

(continued from previous page)

"The effect is good—very good. There are such men as Noel Baker, Vernon Bartlett and Tom Driberg, to name just a few. All have made great marks as speakers and prying questioners. All men in the newspaper profession have a training which makes them alive to public feeling and demands. It's a jolly good thing to have them in Parliament."

"Would you care to comment, as an editor, on Britain's attitude towards Russia?"

"Why not put it the other way — Russia's attitude towards Britain? I can tell you that the Russians' attitude has stiffened our people against them. It's a tragedy, of course. On VE Day no country in the world mattered as much as Russia. The average man in England was carried away with the triumphs of the Red Army. But the Russian is a difficult chap for us to understand and he finds it hard to understand us. There is, for instance, the language barrier. He thinks that a friendly nation must necessarily hold views the same as his own. Any nation with other views is unfriendly."

"The Russians watch everything very carefully. Zhukov has translations of the news placed on his table every morning and, if something does not please him, he immediately declares that the Government should clamp down on the paper concerned. The Russians don't understand the meaning of a free press; they don't believe that the British press is free and that there is liberty to express opinion. They think that statements and opinions are ordered by the Government. I think Ernest Bevin must continue to be tough with Russia, at the same time showing the greatest desire to come to good terms. We must make a gesture and show that, in spite of all Russia's transitions and tantrums, we will go to the extreme limit of friendship for the common good of both countries. And, by the way, I don't see why we should continue to regard the Mediterranean purely as ours and America's; Russia should have her share."

#### Some Radio Suggestions

Mr. Campbell had something to say about broadcasting in New Zealand. "As far as I can see, sponsored programmes have a far greater listening-public than the National stations. That is bad. National stations should aim at forming a really first-class repertory company to dramatise the many very wonderful stories of New Zealand pioneering. I suggest something on the lines of the BBC's anniversary programme of Scott's dash to the Pole. In 100 years astonishing things have happened. For a really expert script writer there is vast material in love, death, romance and sacrifice, all bound up in those pioneering days of New Zealand."

"How much better than all this American canned stuff! And what about presenting your classical programmes with a little more verve? Instead of telling listeners bleakly that a work is by Mendelssohn, give them something about his life and how he came to write that composition. I notice that, according to the financial statement of broadcasting, just one-tenth of the programme expenditure goes to talent. That is far too low. It is about the same as the

amount spent on record royalties. Surely talent should earn more than royalties."

Mr. Campbell complained that New Zealand radio seemed to have no native humour. "There are no Handleys, Askys and so on here, but in all the cities and towns there must be good comedians. Seek them out, experiment with them and you'll improve listening."

When he returns to England Mr. Campbell hopes to get his newspaper up to the three-million circulation mark. Newspapers in New Zealand and Great Britain, he added, should get closer together in service for the Empire.

While in Wellington Mr. Campbell gave a Sunday evening talk over the National network.

## NOVELS OF IMPORTANCE

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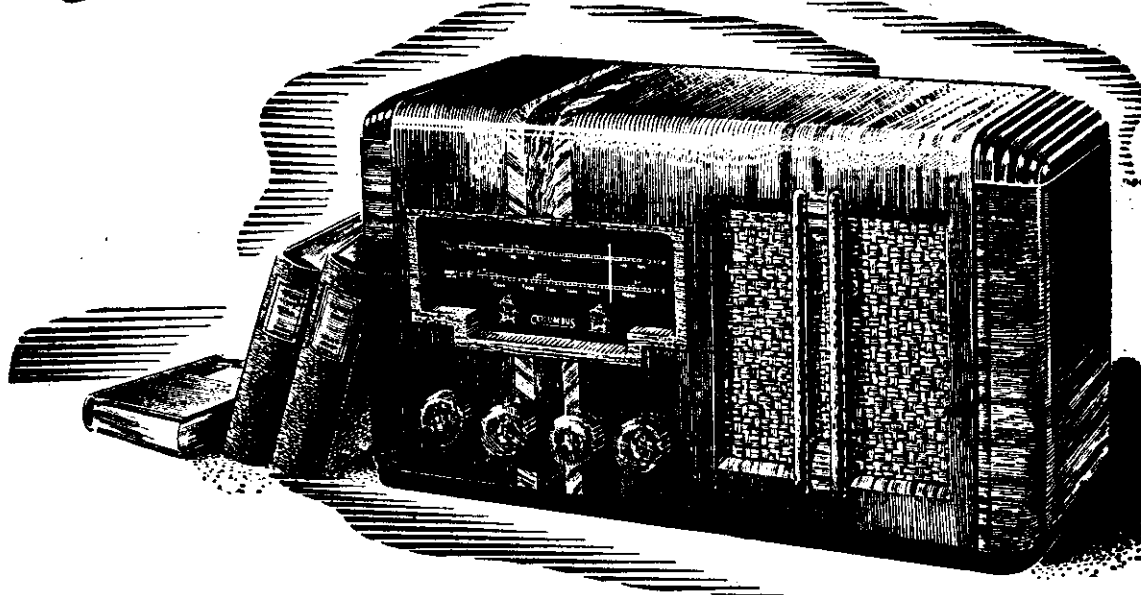
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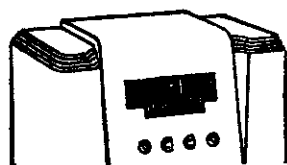
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