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(Issued by Direction of the Minister of Housing)

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FIFTY YEARS OF ENGLISH THEATRE

past 50 years. In a series of half-hour broadcasts for the BBC entitled Twentieth Century Theatre, Professor J. Isaacs, of London University, recently discussed these changes and the great playwrights, producers and actors who helped to bring them about. Each talk was illustrated by dramatised scenes from one or two of the famous plays of this century. Transcriptions of these programmes, which were designed to have as wide an appeal as possible, will now be broadcast from YC stations, starting from 1YC at 9.30 p.m. on Friday, February 12.

Professor Isaacs, who occupies the Chair of English Language and Literature at Queen Mary's College, London University, starts off with a study of the late Victorian and Edwardian theatre, at a time when its hallmark was the well-made play. He dates the birth of

THE vitality of the English theatre is 20th Century theatre from the producreflected in the profound changes tion of Pinero's The Second Mrs Tanwhich have taken place in it during the queray in 1893. In his second talk he analyses the play of ideas, with illustrations from the works of George Bernard Shaw, and in succeeding talks he discusses comedy in the theatre of the 1920s, changes in the art of theatrical presentation following the rise of the modern producer, the experimental play of the 1930s, and the recent revival of poetic drama.

> Speaking of The Second Mrs. Tanqueray, Professor Isaacs says that no play was so praised for its exposition and preparation. He contrasts Pinero's careful craftsmanship with the crudities and unblushing theft from French plays which had characterised the London theatre since mid-Victorian days. As examples of the "big-scene" around which the "well-made play" was constructed there are dramatised excerpts from the closing scene of Mrs. Tanqueray, and

"THE LISTENER" CROSSWORD

(Solution to No. 680)

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Clues Across

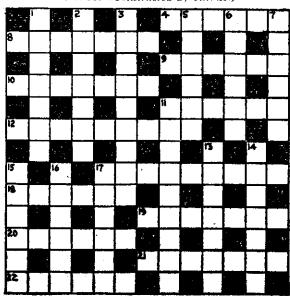
- 4. Soon involved with an abbreviated 16. Archaic equivalent of "Hop it!"? postscript.
- 8. This box is seldom silent.
- 9, "Whose --- is his honest thought. And simple truth his utmost skill" (Sir Henry Wotton).
- 10. They may be ironed in or out.
- 11. Catch by confusing 5 down.
- 12. Testament slightly out of order.
- 17. If you travel thus your name won'; appear on your luggage labels.
- 18. With Poe's famous bird I am found in the gorge.
- 19. Trap eel (anag.).
- 20. "Papa, potatoes, poultry, and prism are all very good words for the lips" (Dickens, in "Little Dorrit").

- 22. Observing.

Clues Down

- 1. Try this (anag.),
- 2. Difficulties.
- 3. Resolve to restrain the one belonging to me?
- 5. She is removed from parenthesis; but it could be he.
- 6. "---, when sweet violets sicken, Live within the sense they quicken" (Shelley).
- 7. Disorderly capers could get you into
- 11. Put heart into.
- 13. Blow up.
- 14. Legislative enactment.
- 15. A surgical anagram of 5 down or 11 across.
- 17. Oblige to live within prescribed limits.

No. 681 (Constructed by R.W.H.)



N.Z. LISTENER, FEBRUARY 5, 1954.