

Protestant sects, he prevented the discussion from becoming too complacent, and brought into focus basic problems which the speakers had been inclined to by-pass.

Everybody Miserable

NOT since my last reading of an American war novel have I met so many frustrated and maladjusted people as in Joseph Schull's *The Shadow of the Tree* (NZBS). A blind pianist who is "a crazy, mixed-up kind of guy," a woman seeking to abort an unwanted baby, a predatory rich woman, men mixed up in crooked hospital deals, and other charming citizens made up the cast. The "tree" of the title I had rather ingenuously imagined to be the gallows-tree, where most of the characters belonged; but, no, it was the "tree" formed by the blast of the atom-bomb. In some way I never really got round to understanding all the miseries of these miserable types were connected with bomb-fear; but, with the help of a few platitudes from a fatherly doctor, most of them "adjusted" themselves somehow. The play deserves credit for trying to make a point; but surely the plot need not have been so meagre, nor everybody so darned unhappy about everything. A rather dull affair all round, I thought, partially redeemed by the usual excellent performance from

William Austin as the chip-on-shoulder pianist, and Mav Harrison, as another of those inevitable servant-counsellors.
—J.C.R.

Stories from Home

SOMETHING local warms the heart. I expect Londoners never cock an ear when they hear of a character pausing in Piccadilly Circus, but Arnold Wall started off his stories of love, space and time with some character stepping off a kerb in Cathedral Square and won my wholehearted allegiance. Of course, there are other reasons. Arnold Wall is an excellent raconteur; he has a sidelong technique of story-telling which gives the listener the impression of overhearing something told to a cobbler. The stories themselves are highly diverting. The last one, to be sure, consisted of little more than an outrageous pun, but it was approached so ingratiatingly that it turned out as endearing as a shaggy dog. "Thanks for the Memory" was a brilliant piece of foolery, and an example of that rare ability to provide a let-out from a supernatural situation which is not also a let-down for the audience.

Rounded Career

I THOUGHT the Ngaio Marsh interview (one of the "Portrait from Life" series) brilliantly scripted but somewhat oddly put together. You may be one of those who think Ngaio Marsh's achievement in the theatre outweighs her success as a writer of detective fiction—in that case you will be glad to have the theatre angle dealt with in the interview after Miss Marsh's comments on detective fiction (most penetrating, I thought, and garnished with an hilarious exposé of the goings-on at the Detection Club). And possibly there may be among Miss Marsh's fans hordes of prospective stall-holders who regard her running of a successful gift shop in pre-Christmas London of 1932 as one of the highlights of her successful and inspiring career, and therefore will not find it odd to have the interview finish on this note. But to me it showed an odd sense of climax.
—M.B.

SONNET

*SLEEPING and waking are a glass wherein
The fitful turnings of our life are seen,
Swift issue out of virtue into sin,
One moment pure and the next obscene.*

*Who knows the mystery of our twisting path,
Youth into manhood, love to the dead of loving,
Strength into age, submission into wrath,
Sorrow to joy and stillness into moving?*

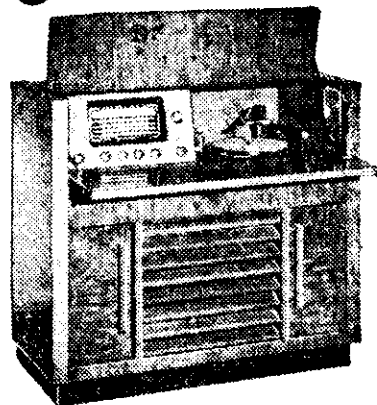
*In change is travail. There the unsure mind,
Reft of direction, loses its trail power,
Forgets the password in the uncertain hour
And stands rejected. O dark earth, grow kind,*

*And let these words fit intercession make
For them that fall asleep, or, sleeping, wake.*

—Arthur Barker

LISTEN - IT'S AN Ultimate

When you hear better reception, better tone, you can say with certainty — "It's an Ultimate." Choose your new radio from Ultimate's range of 28 superb models.



CONCERT GRAND
10 valve Bandsread Low-boy Radiogram with 3 speed Automatic record changer. Magnificent performer. **£195/0/0**

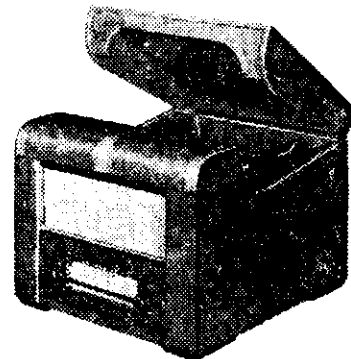


TABLE RADIOGRAM
6 valve Dualwave Table Radiogram with 3 speed Automatic record changer. Outstanding performance on records or radio. **£63/17/6**

ULTIMATE

THE LAST WORD IN RADIO



THERE'S AN ULTIMATE DEALER IN YOUR TOWN

Manufactured by RADIO (1936) LTD., Auckland.

NU8



Cerebos

IODISED SALT

Guards health and assists to prevent and guard against Goitre

See how it runs!