(continued from previous page)

Paula was silent for a moment. "You know, I could quote all the old things, a home and a family and but it's not that. I could have had that. I turned it down."

"A career woman."

"Sounds awful doesn't It?"

"I shouldn't have said that. It sounds mean. I know why you chose your work."

Above them the shrillness of a cicada cut across the quietness of the country-side.

Esther laughed. "Blow the thing, Aren't they persistent?"

When at last it was silent, Paula sat up and looking across at the mountain, she spoke in a dull emotional voice.

"I was in the East when war broke out. Malaya. It was all...hell. I don't really want to talk about it. You know it all. After three years I got out... and was taken to Australia... then last year I came back to New Zealand. It's all there... those years... and I couldn't forget it. I came back here and started to work again, but the futility of what I was doing frustrated me. Why mend, help, build up... when humanity could do the things that had been done in the past years? What hope was there? I found myself tottering... on the edge of melancholia, so I gave it all up," she paused. "Yes?"

"I went away to a seaside place, took a little cottage and lived there by myself and tried to grapple with this thing. I couldn't. As soon as I thought I'd made myself see that my work was worth while I'd think of some horrible act I'd witnessed, of some beastliness It was no use. So I

went back." Her voice had kept its duliness. She spoke almost in a monotone.

"One day I went for a walk and I passed the old school. I was standing there.... remembering the smell of the place, ink and sawdust and the brewery down the road.... and I suddenly remembered you and the faith you'd had when you left. I couldn't get you out of my mind, so I made a few enquiries and found out where you were. I had a firm conviction that if I found you, I'd regain something I'd lost."

Esther's eyes had filled with tears. "I'm sorry, Paula. I wish I could help. But I've just stayed here, all these years, having the children and working on the farm. And you . . . you've read . . . and travelled . . . and you're a doctor . . . and I'm . . ."

Paula's voice rose, "That's it. That's just it. Do you remember telling me about that morning in prayers when you suddenly decided you wanted to do something useful?"

"I was thinking about it the day you came. It's pathetic in view of what I did do."

"No. It's not pathetic. You've been normal, Esther. That's what I want to hold on to. That's what I've got to grip on and what I've longed for. Someone normal. Someone bringing up a family and doing all the old things that are so boring. And looking forward"

She lay back once more and gazed up into the honeysuckle. "This old tree and the mountain, still here." She was silent.

Strange, Esther thought. Perhaps I have got something.



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SHORTWAVE HIGHLIGHTS

The BBC General Overseas Service

WITH such notable sporting fixtures as the Oaks, the Derby and the first Test Match between the M.C.C. and South Africa taking place in the first week of June, the shortwave notes this week are featuring the times and the best frequencies on which these programmes may be heard.

Stations, Frequencies, Wavelengths and Times of Transmission: GSD, 11.75 mc/s, 25.53 metres; GWG, 15.11, 19.85 (6.0-8.0 p.m.); GSF, 15.14, 19.82 (6.0-7.15 p.m.); GVQ, 17.73, 16.92 (6.0-9.0 p.m.); GSV, 17.81, 16.84 (6.0-8.0 p.m.); GSO, 15.18, 19.76 (6.0 p.m.-9.0 a.m.); GSV, 17.81, 16.84 (9.0 p.m.-7.0 a.m.).

Headlines in the Programme for the Week, June 1-7: The "racing double of the turf," the Oaks and the Derby, is the sporting highlight in Great Britain this week. A recorded commentary on the Oaks will be broadcast in the Pacific Service on 9.64 mc/s, 31.12 metres at 6.45 p.m. on Friday. The Derby is timed for 12.45 a.m. on Sunday, June 8 (New Zealand time). A commentary on it will be heard at 6.30 p.m.

A ball-by-ball description of the first Test, M.C.C. v. South Africa, at Nottingham, will be broadcast beginning at 10.30 p.m. on Saturday night. I KNOW WHAT LIKE FOR it's so pleasant... there's nothing to wallow. It's Confy—feels good right swallow. It's Vicks VapoRub!—and away. 108 vicks vaportuo:—and Mummy just rubs it on her chest, throat and back at bedtime. Then— OUTSIDE Oh-h-h so comfy! Like a southing poultice, VapoRub works on the skin, warming away the tightness and pain and "drawing out" congestion. And at the same time-INSIDE Ah-h THOSE VAPOURS! The medicated vapours released from VapoRub by the body warmth are inhaled with every breath, and clear stuffy nose, soothe sore throat, calm couphing Na monder the cold is a much coughing. No wonder the cold is so much better by morning!

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