

(continued from previous page)

telling is the oldest of literary forms, so perhaps it is hardly fair to compare it with the newest of modern presentations. At the back of my head another idea was also nagging me. Leonidas was certainly Fighting For Freedom in one of the most gallant fights recorded in the history of human conflict, but surely Sparta was as near-Nazi as any state in the ancient world?

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FOR entertainment without literary or other pretensions, I could recommend *Money With Menaces*, which we heard from 2YA the other Sunday evening. The title did not appeal to me, neither did the blurb—"a drama in which terror strikes through the telephone." I don't enjoy having my blood curdled, neither do I like extreme improbabilities, so I was prepared to turn the knob. But I found myself interested and wide awake in spite of a day's gardening in the sun. The suspense was fortunately not gruesome, but well sustained until the somewhat surprising ending.

Items From The ZB's

"ON Wings of Melody" is a feature programme which is now on the air at 1ZB, and which will begin at 2ZB on December 18 at 9.15 p.m. It will come to 3ZB and 4ZB early in the New Year. In this programme a quartet of stringed instruments and piano present music of general appeal. The four players are Helen Gray, Moya Cooper-Smith, June Taylor and Kathleen O'Leary. With the exception of June Taylor (who took the place of Marjorie Tiarks six months ago), the quartet has been playing together for more than nine years, and is known in Auckland as the St. James Quartet. The compere for this new session is Don McGregor, whose voice will be familiar to listeners who heard Ray Baber's series of song recitals. The music the quartet will present is drawn from many sources, both classical and popular.

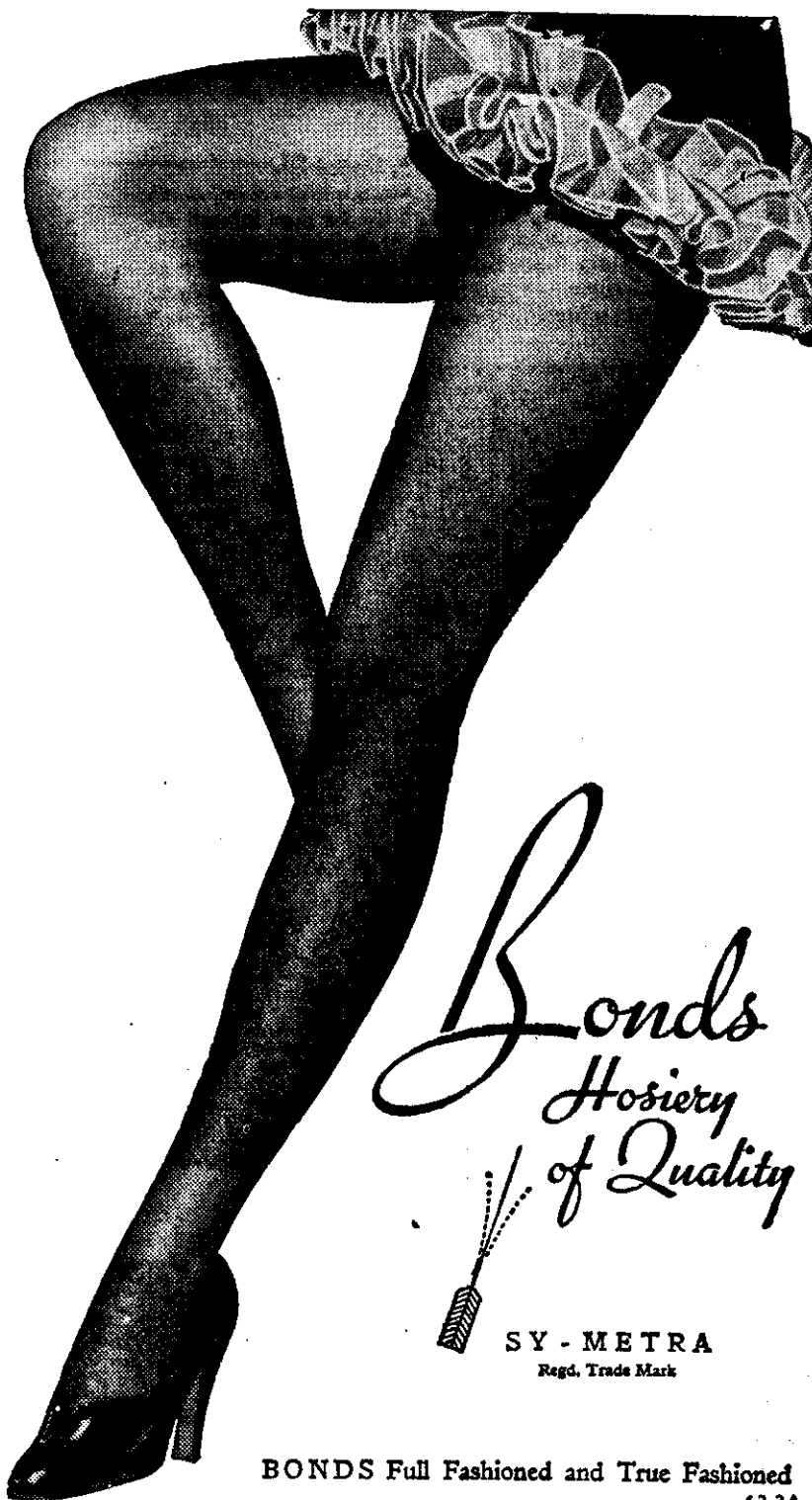
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FORTHCOMING BBC programmes to be heard from the ZB's "Eternity in An Hour," a dramatisation of the underground front in Occupied Europe, from 3ZB on Sunday, December 12; "Britain's Life-lines of the Air," which tells how Britain's merchant air fleet was built up in peace and war, from 1ZB on Sunday, December 19; and "Queen Victoria," a story beginning in June, 1837, when the young Princess Victoria came to the throne, which will be heard from 4ZB on Sunday, December 12, and from 2ZA on December 26, with Anna Neagle playing the role of the Queen.

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TWO attractive features have recently been chosen for inclusion in 2ZA programmes. They are *Nightcap Yarns*, a series of original stories, told in a straightforward fashion, and *Songs of Yesteryear*, a programme which consists of songs that have remained in the affection of the public for a number of years. The items are accompanied by a commentary giving details of the origins of the songs and the history of the composers. *Nightcap Yarns* is heard from 2ZA on Tuesdays and Thursday at 8.45 p.m., and *Songs of Yesteryear* on Mondays and Wednesdays at the same time.

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