



IN 3ZB's Women's Hour on May 4 a description of a real American "taffy-pulling" will be broadcast. Molly McNab and Joan Gracie are shown above enjoying one of the stickiest moments of their broadcasting careers as they practise under the eye of an expert

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try in 1938, but since then his rate of production has increased considerably.

The relationship between writing fiction and designing aircraft is an unusual but not impossible one, since both involve the creative processes and both require a high power of imaginative construction. It seems possible that as Mr. Shute moved further from the designing board and more into administration and directorship he may have felt that his creative and imaginative abilities were being frustrated, and so decided to break away towards what he still regards as a "hobby." At any rate, he is still very proud of his engineering background, and jealous of his feats as a designer. He is careful to point out that "the R.100 died peacefully of old

age," and did not crash like the R.101, which "was designed by another company." He likes to remember, too, that Airspeed Limited designed the first machine to have a retractable undercarriage, the Airspeed Courier, and that the Airspeed Envoy was at one time assigned to the King's Flight "for use by His Majesty."

Mr. Shute is a royalist, and in his novel *In the Wet* he proposed that the Queen should live in each country of the Commonwealth for part of the year. Each of his novels, he says, starts from an idea of this sort, usually related to current affairs. He is always provocative; his mind is lively and his manner is very pleasant, which may help to explain why his books invariably become best-sellers.

Into Space

THE MOONFLOWER, an exciting adventure story of the future which will take young listeners by rocket ship to the Moon, is to start in *Children's Sessions* from National stations next week. Stations 1YA and 4YZ will broadcast the first instalment at 5.15 p.m. on Tuesday, May 4. This ABC serial was first commissioned as a scientifically accurate space travel story—the scientific information about space travel being checked by a senior officer of the Australian Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation. It was also thought that the story would be an antidote to the more fantastic space travel stories printed in some children's comics.



ALAN TREVOR and MARIE CLARKE, who play the parts of space-travellers in "The Moonflower"

N.Z. LISTENER, APRIL 30, 1954.

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