

(continued from previous page)

Pingatore, and "all the other fine progressive musicians in that organisation."

Crosby had his downs, too. There was the time he and Al Rinker reached New York, after a successful tour with Whiteman, hoping to make the town sit up, but finding that they didn't rate even a very small band. There was the time he was rejected from films because, his ears sticking out the way they did, he would look like "a taxi from the front with the doors open." And, of course, there was the time he got nodes on his vocal chords and was told that if operated on he might lose his voice. This led to the pun that he did not want to cut off his node to spite his voice.

The tide turned. Bing's brother Everett took over the business side of the Crosby enterprise, and Dixie Lee married Bing, against the advice of her friends and film studio (Crosby, they said, would never be able to support her). From there he went on from song hit to song hit, from one box-office screen success to another.

"Once or twice I've been described as a light comedian," he says. "I consider this the most accurate description of my abilities I've ever seen. That's about all I am, a light comedian."

That's Crosby. He can listen with "genuine pleasure" to Ravel and Debussy, but most of Bach (the exception is the Toccata and Fugue), Mozart, Beethoven and such elude him. And his own voice? Men like it, he claims, because he has no tricks or mannerisms, he sings the way they like to think they sing in the bath.

School for Adventure

THERE are three Outward Bound Trust Schools in England. "To realise his better self," the Trust believes, "everyone must pass in youth through some test of adventure and hardship and the adventure must be real." So at the two sea schools at Aberdovey, Wales, and Moray Firth, Scotland, and also at the Mountain School in Cumberland, boys from fifteen and a half to nineteen and a half meet with a spirit of adventure which cannot be found in ordinary schools. The boys go on sea voyages, or thirty-five mile tramps in one day and are taught sea and mountain rescue.

The work of the Trust is international and boys have come from many European countries as well as from Asia and Africa. Various bodies sponsor that trust, such as industrial companies, banks, insurance companies and schools which also nominate the boys for their twenty-six day course. Local education authorities have the power to make grants for boys they select, and a number of charitable organisations give bursaries to boys who are unable to find the fees. The BBC's feature programme *And Not to Yield* takes listeners with Wynford Vaughan Thomas to the Mountain School, fifty acres situated half-way up Eskdale, one of the most beautiful dales in Cumberland. The programme will be heard from 2YA on Saturday, February 12, at 10.30 a.m.

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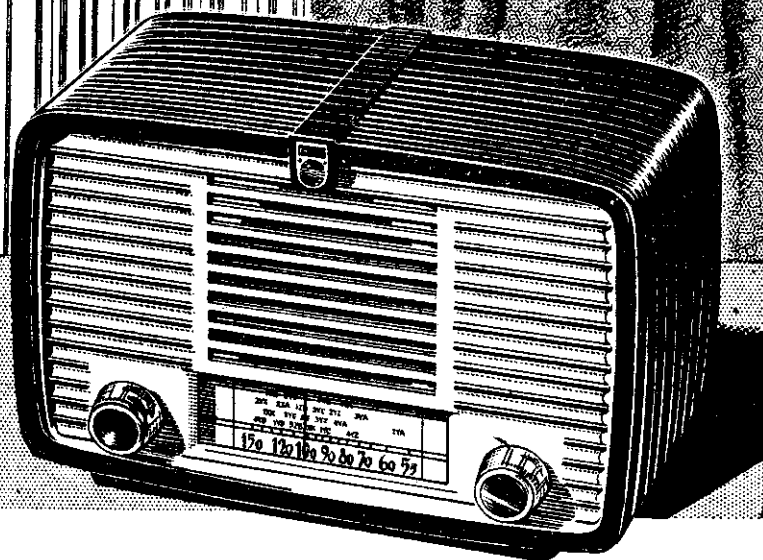
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