

The central character is a young private detective (Robert Mitchum) who, having been retained by a suave racketeer to track down his absconding girlfriend (Jane Greer), finds the girl and promptly absconds with her himself. As might be imagined there is a good deal of sudden death (including the first instance, in my experience, of murder by fishing-rod). In fact, the story is just one sticky situation after another, but the pattern is refreshingly out of the ordinary, there is enough excitement to satisfy the jaded, the acting is fairly good, and (to me, most acceptable of all) there is no fatuous happy ending. The young sleuth, because he attempts to climb back on to the straight and narrow path, is finally shot by the girl, a proper tigress if ever there was one, and she is thereupon shot up most effectively by the police—altogether a much more realistic ending than this class of picture customarily provides.

With his G.I. Joe stubble shaved off, Mitchum may suggest a muscular edition of Crosby to some filmgoers, while those who are familiar with the novels of Mr. Peter Cheyney will feel, I am sure, that he approximates most closely to the tough but amorous investigators of the F.B.I. But whatever, or whoever, he looks like, he is quite worth watching. There's no strain involved in watching Miss Greer.

SHORTWAVE HIGHLIGHTS

DIRECTED to Australia and New Zealand, the Pacific Service of the BBC carries many programmes compiled to make interesting and entertaining listening. Commentaries on the cricket matches between Australia and Essex and Australia and Oxford University, and an edited commentary on the British Empire Middleweight Boxing Championship between Bos Murphy and Dick Turpin, are two of the main sporting fixtures for the coming week.

Stations, Frequencies and Wavelengths: GVZ, 9.64 mc/s., 31.12 metres; GRX, 9.69, 30.96; GSN, 11.82, 25.38; GRD, 15.45, 19.42; GSG, 17.79, 16.86. (Time of broadcast in each case is 6.0 p.m.-7.45 p.m.).

Headlines in the Programmes for the week May 16-22: Report from Europe, 6.15 p.m., Sunday; Sporting Newsletter, 6.45 p.m.; Landmarks of Britain—York Minster, 7.0 p.m.; American Letter, 6.15 p.m., Monday; Science Review, 6.15 p.m., Tuesday; Calling the Islands, 6.15 p.m., Wednesday; British Political Commentary, 6.15 p.m., Thursday; In Britain To-day—talk by Georgie Henschel, 7.0 p.m., Saturday.

On Sunday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 7.15 p.m., a cricket commentary covering the match between Australia and Essex will be heard, and on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, at the same time a commentary on the match between Australia and Oxford University. The edited account of the match between Murphy and Turpin is scheduled for 7.0 p.m. Wednesday.

In the General Overseas Service next week "The Bath Assembly" is one of the major feature programmes. It will be an illustrated account of the Festival of the Arts, held in the historic town of Bath. This programme is timed for 8.15 p.m. on Monday over GSD (11.75 mc/s., 25.53 metres, and GSV (17.81, 16.84).

NATIONAL FILM UNIT

AN interview with Lord Beveridge, in which he discusses New Zealand's social reforms and makes some suggestions for other benefits, is a feature of the National Film Unit's Weekly Review No. 349, to be released on May 14. Other items include "Ngauruhoe Erupts," showing the intense activity of the volcano as seen from the air by an N.F.U. cameraman, and "Farms for Returned Servicemen," which illustrates the farm training the Government is giving to returned servicemen. An Aid for Britain item shows how Christchurch trams and buses carried parcels for the campaign depot in Cathedral Square, and also records the holding (at Wigram aerodrome) of the first motor racing events to be held on a New Zealand airfield—another effort in aid of the appeal.

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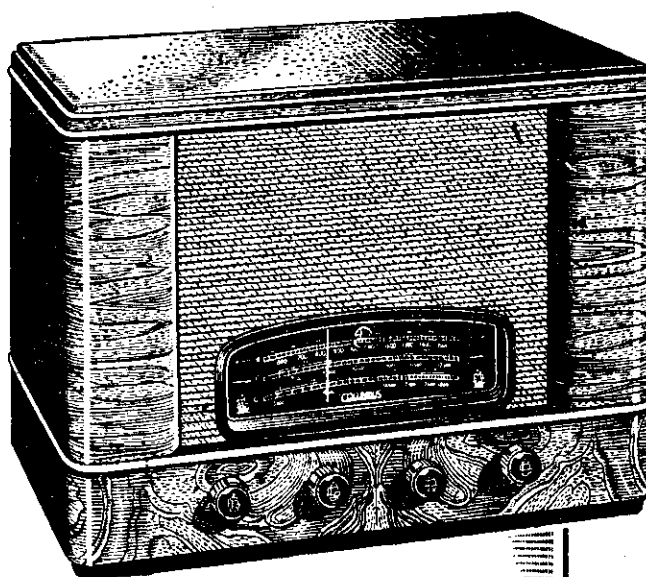
THE GORSE BLOOMS PALE, Dan Davin, 9/6 posted. A collection of twenty-six varied and accomplished short stories by the highly gifted New Zealand author whose novel, "For the Rest of Our Lives," received wide acclaim.

SIBELIUS, A Symposium edited by Gerald Abraham, 15/3 posted. Seven distinguished music critics collaborate in presenting full and detailed studies of the composer's orchestral music, piano music, choral music, operas, chamber music and songs.

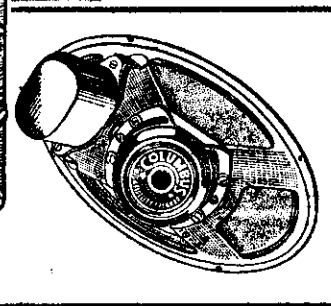
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