

RADIO VIEWSREEL

(continued from previous page)

listener, this skill of Tusitala's in story-telling seems to resolve itself into the complete effacement of the speaker. One is not conscious of the voice as a voice: there are no tricks or mannerisms of speech, and yet no monotony. From the start one is completely and solely aware of the story. And that, I suppose, is the very highest attribute of a good storyteller.

Strong Poison

IN spite of arsenic mingled with the salt, "Dinner with a Novelist" fell rather far short of expectation. After all, one does expect a novelist to provide something rarely subtle in the way of crime, in the flesh as well as on paper. Probably the most obvious flaw in this BBC play by L. A. G. Strong was the attempt to crowd most of the ingredients of an average length detective story into the space of a half-hour performance. The result was to make what was probably a perfectly good motive stand out as hideously inadequate, and what must have been an ordinarily arduous piece of detection appear child's play. One finds it hard to believe that even the most hardened novelist, when driven to exterminate an enemy, would resort to such a dastardly trick as filling a restaurant salt-cellar with arsenic. Bol-

stered up with a few chapters of soul-searching introspection beforehand and bitter remorse afterwards, the whole thing might have been made just credible. As it is one can only labour the point and remark that this play needs to be taken with a very large grain of salt indeed.

Mixed Company

PAT LAWLOR, in his talk in the new 22B series *Famous People I Should Like to Have Met*, tended to sacrifice entertainment value to honesty. Before introducing us to his selection Mr. Lawlor stated categorically that all six were distinguished for one thing, that they had consciously worked for the Good—for, said Mr. Lawlor, "I should not have wanted to meet anybody bad." But it is a regrettable fact that the Bad are usually more memorable than the Good, and I felt that Mr. Lawlor would not have compromised himself unduly by a casual meeting with something pitchy, and it would have formed an agreeable



contrast to the White Man he specialised in. (Not a woman among them—fie Mr. Lawlor!) Moreover I confess with shame that I was completely unacquainted with two of the six, the book-collector Frederick Locker Lampson and the Irish poet and mystic George Russell. Walter de la Mare and G. K. Chesterton are two who would add lustre to anybody's list of six, Dr. Wilson (of Antarctic fame) is a less obvious choice, but one for whose inclusion Mr. Lawlor makes out a very convincing case. The contrast to these largely literary and almost contemporary figures is provided by Savonarola, whom I (and George Eliot too for that matter) had always regarded as a 15th Century Elmer Gantry, and one whose friendship would have been uncomfortable both spiritually and bodily. But Mr. Lawlor deserves great credit for thus turning a firm back on the temptation to make a dinner table of assorted sexes and concentrating on the assembling of a Fine Body of Men.

AS the infantile paralysis restrictions have been lifted everywhere in New Zealand except in Auckland, the National Orchestra of the NZBS will keep to its former arrangements to give schools concerts in the Wellington Town Hall on Friday, March 12, Tuesday, March 16, and Saturday, March 27. There will be no schools concerts in Auckland, Christchurch or Dunedin till later in the year.

SHORTWAVE HIGHLIGHTS

PROGRAMMES transmitted by Radio Australia are compiled by the Shortwave Division of the Commonwealth Department of Information, and are preceded by the tune of "Waltzing Matilda," and the laugh of the Australian kookaburra, as their identification signals. At present these transmissions are the strongest that are being heard in the daytime in New Zealand, as overseas daytime reception at this period of the year is generally poor.

North American and Forces Transmission (9.45 a.m.-11.15 a.m.): VLG6, 15.24 mc/s., 19.69 metres; VLB11, 15.16, 19.79.

Forces Afternoon Transmission (3.0 p.m.-4.0 p.m.): VLC9, 17.84 mc/s., 16.82 metres; VLG6, 15.24, 19.69. (Saturday and Sunday transmissions open at 2.0 p.m.)

Special Saturday Sports Transmission (3.15 p.m.-7.30 p.m.): VLG6, 15.24 mc/s., 19.79 metres; VLB5, 21.54, 13.93.

