

The Goods, But No Delivery

News Views

Excerpts from "Hamlet"

of music and spoken excerpts from the film. It was magnificent, though of course the scrappy nature of the programme prevented it from giving listeners a large-scale air-lift and forced them to be content with a few short cultural hops, since they were brought to earth at frequent intervals by studio comments on the action of the play. Would it have been safe, I wonder, to assume that listeners were sufficiently familiar with the play to dispense with these makeshift bridges? In spite of the slight annoyance I felt at the announcer's probably necessary intrusions the programme had a deeply exciting effect on me, due primarily I think to Walton's strange and compelling music. Sir Laurence of course had less opportunity to exploit the element of surprise—all the same I shall not easily forget the sudden despair of his "To Be or Not To Be."

Good Material

I WONDERED what *Playhouse of Favourites* would do to Dostoevski's *Crime and Punishment*, but surprisingly enough, apart from necessary shortening, it suffered not too badly. The main theme of the novel, the gradual and relentless crescendo of guilt, fear, and remorse, still made itself felt in spite of difficulties of cutting and with undoubted aid from the star, Lloyd Lamble. This play came over 4ZB, and I imagine there might be many listeners to that station who didn't know the novel and were hearing a great story for the first time. I hope its effect was to draw the attention of such listeners to the novel itself—a thriller, if ever there was one, owing its thrills to the genius of an author who was able to place his readers in a murderer's shoes and make them feel as though the crime were a personal one. For the proper and fullest enjoyment of *Crime and Punishment* it goes without saying that no half-hour play is adequate. Neither is it adequate for a novel by Dickens or Herman Melville. But *Playhouse of Favourites*, although often it annoys lovers of such books by its attempts to dramatize them, has the merit of presenting the best authors; and if it converts even a small proportion of listeners into readers of good books, apart from entertainment value, it is achieving a worthwhile purpose.

Selective Listeners

"SOME listen to *Dad and Dave*, or to the wrestling; classical music and light opera both have their following; on the whole, I think the programmes cater pretty well." These words might be taken to represent the taste of a cross-section of listeners anywhere in New Zealand. It may surprise some to learn that they were the words of a country schoolteacher, in a 4YA discussion panel who was attempting to give listeners an indication of the sort of programmes his school-children habitually listened to. When it came the turn of the other adult speakers I was not surprised to find their tastes differing little from the above. The storekeeper suggested "light music, market

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lovely
luxury

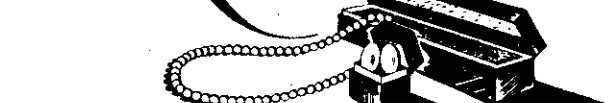


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