

Lodge Listens . . .



"D'you mind hanging on until 'Dragnet's' finished?"

them. This is the story of the discovery, rediscovery and final loss of Lasseter's Reef, in Western Australia's Gibson Desert. The author, Ralph Peterson, was possibly lucky in his subject, which is a perfect embodiment of the *Midas* legend, a cautionary tale we are never tired of hearing of the gold that you can't eat or drink and which in the end you give your life for. The programme spans 30 years of searching, and I thought it a touch of genius to keep the date before us by such devices as broadcasting a report of the expedition in a news broadcast that also mentioned Kingsford Smith's Tasman attempt. The programme as a whole generated a remarkable nervous tension, and even such melodramatic-sounding effects as desert wind, howling dingoes and hostile drums were not just local colour but more like the rustlings of Nemesis. —M.B.

Poet's Voice

I FOUND the first broadcast in C. Day Lewis's series of talks on modern poetry a truly memorable experience. I had expected the material of his talks to be good, and I knew that they would, in addition, have the added curiosity value that comes when the name on the spine of a book speaks aloud to us in a human voice. The voice itself, however, came as a surprise and a delight, an expressively beautiful voice, speaking a script whose rhythms were a pleasure to listen to. The poems selected to illustrate Day Lewis's remarks ranged in time from Spenser to Laurie Lee and Louis MacNeice, and provided beauty in themselves, and interesting contrasts.

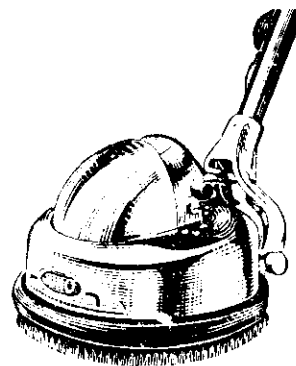
N.Z. LISTENER, APRIL 23, 1954.

This programme, which was heard originally on the BBC Third Programme, was the first of a series to be heard from 4YC on Sunday nights at 10 o'clock, and I should like to register yet another protest that a programme of such outstanding merit should be given us at the very end of the day when many listeners have prepared to turn off their radios for the night.

Origins of Slang

A NEWCOMER to the 4YA morning programmes is *Where Did It Come From?* a programme dealing with the origin of slang words and phrases, and this is heard on Wednesdays at 11.45. Its origins are obscure, no credit being given to its parentage either at the beginning or end of the session, and its vitality, verging on vulgarity, comes as something of a shock from this respectable station. This shock is accentuated by its appearance shortly after the Wednesday discussion session, where the ladies give themselves over to a usually fairly earnest discussion of various "problems." *Where Did It Come From?* opened with a breezy reassurance that we were not going to be "stuffy"—was it like etymologists, or semanticists—and then the compère, having laid to rest our probably non-existent fears, swept us along on a swift and well-produced set of illustrations of the origins of slang expressions: "Hobson's choice," "screw," "not worth his salt," among others. Despite its high-pressure manner, I found this programme interesting—sufficiently interesting, in fact, to make the energy of its delivery a work of super-erogation. —Loquax

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