

(continued from previous page)

occasional dip into Conan Doyle he had had no truck with detective fiction. Doyle's Sherlock Holmes, he said, made the nearest approach to really scientific detection of crime he had encountered in fiction, but even Holmes went too far when he pretended to identify cigar ash and so on.

"Our idea, as professional detectives, is to read anything that is likely to help us in our work. Personally, I don't bother about detective fiction; and, I don't know what other members of the staff read. But my advice to them is to get hold of reports of the famous trials of the world and read them carefully for their own benefit."

"Would you say detective fiction is on the wane in popularity?" we asked.



"Even Holmes went too far"

"I don't know. But I can tell you that if we did some of the things the fiction heroes of detection do, the Supreme Court judges would crucify us. Everything we do in the course of our duty is carefully scrutinised by them and we must stick to the old procedures of British justice. The professional detective, to succeed, must concern himself with hard work and commonsense, and if a little luck comes his way, it's all to the good. But real criminals never confess, as I believe they do in novels. They go to the scaffold protesting their innocence."

We asked him what books he read. He mentioned such works as *The Trial of Bruno Hauptmann* by Sidney B. Whipple, the medico-legal aspects of crime as exemplified in the famous Ruxton case, and *The Life of Detective Inspector Wensley of Scotland Yard*. These, he said, were books dealing with cold hard facts, and written in simple language. They took the actual crime from the arrival of the investigators on the scene to the court hearing.

We let our third degree go at that.

How It's Done In Fact

Very few people in Britain seem to know of the existence of a small group of scientists who work under the prosaic name of the Department of Government Chemists. These scientists are indirectly instrumental in the carrying out of law and justice in this country, and Stephen Grenfell of the BBC recently went down to their laboratories in Clement's Inn Passage, just behind London's Law Courts. He talked to Mr. Gaskin, who works in the department which deals with the detection of forgeries. Asked how these forgeries were detected, Mr. Gaskin explained: "First of all we look at them under a microscope, as we want to magnify them generally, and then we photograph them either directly or with ultra-violet light or by infra-red photography." Mr. Gaskin said he can nearly always tell the phony job.

NEW ZEALAND LISTENER, OCTOBER 17

THEATRICAL PRODUCTION

A STUDY GROUP has been formed and will assemble at Wallis House, Lower Hutt, January 15-25, 1948.

Director and Instructor in Production - - NGAIO MARSH.
Speech Craft - - Maria Dronke. Decor - - Sam Williams

There are vacancies for about 12 resident and 20 out-students.

Apply please to the
Secretary, ROBERT STEAD,
Flat 3,
36 Upland Road, Wellington.

Or to NGAIO MARSH,
25 Valley Road, Christchurch.

State experience and objectives.

DON'T BE SKINNY!

If you are thin and anaemic you should try a course of "YIM," the Yeast, Iron, Malt Tablets. This amazingly triple Tonic puts on firm, healthy flesh quickly. "YIM" Tablets give clear, radiant skin, freedom from indigestion, nervousness and constipation. "YIM" helps build new strength, power and pep.

4/6 (double size 7/6)

POST FREE from

CHEMISTS' SUPPLIES CO., LTD.,
139a Worcester Street, Christchurch.

Man at work

"GOODNESS, I've got a busy day ahead of me. Often wonder why somebody doesn't put up a 'Man at work' sign when I'm around. I certainly use up heaps of energy building sandcastles and digging holes to catch crabs in, not to speak of paddling and playing chasing up 'n down this lovely sandy beach. Gosh, it beats me what a fellow would do without that morning Weetbix to keep his strength up. In fact, now I come to think of it, I could do with a fistful of Weetbix 'n honey right now. Hi, mummie!"

When you've got a man-sized job of work to do you need a good breakfast to start you off. And Weetbix is a fine breakfast for all the family. There's a powerful lot of goodness in those crispy, crunchy malted whole wheat biscuits. Weetbix are fine by themselves, better still with stewed fruit or junket and milk, or spread with butter and Marmite. And they're just as delicious as can be for picnics, snacks or school lunches.

WEET-BIX

A product of the Sanitarium Health Food Company, Christchurch.

MARMITE • SAN BRAN • PUFFED WHEAT • BIXIES • GRANOSE