

VARIETY MAGAZINE

BACK on the air after a five-months' break, the NZBS national variety show, "Variety Magazine," will be heard weekly from all YA stations and 3YZ beginning Wednesday, May 19. As with the previous series, contributions to the programme will come from all over the country. The first edition, for instance, will feature Bob Borcham's Sextet, from Wellington; Leonie and Dove Maharey in a piano number from Dunedin; rhythm sessions with saxophonist Colin Martin, of Auckland; and Leo Davies's Hawaiian Group from New Plymouth; and Pat McMinn in a popular vocal number from Auckland. The show maintains a topical note by being compered "live" by William Austin at Wellington. The broadcast time is 8.0 p.m. Wednesdays.

we gained a double portrait of Eurydice as she appeared to Orpheus, and, as she was sketched in as his mistress by the coarse, pudgy impresario, was masterly both in the script and in the interpretation. In every question and answer in that station waiting-room I thought I heard the wind rustling through the dark flowers of the underworld. After the spate of novels, films and plays lost in cynicism it was wonderful and refreshing to find a modern French playwright handling anew, and lifting as he did so, ancient questions concerning the meaning of beauty, love, loyalty and death.

—Westcliff

Routine Crime Detection

THE portentousness of the *Dragnet* theme (Tumty tum Tum, tee TUM) suggests melodrama, but speedily gives way to the steady downbeat of *Dragnet's* main preoccupation—routine crime detection. The presentation of each programme suggests the meticulous setting out of an experiment in a schoolboy's science notebook, with aim, preparation, etc., neatly listed, but in spite of repetition Your Aim—Get 'Em! never fails to touch the conscience. The incidents themselves are sordid and usually banal, the characters have been heard in too many films to be entirely convincing, and the sounds on which so much of the drama depends—the echoing footsteps, ringing telephones, screeching tyres—have almost become the prerogatives of fiction. But any resemblance to a B-class thriller is entirely coincidental, and these trappings cannot disguise the rather impressive bulk of the thing, the impression it gives of the weight, patience and technical advantages of the forces of crime detection.

—M.B.

Timing of Repeats

THE habit of repeating programmes combines economy with an opportunity for listeners who have missed a good programme to catch up with it on the repeat; but economy seems to outweigh the advantages to the regular listener. Topics for Businesswomen, 4YA's Saturday morning session, for example, which could provide an oasis in a desert of light music, serial and sporting announcements, has in recent weeks begun to lean heavily on programmes previously heard, not in morning sessions, to which presumably businesswomen cannot listen, but in evening

programmes. Two examples have occurred with *My First Novel*, and again with Olga Sansom's talks. These were good series, admittedly, but they have been repeated to much the same public, whereas the popular *TIFH*, heard first at the difficult hour of 8.30 p.m. on Saturday, is repeated to a smaller public on Wednesday at 2.0 p.m. This seems to suggest that the whole matter of repeats and their timing should be examined rather more carefully than in the past.

Gardener's Return

AFTER an absence of several years, Mrs. R. A. Laurie, whose gardening talks in Mavis McAra's *Countrywomen's Magazine* remained a pleasant memory, has made a most welcome re-appearance in the 4YA Topics for Women session. Mrs. Laurie clearly knows her onions, and the vigour and authority of her delivery of advice is such that the hypnotised listener tends to find himself leaning on his hoe at the door, ready to spring into action at the closing syllable. Her information is always practical, simple enough for the tyro to grasp at once, yet never too elementary to be interesting; and the reminiscences which garnish her narrative would amuse even the flat-dweller possessing only a window-box. Mrs. Laurie's talks could be enjoyed by a larger audience than that able to listen in the morning; on the other hand, the consciousness of male listeners might inhibit the speaker in her advice for the control and extension of husbands' activities in the garden. So, as her talks at present are almost perfect, it is perhaps as well that they should be left where they are.

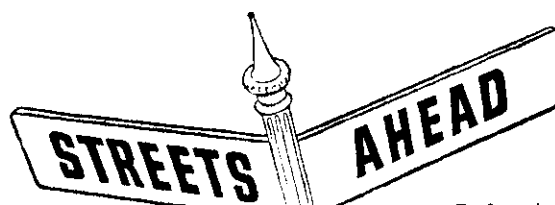
—Loquax

FOR FARMERS

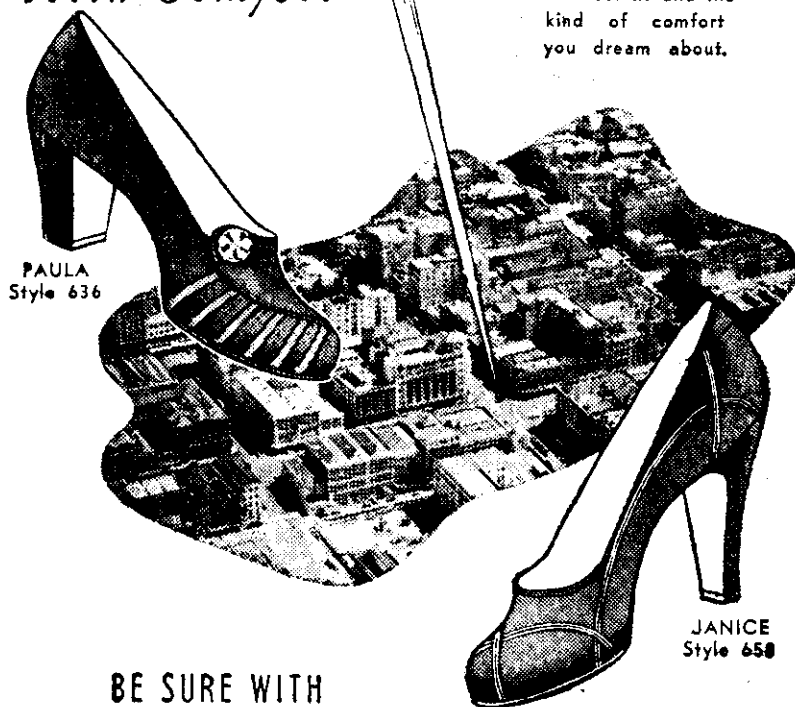
THIS year's Lincoln College Farmers' Conference will be held on May 19, 20 and 21, and as in past years, daily reports, including recorded excerpts from speeches, will be broadcast from 3YA, 4YA, and 4YZ at 7.0 p.m. each day and later from 3YZ. Dr. J. F. Filmer, Director of the Animal Research Division, Department of Agriculture, will speak on the first day on "Footrot in Sheep." Others will be Dr. J. W. McLean and G. G. Thomson, of Lincoln College. On the second day A. F. R. Adams (Lincoln College), H. M. Barton (Carew) and H. M. Carr (Waikari) will speak on "Soil Testing and Trace Elements"; and Miss M. Sutherland (Department of Agriculture), W. H. Jolliffe (N.Z. Forest Service) and D. Deans (Darfield) will deal with "Farm Shelter and Forestry." Friday's topics are "Increasing Production of Marginal Lands" and "Weather Forecasting for the Farmer." The first will be discussed by D. M. Greig (Director-General of Lands), L. P. Chapman (Mt. Somers), and A. R. Dingwall (Department of Agriculture); and the discussion on weather forecasting will be introduced by I. S. Karr (Meteorological Branch) and led by D. Deans (Darfield).

Quiz Shows Re-scheduled

JACK MAYBURY'S quiz shows, *Number, Please*, and *Scoop the Pool*, which were to have played from the ZB stations at 7.0 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays respectively, are now to be heard from the ZB stations at the same time on Mondays and Wednesdays.



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