

Monologue From Abyssinia



"YES, Abyssinia is my home, but I decided not to go back again as I could not get there in time to make the triumphal re-entry with Uncle Haile.

"Oh, you see a strong resemblance? Yes, I do think I'm like him. And yet some people say 'Nonsense, how can an Abyssinian vulture possibly look like the Emperor of the country?' But you need to remember that it's a country in which very strange things happen. Take that mischievous book by Evelyn Waugh now . . . Dear me, you are squeamish!

"Our job? Well, we are the Health Inspectors (only over there it's pronounced In-peck-ors), because we go round cleaning up the meat off everything that dies. Keeps the flies away, you know. Yes, that's why we don't wear frilly lace collars and stockings. Some of the work is fairly deep-seated, as it were, and we need to have our necks bare so that we can really get to the heart of the matter. Same idea as a butcher rolling up his sleeves, I suppose. Yes, I've read the Encyclopaedia Britannica, which says that my Egyptian brother is a remarkably foul feeder. That, of course, is a matter of opinion or relativity. Very well; we'll agree to differ.

"What? Yes, of course; we always wait around until the person or whatever it is, dies. A sick traveller could never have a lonely death-bed—there would always be some of us to spare time to watch to the last.

"And yet you see those Australians next door? They're killers. I simply can't understand it, of course. Live and Let Live is my motto. Mind you, there's no sense in wasting time when anything is dead. But as for swooping down on some defenceless running animal—phugh! Cannibalism!"

—J.

Items From The ZB's

THE artists featuring in "Command Performance, U.S.A." on Sunday, March 21, will be as follows: 1ZB, Red Skelton; 2ZB, George Raft; 3ZB, Cary Grant; 4ZB, Clark Gable, 2ZA, Spencer Tracy.

A NEW programme which should have a wide appeal among high, low, and middle brows is the American feature "Dramatisation of the Classics." Some well known stories and plays are presented as half-hour dramas. The series include short stories by de Maupassant, novels by Zola and R. L. Stevenson, and plays by Ibsen, Oscar Wilde, and others. These will play on Wednesday evenings at 9 o'clock from all Commercial station, beginning on March 17.

MORNING listeners will be introduced to a new serial "Tena and Tim," which will play at 10 a.m. Tuesday to Friday from all ZB stations. Tena and Tim argue themselves in and out of innumerable ridiculous situations. Tena is Scandinavian, and her unflinching misunderstanding of words leads her in to all sorts of predicaments, which you will enjoy more than she did.

"LOVE for a Day," the story heard from 2ZB each Monday and Wednesday morning at 10.15, is the story of a girl's struggle to realise her ambition and become a great musician. The humour, music and drama of this story, should go down well with your morning tea.

SIMPLE STORIES THEY KNEW

Beneath a shady willow tree, on the confines of a field where I had 40 fat steers grazing, I saw at dusk a smart little primrose and green caravan pulling in for the night. Next morning, at 11.30, I saw approaching my bachelor establishment two young ladies, complete with parasols and gloves, and in their best Oxford accent they asked me if, as I had such a large herd of milking cows, I would sell them daily a jug of milk. I explained, without detail, that the animals in question were not milking cows, and the young ladies looked surprised and incredulous. However, I told them I would gladly share with them my supply of condensed milk. They thanked me profusely, but they, too, had a supply of tinned milk, so, cap in hand, I bowed them out the garden gate, feeling I had made an impression.

Perhaps I was behind the door when the looks were given out, but Nature had given me a particularly good set of ears, and as they undid my Taranaki gate at the road entrance, I distinctly heard Pretty say to Prettier: "What a parsimonious Mephistopheles! All these cows and he won't give us a drop of milk!"

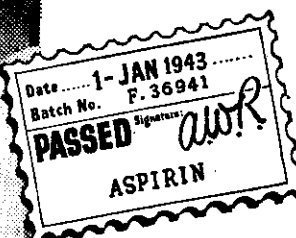
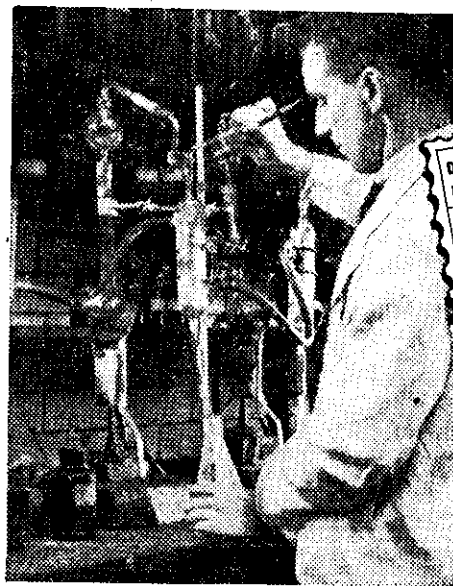
Reached Britain by Nazi 'Plane

"To me the most thrilling part of it is that he (a French airman), arrived from Occupied France in a German military aeroplane. At the time of the Armistice, he was being trained, together with a friend, at a pilot's school in North Africa. When demobilisation started, they asked for permission to go back to France. There the arrogance of the German invaders only hastened their decision to come to Britain to continue the fight with the Fighting French. They decided that the best and quickest means of transport would be by German aeroplane."—(Frank Alexander, telling stories of the Fighting French from a French Club in London, in a BBC series on "United Peoples").

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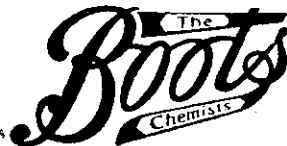
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