

(continued from previous page)

found the blitz uncommonly useful for concealing both the crime and the corpse. He is brought to justice, of course—it is no secret that the Yard Always Gets Its Man; and the manoeuvres of the police provide some interesting moments, although we know that Mr. Donkin-alias-Rankin's goose was cooked at the start. I found myself wishing that this programme could



reveal some of the real mysteries of Scotland Yard—the ones that haven't ever been solved. Any fictional thriller can bring the criminal to justice quite as satisfactorily; but it takes a "true life detective story" from the Yard's annals to leave him convincingly at large. It is, as Alexander Woollcott remarks somewhere, quite one of the feeblest warnings of the copybook that murder will out. And certainly the ones that won't out have the incomparable merit of being perennially interesting.

Gilbert and Sullivan

HAVING heard the last of the Gilbert and Sullivan series I feel secure now in ratifying my first impressions of these programmes. They have been first-class entertainment throughout, and there have been few of this scale so likely to appeal to that many-headed monster, the listening public. The generous time allotted to each performance—no less than an hour—is a feature one would like to see adopted more often, even at the cost of a headache for the programme organisers. Looking back on these programmes, however, it is not the details of production or even the music that emerges most distinctly. It is—and I think it should be—the personality of Arthur Sullivan himself. Sullivan is treated with very great sympathy throughout, not so much at the expense of Gilbert, but because his greater ambition in the world of fame makes him at the same time the more interesting and the more pathetic figure and pathos is not something one associates with the creators of the Savoy Operas in general. As for Gilbert, he is perfectly capable of speaking for himself:

I can teach you with a quip, if I've a mind;
I can trick you into learning with a laugh;
Oh, winnow all my folly, and you'll find
A grain or two of truth among the chaff!

Too Perfect Question

I WAS pleased to hear the 4YA Brains Trust back on the air after a short spell, but a little disappointed to hear them spending time on a question which has been well-discussed already on the air. The Questionmaster, Professor Knight, was right in saying that it was an almost "perfect question," since it was the sort of thing a group of people could discuss all night, all being in disagreement but not liable to become acrimonious on that account. This was

perfectly true, but the creeping doubt was not far away—why should our radio discussions run smooth, placid, and agreeable? I myself have commended discussions for this very non-argumentative quality, but I merely meant thereby that it is good to hear people discussing a problem without losing their tempers or the thread of their argument, and I would not at any time have the discussion bog down into gentle agreement on all sides, as a recent ZB discussion on "pedestrian and motorist" almost did. In the 4YA session, the almost perfect question turned out to be our old friend, "What are the qualities of a perfect host, and a perfect guest?", which listeners will remember was admirably handled by the BBC Brains Trust. I preferred the discussion, both lively and thoughtful, of the problem whether adoption of the "live and let live" attitude is likely to make for race suicide.

Church Music

THE Sunday afternoon programmes from 4YA called *In Quires and Places Where They Sing* follow the history of English church music from the 16th Century to the present day. The singers perform in First Church, under the conductorship of George Wilkinson, and are to be recommended strongly. The musician will find them excellently sung, while the commentary is interesting and scholarly at the same time (a combination seldom met with in radio talks). As an introduction to the golden age of vocal music the young student could wish for nothing better than the first couple of programmes, while anyone connected in any way with church services, as preacher, organist, choirmaster, singer, or member of the congregation, should not only enjoy the experience of listening to these programmes but discover a way of lifting the standard of many a dull service. There is a rich and little-tilled field of beautiful church music waiting for any ambitious choral group, however small, which has the energy to attempt and the patience to prepare a collection of offerings from the lesser-known music of the early English school of church composers.

Tug-of-War

A PECULIAR phenomenon has recently made itself manifest in Dunedin on a Saturday night, and you can hear it on the radio if you tune into 4ZB about ten-thirty. You will hear the subdued roar of an enormous accumulation of people out for a good time, and the performance of popular music suitable for dancing if not for listening (music which bears about as much resemblance to a good jazz record as my piano playing bears to that of Solomon). Then something different is announced—the "tug-of-war." The purse, I am told, is £250, and well-trained teams from as far afield as Wai-hola, Glenavy, Kyeburn, Invercargill, and Christchurch are appearing on the stage to compete for it. The announcer, I may add, whose duty it is to describe the tug-of-war, has a style which must leave both himself and his listeners breathless. Each "pull" lasts two minutes only, but during that short time no boxing or wrestling commentator, surely, could do more to make his unseen audience imagine that they personally had just completed a gruelling athletic work-out.



Last thing at night, sip a cup of delicious Bourn-vita. Go warm and comforted to bed. Then sleep will come easily, and the energy you have used up today will be replaced with new vitality for tomorrow.

Cadbury's

BOURN-VITA

IT'S CADBURY'S . . . THAT MEANS IT'S THE BEST

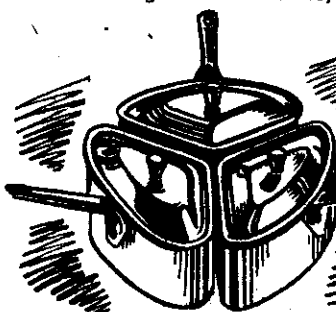
Cook the dinner on
ONE ring instead of **3**

Handy 3-in-1 Saucepan
combination saves power,
money and space



Here's a great saver of gas or electricity as well as cooker space. Three 2-pint size pans that fit snugly together and cook a meal over one ring instead of three, sav-

ing two-thirds power. Heavy gauge Aluminium . . . plenty of depth . . . neatly designed to get the most heat from the ring. See it at leading hardware stores.



GLOBE

SAUCEPAN COMBINATION

Manufactured by Metal Globe Co. Ltd.,
Maldon St., Christchurch, S.I.