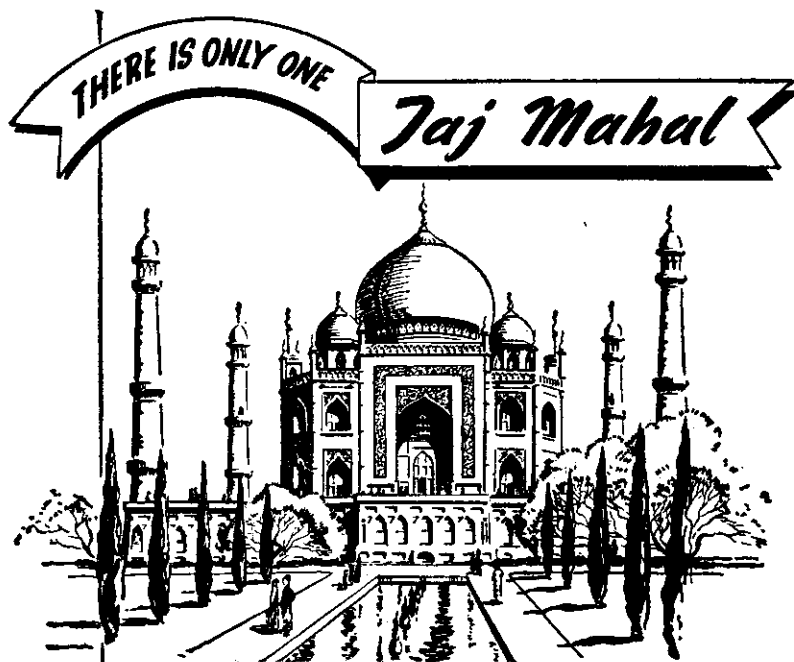
North American and African Transmission (4.30 p.m.-5.45 p.m.): VLC4, 15.32 mc/s., 19.59 metres; VLA8, 11.76, 25.51.

Great Britain and Europe Transmission (7.0 p.m.-8.15 p.m.): VLA6, 15.20 mc/s., 19.74 metres.

Forces Evening Transmission (8.30 p.m.-12.0 midnight): VLA6, 15.20 mc/s., 19.74 metres.

General Pacific Transmission (8.55 p.m.-10.30 p.m.): VLC4, 15.32 mc/s., 19.59 metres.

Headlines in the Programmes: Australian Sporting Round-up, 10.45 a.m., Sunday; Magazine of the Week, 10.45 a.m., Monday; Australian Scene, 10.30 a.m., Wednesday; Australian Sports Diary, 11.0 a.m., Thursday; Australian Women's Newsletter, 10.30 a.m., Friday; Science Magazine, 4.45 p.m., Thursday; Australian Scene, 7.15 p.m., Thursday; Australian Women's Newsletter, 8.0 p.m., Thursday; Background to Australia, 7.15 p.m., Friday; Australian Radio Reel, 7.45 p.m., Sunday.



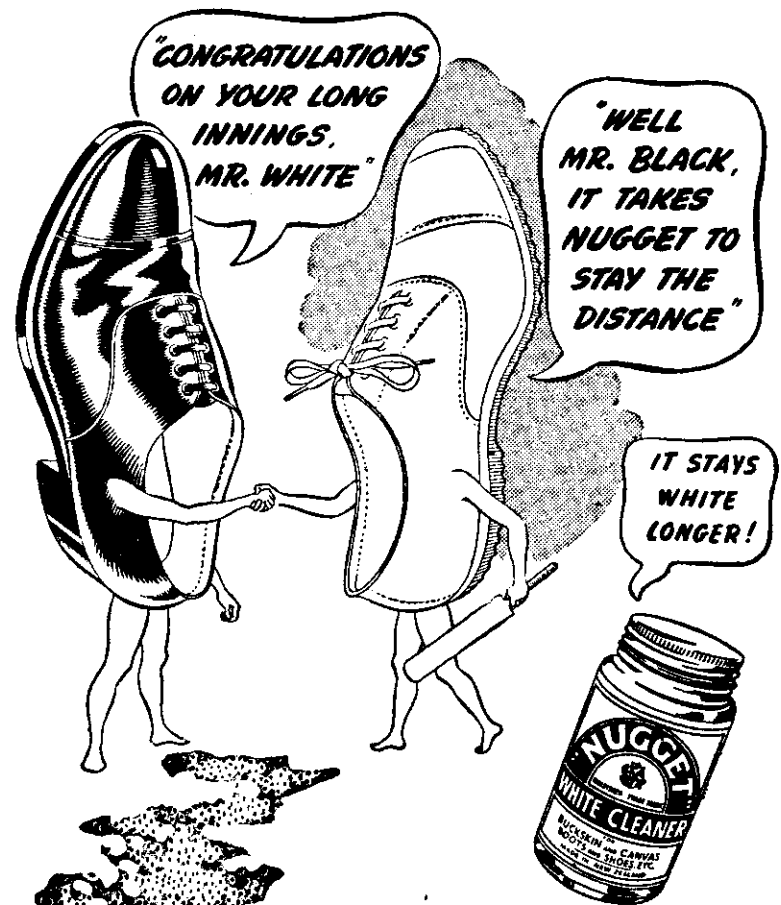
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