YA Chamber Music players recently presented Bach's Flute and Piano Sonata in E Flat, and also a Septet for Trumpet, Strings, and Piano, by Saint-Saens. It is encouraging to hear works like these from the studio instead of on records, and the more chamber music we hear in this way the better. The Septet was a triumph both for trumpet and piano. Recalling the jazz performances of this particular trumpet-player, I found amusement in speculating what Saint-Saens would have thought could he have heard this aggressive instrument, which he approached with truly masterly caution, performing according to its fullest capabilities in the modern swing band.

"Eye-Witness"

STIMULATED by a Viewsreel paragraph I re-read "Robinson Crusoe" for the first time since my beard grew, so that by the time the BBC "Have You Read: Robinson Crusoe?" reached my local station, I had already spent an

intoxicating week living on Crusoe's island and travelling with him through Spain, Cochín-China, Tartary and other odd parts of the globe. What the BBC's excellent session did was to bring me down to earth, to remind me that this world was the creation of the mind of a stay-at-home journalist. True he had perhaps visited Alexander Selkirk who had returned from living for five years alone on the island of Juan Fernandez, in which case "Robinson Crusoe" must rank as the world's most successful interview. The seasoned and adventurous traveller or eye-witness is himself often an intolerable bore. The man who can give us the illusion that we are with him seeing something outside our experience has done something inestimable for us—whether it be a Daniel Defoe writing a circumstantial account of countries he had never set foot in, or Mr. C. J. A. Moses tapping a wooden cup with a pencil and reconstructing a London Test Match from coded cables at the ABC.

Music on Tap

IT was the public bar of a country hotel. The early thirst of some dozen locals and visitors was being slaked from four or five barrels on the end counter. There was a lively discussion on the next day's



aces, and race-cards were being marked with all those hot tips which, as everyone knows, are sure things on the day before the meeting. Above the bar, among sundry bottles, a radio played. Everyone heard although none listened. The barman gaily whistled the tune, and his customers unconsciously tapped its rhythms on the counter. There was no doubt—music had charms. No, this was not "Music While You Work," nor was it "Round the Bandstand" or "Music and Romance." It was music for "Broadcast to Schools."

Swings and Roundabouts

CHANGES lately made in the programmes of 2YA, 2YC and other stations to restore the balance of classical music available during the sessions of Parliament have worked out very well on the whole for Auckland listeners. Symphonic music is now broadcast by

1YX from 8.0 till 9.0 on Monday evenings, which were previously so barren musically as to make one wonder whether Auckland really needed four stations. There is probably a wider audience for this symphonic music than for the chamber music of the NBS string quartet formerly heard from 2YA at this hour, and now transferred to Thursday evening (which means 2YC when Parliament is sitting). Yet for chamber music listeners, who, though comparatively few, are mostly devoted and intelligent in their listening, there is this consolation—that Parliament does not meet on every Thursday in the year, and that 2YC is a fairly powerful station, well received by many Auckland sets. Those with more humble listening equipment may allow themselves to hope that, as travelling conditions sometimes ease up, the NBS quartet will be heard from other main national stations besides 2YA.

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