Lodge Listens . . .



"And now a progress score from the Test Match—New Zealand appear to be all out for a very small score"

and comes out in top gear. . . Which re- the original prospector, Harry Lassiter. minds me of that bit in The Wages of Fear where. . . But there, I'm sure everyone who listened to The Wages of Fear will understand that I find it difficult to remember back to that Home Science Refresher Course.

Communicating a Miracle

STRANGE play, The Wind of Heaven, and a sustaining one. Last Thursday's NZBS production did it justice. The play depends for its dramatic effect upon the communication of a miracle-strong rapport must be established between players and that elusive quarry, the radio audience, and I think the NZBS players succeeded. I imagine most listeners were, like me, quickened to joy and wonder by the play's innocent and mature vision of a Second Coming. And, quite apart from the message. I surrendered to the aural felicity of the whole production. The Welsh lilt of some of the speaking voices and the rich harmonies of the off-stage choirs reinforced most satisfyingly the deep chords of the theme. -M.B.

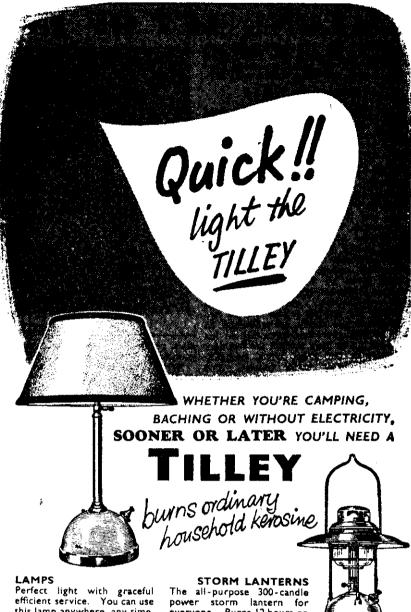
All That Glisters

ONE is accustomed to thinking of the gold fever as a 19th Century malady and that the cycle of the fever was com-pleted in the 20th Century by re-interring the gold in vaults. It came, therefore, as something of a surprise to hear the BBC Documentary Quest in the Desert, and to learn from it that a saga which began in 1893 with the discovery of a reef in Central Australia, was finally consummated in 1931 by the death of

It was news to me, too, that marauding aboriginal tribes could be considered a major hazard in 1931; indeed, one member of the expedition was speared to his death. It was a good documentary, full of the sound and feel of the Central Australian landscape, with its appalling privations and rigours, and I found the Australian voices vigorous and authentic. I say authentic, because the programme was produced and recorded in the London Studios of the BBC. There must have been quite a round-up of dinkum characters.

Victorian Baroque

STUMBLED on No Name, the BBC serial which 2YC has been broadcasting on Saturday nights, about the third episode and ever since have "not been able to put it down." It is a wonderful piece of baroque invention by Wilkie Collins, full of scrolls, curlicues, and intrigue, all performed in a highly stylised Victorian idiom, which rolls off the tongues of its leading characters. Isabel Jeans and Flora Robson take the main roles, but my favourite character is Horatio Wragg, an unnamed actor, with every opportunity for unctuous rodomontade. He is a professional swindler and trickster, and gives to his job the skill and devotion of a dedicated artist. There is no Graham Greene seediness about this confidence man; he is eloquent and disarming, and his voice rings with health and conviction. Last Saturday, he succeeded in throwing his client into an incestuous marriage. To extricate her from this situation will tax even the formidable talents of Horatio Wragg. --- B.E.G.M.



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