

the orchestra played the theme tune for the last time—and they all had a good cry. It was mournful, but it was completely genuine, and millions of listeners must have felt the same way about it.

So passes one of the first really memorable phenomena of radio entertainment, at a time when even the medium as it now exists seems likely to disappear, giving place to television.

* * *

I MYSELF have one reminiscence of That Man, which belongs to a time of which I wrote earlier in this column, when I was marvelling at the way one meets acquaintances in London. I went to an *ITMA* in the studio early last year, for the first and only time. On the next morning, I took a letter to post on my way to work, and made for a letter-box at Craven Hill (a few steps from Paddington Station) which as I happened to know was where Handley lived. As one sees an unusual word for the first time and then meets it in a book a few hours later, so I met Tommy Handley making for the same letter-box at the same moment, exactly 12 hours after I had first seen him. His coat collar was turned up, and his hat pulled down. I took this as meaning that he is the kind of man who hates being stared at, and pretended not to have recognised him. But it was hard to resist the temptation to grin. He was a great jester.

There will be no more *ITMAs*, nor any attempt to use the same characters in a similar show. Their "world of their own" has, as Mr. Worsley says in the *New Statesman*, "collapsed as completely as the Third Reich which brought it into being."
—A.A.

FOR THE FARMER

A NEW weekly farm session called *For the Farmer* will start at 1YA Auckland on Wednesday, February 16, at 7.0 p.m. For several years the only farming broadcast was a talk at 7.15 p.m. on Mondays. Then, in February, 1948, a mid-day session at 12.35 p.m. was started on Tuesdays in addition to the Monday talks. Under the new set-up the Wednesday evening sessions, which will be additional to those on Tuesdays, will occupy half an hour. They will contain discussions, stock, fruit and produce market reports, and recordings made by tape-recorder during a tour among farmers in the north. These recordings contain descriptions of various types of field days, the weighing of record pig litters and interviews with dairy men, sheep farmers and fruit growers. Later in the year it is hoped to cover the South Auckland area.

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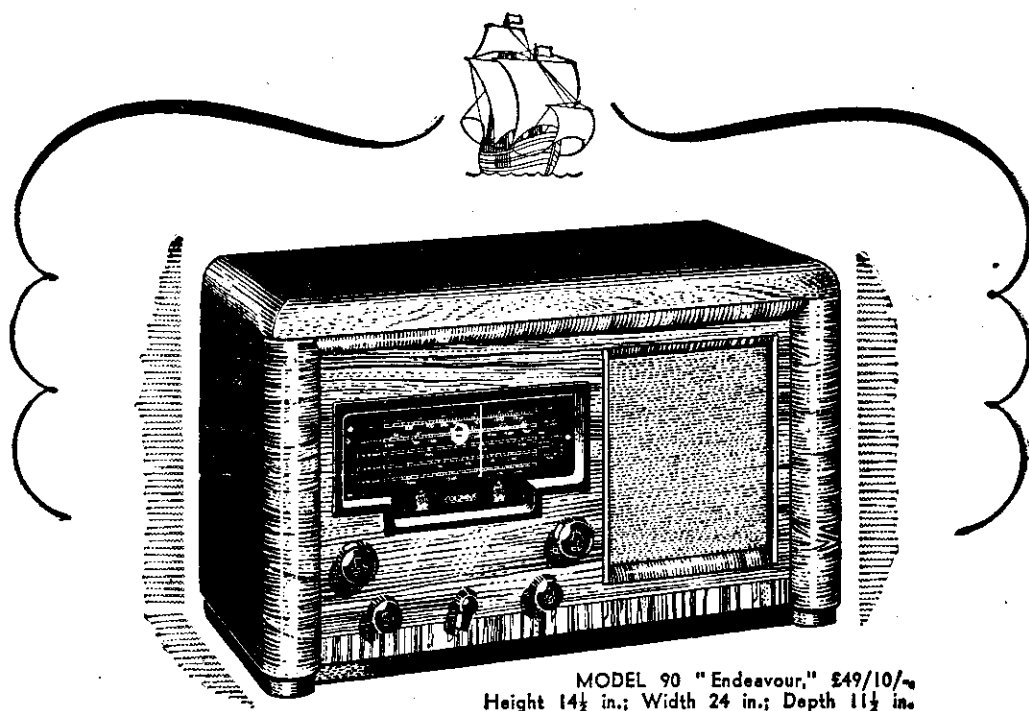
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