

"Where's
my
**BOURNVILLE
COCOA?"**



It's
CADBURY'S
so it must
be good

267

Beauty is
Artistry



A fragile delicacy in
the application of
your rouge
first essential in a
harmonious and suc-
cessful make-up



RADIO VIEWSREEL

What Our Commentators Say

Rookery Nook

EVER since our parents discouraged us from seeing the film some 15 years ago we have been interested in *Rookery Nook*, and nothing (not even Mr. Kehoe's talk on Westland from the rival station) could keep us away from 22B last Friday night when the first instalment was broadcast. We were not disappointed. To be sure, the lily has been gilded to make it fitter material for radio. (The opening announcement referred to Ben Travers as a brilliant novelist, but we feel sure he was not brilliant enough to invent the obvious Daweism "As one liquid stocking said to the other, 'What's holding us up?'" And speaking of Clem Dawe, we must confess it was something of a shock to hear that lower-middle-class voice of his aping (to mix our animals) the refined braying of Ralph Lynn. But the play's the thing, and Gerald Popkiss's sudden descents from sublime and chivalrous asininity to low comedy are unnerving but (except perhaps to the author) immaterial.

Pure as Driven Snow

PROFESSOR ARNOLD WALL chose an inspiring hero and a satisfying villain for his story "Ski-ing Nine Hundred Years Ago." It was surprising, however, that Professor Wall, a stickler for fitness in the use of words, should have picked so misleading a title, and should moreover have presented his story as two talks, thus neglecting the opportunity of luring a larger audience to hear *Hard-Hearted Hadrada* or *The Viking's Vengeance*. Both talks, whatever their Hoopering may have been (though it is possible that even for statistical purposes a skier is worth two ordinary men), were admirably presented. Professor Wall might have taken his narrative straight from the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, so simple was his language and yet so starkly dramatic, so devoid of wild flowers of speech. In human interest the second talk far surpassed the first. The first seemed to concern itself with the athletic exploits of Hemming, the hero, and the Hemming-directed villainies of Harold Hadrada, but the audience was required to infer Hemming's virtue from the fact that he was the hero. In the second talk Hemming's virtue and his heroic qualities were adequately tested. Moreover, because Hemming was now seen in contact with people we know, Edward the Confessor, Harold Godwinson, William of Normandy, we got him in some kind of historical perspective; myth faded and reality took its place. But an artificial reality, since history, as written by the early chroniclers and relayed to us by Professor Wall, shows us that 900 years ago good men were whiter and bad men blacker than generally speaking is the case to-day—largely because the points of difference 900 years ago were fewer and more clearly marked, and the ways of settling them more direct. "Ski-ing 900 years ago" was as clear-cut in effect as an early Western film and as exciting, but had the added purity of driven snow, since time has obliterated from it all love-interest.

Anniversary Present

IN true trouper tradition 22B took as its Tenth Anniversary motto "The Show Must Go On," and we feel sure that Uncle Tom, Wallie Ingram, and all

those other performers whose programmes happened in the prescribed periods from 8.0 to 10.30 and from 1.0 to 4.0, put just as much beef into their broadcasts as they would have done had their listeners been legion. For us the day was heavy with nostalgia, due to



the fact that between power cuts we seemed to strike *Anniversary Request Sessions*, or *Melodies You Remember*, and wiped a reminiscent tear or two at Bing singing Little Sir Echo (pronunciation

assonant with sirocco) or sadly counted our grey hairs on learning that it was eight years ago since Love Walked In. However we snapped out of it at 7.30, when Quizzing the Quizmasters came on the air. Here our critical self took over, and found grounds for criticism. The idea of giving 22B's Quizmasters a taste of their own whip was a good one, but though we were promised that we would enjoy their discomfiture the fact was that in the first place, being young gentlemen with a certain amount of *savoir faire* and *savoir répondre*, they were not discomfited, and in the second place it was so obvious that they were enjoying themselves that the audience felt a little out of things. We did, however, appreciate Selwyn Toogood's twisted tongue, and the final announcement that we were to be listening at the same time, same day, same station, in ten years' time. We don't mind waiting.

Round Table

THE *Round Table* session from 32B after 18 months has now gone off the air. The reasons for this appear to be several. First, one programme cannot remain popular indefinitely, and cutting it off is better than running the risk of a decline. Then again there is the ever-present danger of controversy. The *Round Table* has been severely and destructively criticised, but one cannot help feeling that for all its faults it was better than no *Round Table*. Discussion such as it provided is an infinitely more interesting way of serving up information than the straight out lecture, however expert and well-informed the lecturer may be. The danger of controversy and in the choice of topics is of course a very real one. As *Punch* once put it:

The heathen in his blindness
Bows down to wood and stone,
But we in our refinedness
Prefer the microphone.

And, like the heathen, we find our little gods more acceptable if they are attractively adorned.

Logic with a Difference

THE Slaughter-Carroll version of *Through the Looking Glass* probably retains about as much of the original dialogue as it is possible to use in such a production. It is difficult to reduce the incidents and dialogue of a work as well-known as this to manageable proportions, and any omission is bound to be noticed and deplored by Alice's many admirers. I was glad to have recalled the Anglo-Saxon messenger who went about in "Anglo-Saxon attitudes," but I missed the "brilliant"

Your favourite star in his greatest role!!



Tyrone Power
Plays **Larry Darrell**

Darryl F. Zanuck presents
TYRONE POWER • GENE TIERNEY • JOHN PAYNE
ANNE BAXTER • CLIFTON WEBB • HERBERT MARSHALL
in W. Somerset Maugham's

THE RAZOR'S EDGE

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KING'S THEATRE, WELLINGTON.
STATE THEATRE, CHRISTCHURCH.

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