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FRIDAY NIGHT IS AMAMI NIGHT

PLAYS AND SHORT STORIES

Five New NZBS Programmes

FIVE new NZBS productions—three recorded new plays and two short stories—are scheduled for broadcasting by the Commercial stations in the next two or three weeks. Of the plays, one will be *The Waters of Lethe*, an unusual piece of drama, written for radio by an Australian playwright, G. Murray Milne; another is *The Man Outside*, by the English writer Norman Edwards, and the third is *The Well of Youth*, by another Englishman, Frank Weston. The short stories are *Rust*, by an Australian, Myra Morris, and *The Last Day*, by W. Glynn Jones, a well-known Welsh author.

The Waters of Lethe has for its central figure a man named Smith who wakes up one morning in a strange hotel bedroom in London with a slight headache from a crack on the skull and a

was born in Yokohama, of Scottish parents, and spent his childhood in Japan. He went to Scotland via Siberia to be educated at Merchiston Academy in Edinburgh. After leaving school he worked in London for several years for an oil company which eventually transferred him to its oilfields in India, just before World War II. During the war



Above: WILLIAM AUSTIN, one of the players in the NZBS production of "The Waters of Lethe." Left: BERYL McMILLAN, who has an important part in "The Well of Youth"



he served as a captain in the 10th Gurkha Rifles, with whom he fought throughout the Burma Campaign.

Comedy Laid On

The Well of Youth is pure comedy, concerning a publicity stunt by a young man, Hugo Mortimer, to retrieve the fortunes of a slowly-decaying town. He has discovered a disused well under the floor of the local town hall, pipes the water to a convenient drinking spot, and boldly announces its curative value. Foreign royalty, jaded film stars and people imagining all sorts of ills flock to take the waters and to become rejuvenated. The well dries up, so there is nothing left to do but pipe the ordinary town water supply. The good work goes on with astonishing results. Beryl McMillan plays the female lead.

The Man Outside is the tale of a man about to be hanged for a crime which, he maintains, he did not commit. Sitting with his gaolers in the condemned cell, he relates the events leading up to his arrest and sentence. The climax is distinctly unusual. Main roles in this production are played by Harry Painter, Lawrence Sweetapple, William Austin and Bernard Beeby.

Of the short stories, *Rust* is narrated by Norman Ettlinger, formerly of Auckland and now on the professional stage, and *The Last Day* is told by William Austin.

These productions will be heard at weekly intervals, starting on Sunday, January 4, at 12B and 22B (9.15 p.m.), and 22A (9.30 p.m.). The starting date at 32B and 42B will be Sunday, January 11, at 9.15 p.m.

In come the Man in the Bowler and three others to arrest Worthington. In a scuffle Smith gets another crack on the head which has the effect of dispersing his condition of amnesia. But what Smith's real identity was listeners will have to find out when they hear the play. The players taking part are William Austin, Harry Painter, Desmond Lock, and Selwyn Toogood.

The author, G. Murray Milne, who lives at Cremorne, New South Wales,

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