

More Anna Russell

"[INSIDE every one of us," says Anna, "is a certain stagnant something which is dormant." As President of the Women's Federation for the Propagation of Music and the Arts, Anna Russell sets out to alter that. "As you know," she says, "we stand for the better things in art, expecting neither reward nor enjoyment." Still clowning with all that is solemn and/or revered in music (which is a good deal), the acid-tongued Anna will soon be taking apart three more musical institutions for the benefit of ZB listeners. Her performances are entitled *Introduction (by Women's Club President)*, *How to Write Your Own Gilbert and Sullivan Opera*, and *The Ring of the Nibelungs (an analysis)*. Listeners will be able to judge the standard of the two operatic performances in the light of Anna's assertion that "the beauty of opera is that you can do anything, so long as you sing it."

The *Introduction* and the *Gilbert and Sullivan* programmes will be broadcast by 4ZB at 7.30 p.m. on Sunday, February 21. 3ZB at 7.30 p.m. on Sunday, March 7, and later by other ZB stations and 2ZA. The dissection of Wagner's opera will take place on the same days, but at times to be announced later.

Ervine Play

EARLY this century a Belfast newspaper reported a court case in which a defaulting commercial traveller was rescued from the law's retribution by the loyalty and self-sacrifice of his ill-used wife. The traveller was a bumptious philanderer, but at the first sign of danger he ran whining to his wife, who refunded the money he had stolen and beggared herself in the process. This report provided St. John Ervine with the theme for *Jane Clegg*, a play in which a then young, unknown actress called Sybil Thorndike became famous as the lead. A BBC production of this work will be broadcast from 1XN at 9.30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 17, and later from other national stations. Margaret D'Arcy plays the part of Jane. The author borrowed the name of his heroine from a great-aunt who lived at Donaghadee, but set his scene in a London suburb. In the radio version, the adaptor, John Boyd, has recognised the story's real-life origin by moving the action back to Ulster.

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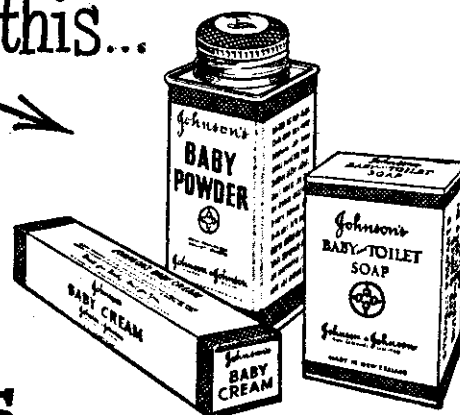
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