

BACKACHE

makes

Housework hard!

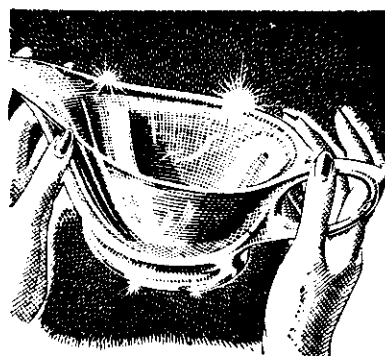
No wonder housework is hard . . . no wonder there seems more to do than one pair of hands can possibly manage . . . for backache turns the most ordinary of tasks into weary toil. But when backache is due to sluggish kidneys, that is a trouble you can soon put right. Yes, **SOON . . .** because many women gain relief simply by relying on De Witt's Pills to restore proper kidney action.

To so many women, De Witt's Pills are a reliable standby . . . an excellent source of relief from backache. So, if you have this heavy burden of backache, De Witt's Pills come to you with the heartfelt recommendations of grateful people all around you.



DeWitt's KIDNEY PILLS

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So. 26

"THE PEOPLE AND THE PLAYHOUSE"

NZBS Dramatic Broadcasts for March

ONE of the special NZBS programmes which will be broadcast during the Royal Tour next March is *The People and the Playhouse*, a series of dramatic episodes illustrating the story of the English theatre from its earliest days. Intended primarily to provide first-class radio entertainment, the series will show too how play-acting and play-going have always been as important in the lives of most Englishmen as prizefighting or horse-racing, and how our drama grew from the thoughts and deeds of living men, rather than from a cloistered academic tradition.

The theme will be enlivened with scenes descriptive of personalities and events with which the theatre has been involved down through the centuries, and illustrated with episodes from great plays of the past. The private affairs of the actors and playwrights themselves, their quarrels and financial troubles, will form a more intimate background, with one character in each episode unfolding the narrative as a sort of personal story, the passage of time being marked by a voice representing the Spirit of the Theatre.

The first episode opens at a Whitsunday festival in 16th Century London, when the city's trade guild members are putting on plays at street corners to entertain passers-by. Henry VIII, himself visits one group on his way home from church, and roars his approval of *The Second Shepherd's Play*, a boisterous piece of knockabout farce and yokel humour that soon has the audience rolling on the footpaths. At its conclusion Henry hires one of the players to take part in a play that night at the palace, and listeners are transported from this Tudor street-life scene to the Royal Court, and the company of Cardinal Wolsey and Anne Boleyn at a command performance of *Thersites*.

Episode Two ushers in the Elizabethan era, a time of high adventure and intrigue when a playwright like Christopher Marlowe could also be a Royal spy, an atheist and a hard-drinking gambler. Extracts from *Tamburlaine the Great*, and Lyly's *Campaspe* are skilfully interwoven with the plot to show the kind of entertainment audiences enjoyed in those days and the next episode, "Exit Kit Marlowe," brings in many familiar figures

of the early Shakespearian theatre. Edward Alleyn and Richard Burbage, Henslowe and Hentzer, Dekker and Raleigh, are all involved in a hurryscurry of events that ends with Marlowe's death in a fight at Mistress Bull's tavern in Deptford. Extracts from *Love's Labour Lost* and *Ardern of Feversham* are included in this episode.

Episode Four, "The Building of the Globe," starts five years after Marlowe's death with Shakespeare, the "upstart Crow" of a few years back, now "the greatest playwright in the world." The scene opens with Ben Jonson declaiming his famous panegyric—"He was not



Spencer Digby photograph

TOM TYNDALL
Many months of research

of an age, but for all time"—and moves to Tyburn prison, where he is branded on the thumb for having killed a man in a duel. After a tiff with his miserly employer, Philip Henslowe ("I got an 'undred better writers than you are, Ben. I'll give you a pound. There! And that's generous."), he hastens to the playhouse.

He becomes the friend of Shakespeare, and after extracts from *Romeo and Juliet* and *Every Man in his Humour* the first part of the series concludes with the players discussing the building of the Globe theatre.

Many months of research by Tom Tyndall, NZBS scriptwriter, lie behind these programmes, which are based as far as possible on actual historic happenings, and written in the idiom of their times. Succeeding episodes will probably deal with masques and the Restoration theatre, and will lead up to the renaissance of the English drama in modern times.

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