

DUMAS' "MONTE CRISTO" FROM 3YL

New BBC Serial Next Week

PRODUCED as a serial in 12 episodes by the BBC, *The Count of Monte Cristo* is to be heard from 3YL Christchurch, starting on Friday, January 3. Later, it will be heard from other stations. There is first-class material for broadcasting in this classic of Alexandre Dumas père, and the difficulty which faced Patrick Riddell, the adaptor, was to decide what could be left out, in imposing the rigid time limits of the radio serial form on such a monumental novel. But Riddell, and Martyn C. Webster, the producer, spared no pains to make it a memorable production.

Webster was given a strong cast—Glen Byam Shaw, taking his first important part since his return from the army, plays Edmond Dantes, and Marjorie Westbury plays Mercedes. The

at 8.15 p.m.) given by Monckton Hoffe, the dramatic author. He will discuss the extraordinary character of Dumas himself, whose own life provided enough startling material to make another novel.

After *The Three Musketeers* and *Monte Cristo* had brought him into European fame, Dumas did not go on writing masterpieces. He turned himself into a factory.

"If so many thousand people are rendered happy by reading me," he is reported to have said, "why not make many more thousands happy by thinking that they are reading me?"

So he engaged hack writers to help him, touched up what they wrote, and put his name to it all. And he got away with it for a time, but eventually the public found out. Dumas subsequently went down in a welter of unpaid bills,

When *The Count of Monte Cristo* was broadcast in Britain, many letters came to the BBC from people who wanted to know the name of the tune that opens and closes each episode—it comes from Vaughan Williams's incidental music to Aristophanes' play *The Wasps*.

SMALLWOOD'S
PIANOFORTE TUTOR
The World's Best Tutor
Price 3'6 per Copy
ALL MUSIC SELLERS
Or Direct from the Publishers,
J. ALBERT & SON PTY. LTD.
2 - 4 Willis Street, Wellington.



GLEN BYAM SHAW
He borrowed the book from his son



VALENTINE DYALL
"The Man in Black" as narrator

linking passages in the story are read by Valentine Dyall (the "Man in Black" of the BBC *Appointment with Fear* stories). British listeners heard the serial at the end of last year.

Before the first episode itself, there will be an introductory talk (beginning

(continued from previous page)

has said it was the one art he understood.

However this may be, the notion that a man who has no love of music is "fit for treason, stratagems, and spoils," is nonsense. Charles Lamb was one of the most lovable of men, but he confessed he had no ear. "I must avow to you that I have received a great deal more pain than pleasure from this so cried-up faculty." But we need not go to the great for evidence. Everyday experience refutes Lorenzo's point. We all know men and women worthy in every respect, persons we would cheerfully trust, some of them highly cultivated in other arts, whom Bach and Beethoven leave cold. (The Bach addict will perhaps forgive me for dragging in Beethoven.) On the other hand it is notorious that we have not got to look very far to find narrowness, jealousy, meanness, and egotism among musicians.

If we appreciate Bach and Beethoven, we may justifiably feel sorry for the person who doesn't. He misses a lot. But don't let us put on airs about it.

for in the good days he had squandered his vast fortunes as fast as he made them.

This production was Glen Byam Shaw's first radio appearance since his discharge from the army, and when he was first invited to take the part, he was reminded of a coincidence. Before he left England for service overseas with the Royal Scots, he paid a farewell visit to his young son at school, and bought him a book as a memento of the occasion. He had not read it himself, but he thought his son would like it. It was *Monte Cristo*. Last year, when he knew he was to play Dantes on the air, he borrowed the book from his son.

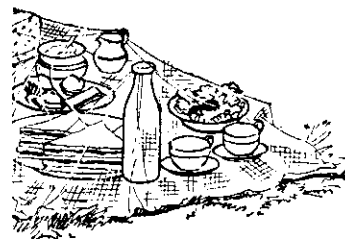
Shaw's association with radio goes back to the earliest days of the BBC. His last stage appearance before the war was at Elsinore in Denmark, where he played Horatio in an English performance of *Hamlet*.

Mercedes is played by Marjorie Westbury, who made her name in the early days of broadcasting as a singer.

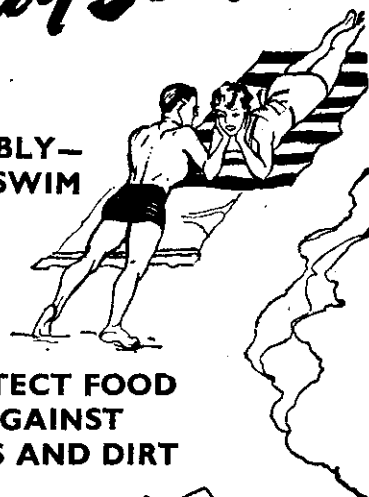
She once sang a boy treble's song in a programme broadcast overseas and was greatly tickled to receive a letter from a woman in New Zealand, saying "My little girl sings too. How old are you?" If that same listener can get 3YL on her radio, she will hear Marjorie Westbury's speaking voice in Episode 8, which brings Edmond Dantes face to face again with Mercedes.

Forestall Trouble this Holiday Season

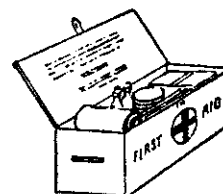
**SUNBATHE SENSIBLY—
WATCH WHERE YOU SWIM**



**PROTECT FOOD
AGAINST
FLIES AND DIRT**



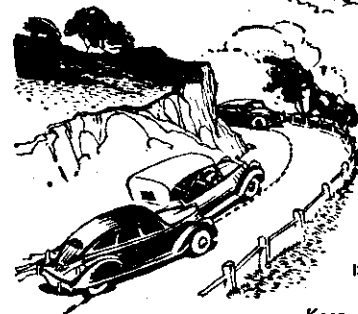
**BURN OR BURY
ALL RUBBISH**



**KEEP A FIRST-AID
KIT HANDY**



**BE CAREFUL
WHERE YOU
LIGHT FIRES**



AND DRIVE CAREFULLY

**When you play this Summer—
PLAY SAFE!**

ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Keep this Announcement for future reference