

(continued from previous page)

No doubt it would have sounded a little mysterious to call the collection after the first essay, "Breath of Alchera," but that is of far more importance than the problematic origin of ballads with so small a chance of survival. "Alchera" is an Arunta word meaning a dream, or the "far past time when the ancestors of the totemic groups arose," and Mr. Elliott hangs an essay on it which becomes a criticism both of affected mysticism in Australian writers and of the other extreme of forgetting that Australia has a past at all.

I feel certain myself that this mythology which the enthusiasts seek to erect to provide Australia with imaginative inspiration will never amount to anything until the last aborigine has become a memory. While the native remains actual, he will still be a native; there is not much hope of making gods and kings and heroes and saints out of him while there is still a possibility of meeting King Billy and Black Mary round the corner. In Peru they might do something with the Incas, but here the poetic scope opened up by the Alchera is limited. Poetry that is real and actual can only have its actuality because everybody knows and sympathises with the basis of its making. The Alchera is, for white Australians, an exotic fancy. . . . But I should be making myself very imperfectly understood if I gave the impression that I thought it a useless or altogether misguided thing to do.

New Zealand readers will perhaps find Mr. Elliott most interesting in his last paper—an angry protest against the vulgarisation of Steele Rudd (Arthur Hoey Davis) on the stage and in film and radio presentations.

It is bad enough that books should be written and forgotten because they are superseded by a more popular and cruder presentation of the same formal material; but it is worse that this new presentation should have acted to reshape the material until it became no more than barely recognisable, until the whole fiction had suffered a change of emphasis which entirely invalidated its essential meaning. The original stories were a richly humorous interpretation, based firmly in a real state of affairs. Dramatization, the localisation in the theatre—or equally disastrous, in that unreal, completely dimensionless world of the radio theatre—forced an entirely new and incongruous function on Davis's figures. They were required to amuse rather than to interpret. They were required to cease being comic in order to become comical; to leave off being laughed with, and to content themselves with being either sentimentally slobbered over or simply laughed at.

There are ten long essays altogether, and these, with the six-page note on Steele Rudd, make a book of 186 pages which have all, in one form or another, been delivered as University lectures under a Commonwealth Government scheme for encouraging the study of Australian literature. There are at least three, and probably four, men in New Zealand whom it would be nationally stimulating to turn loose in our own University with something like the same job and the same general instructions.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

NEW COOKERY No. 6. By Aunt Daisy. Whitcombe and Tombs Ltd.

AUNT DAISY'S claim that her latest opus contains over 1,400 new recipes (the italics are hers) is slightly exaggerated. There are one or two duplications (e.g., the cheese pudding recipes on pages 65 and 67) and some familiar formulae, but housewives will appreciate the large number of new American recipes, most of them within the limits of New Zealand rationing, and the Christmas section should prove especially helpful. With 376 pages of recipes and an eight-page appendix of household hints, *New Cookery No. 6* is good value in any currency, hard or soft.

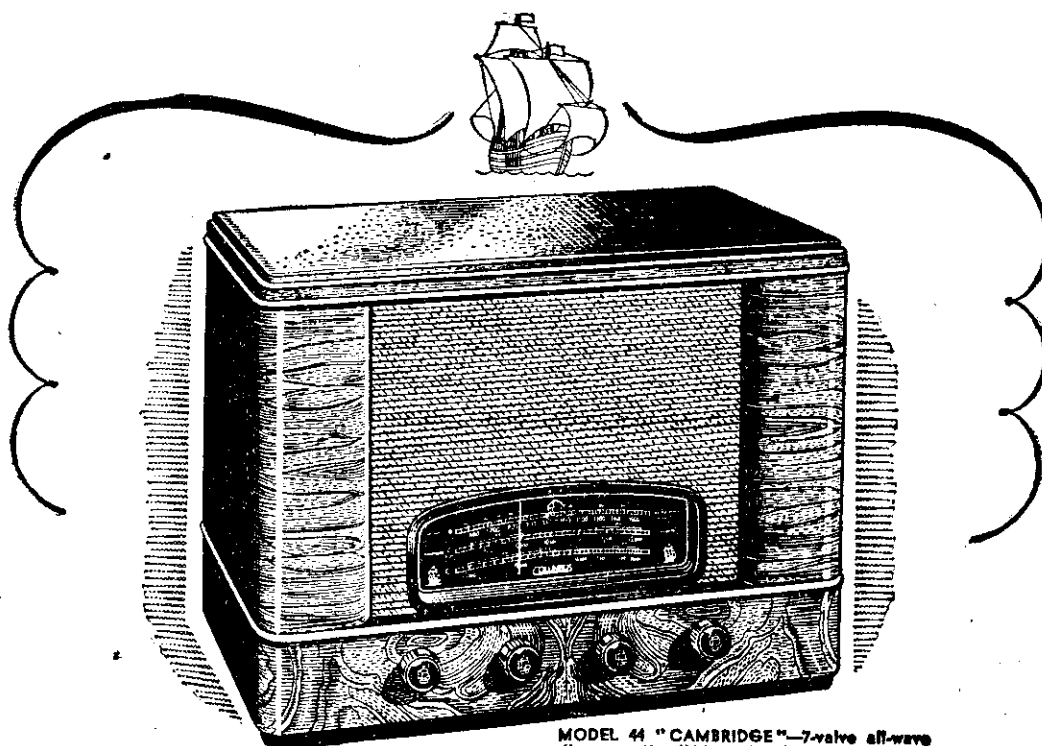
Relieve Asthma, Bronchitis, Colds, Coughs, Catarrh. All Tobacconists and Chemists, or from JOHNSTONE & BRINDEN LTD. Nathan's Bond Bldg., 47 Customs St. East, AUCKLAND, C.I. (P.O. Box 133) Packets, 10 - 1/1 Tins, 50 - 5/4

SURAMA
MEDICATED CIGARETTES

U for Unsuspected
—and "You for Eukols" everytime...
the unsurpassed red jubes, blended from Pine, Eucalyptus, Gaultheria. Cinnamon, Guaiacol and other healing agents.

You for Eukols 1/1d. A TIN

For SOOTHING COUGHS, COLDS, SORE THROAT
Mayceys & Co., 385 Khyber Pass, Auckland. 4.7s



MODEL 44 "CAMBRIDGE"—7-valve all-wave (incorporating "Magic Eye" tuning indicator), 644 10 0d. Height: 14½" Width: 19½" Depth: 11"

INTRODUCING MODEL 44 A New Columbus Design

With this announcement, COLUMBUS MODEL 44 makes its debut incorporating the advances in technical design achieved during the past two years of COLUMBUS laboratory research.

It is a radio built to exacting standards of workmanship; its reception performance is considerably in excess of prevailing standards; and its quality of tonal reproduction is much above that of the conventional radio. The nature of these improvements is detailed in other current announcements. Enquiry and inspection welcomed.

UNCONDITIONALLY GUARANTEED FOR TWELVE MONTHS
THROUGHOUT NEW ZEALAND

COLUMBUS
RADIO

NATION-WIDE SERVICE: Whangarei, Auckland, Hamilton, Paeroa, Rotorua, Tauranga, Gisborne, Napier, Hastings, Dannevirke, Taihape, New Plymouth, Wanganui, Palmerston North, Masterton, Wellington, Nelson, Greymouth, Christchurch, Timaru, Oamaru, Dunedin, Gore, Invercargill.

C-1-48