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J6-6R

FOR a radio and repertory actress Pauline Kermode showed, we thought, exceptional reticence when we persuaded her at last to come in and tell us about herself. After all, we pointed out, she had worked for *The Listener* not so long ago, and should be willing to give us some bright copy. But Pauline kept pretty closely to bare facts, and insisted that there should be "no IN AFRICA frills." The Kermode story, we discovered, began in Salisbury, Rhodesia, but Pauline went to England as a little girl and after a few more years came out to New Zealand. Here she spent some years in Napier before settling in Wellington. She was educated principally at Marsden College and Victoria University College.

An interest in both radio and drama began very early, for Pauline admits she "must have been only about 10" when she had a small part in a broadcast series called *Know Your Child*. At that age it was exciting to be a professional, collecting half a guinea a broadcast for speaking only a few lines. While still at school Pauline also took part in 2YA *Children's Session* programmes, and as recently as 1950, while she was on holiday in Australia, wrote a series of letters which were broadcast in the

Open Microphone

NEWS OF BROADCASTERS ON AND OFF THE RECORD

"and of course the same is found in all the other arts." In Mr. Badura-Skoda's opinion the best kind of audience is the one that's quiet while an item is being played. Then, he feels, the atmosphere is charged with a kind of electricity. "It gives an artist a wonderful feeling," he said, "when a great crowd is completely silent and he feels almost alone." The applause at the end is the final reward, he added, and no performer ever minds how many times he is recalled.

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WHEN James F. Mudie takes over shortly from Robert Stead as BBC representative for Australia and New Zealand it will not be his first broadcasting job well East of England. As far back as 1939, as a young man in his early twenties, he worked for the Malaya Broadcasting Company after a short spell with the BBC's Engineering Division. He has a more personal interest in Australia through his wife, who was born there.

Mr. Mudie, who is 39 years old, went to school in Edinburgh and at the Royal Technical College, Glasgow, and joined the BBC on the technical side in 1937. The war found him in Malaya, where he served with the Royal Corps of Signals and was taken a prisoner of war in 1941. He remained in enemy hands till 1945. After the war Mr. Mudie returned to the BBC and was with the Overseas Service, in the Presentation Department and the Ceylon Programme section. Later his experience of the East was drawn on when he spent four years in Singapore as Head of the British Far Eastern Broadcasting Service. Since last year he has been Senior Planning Assistant with the BBC Television Service.

Mr. Mudie has one daughter.

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THE Australian tenor Ronald Dowd, always popular with operatic and concert audiences here, has within the last few months joined the Sadler's Wells (continued on next page)



BBC photograph

JAMES F. MUDIE
Well East of England

N.Z. LISTENER, JULY 27, 1956.

session. A year after that she joined the staff of the Broadcasting Service. Several positions during her three years in the Service included, apart from one at *The Listener*, spells in the Head Office Music Library and in Head Office Talks Section. In 1954 Pauline left the NZBS to go abroad.

"I went to England to study drama," she told us, "but besides doing that I was able to take my L.T.C.L. and to see a good deal of Britain and the Continent. I was away from New Zealand altogether for 14 months. Highlights of the trip? Well, the real highlights, I suppose, were a skiing holiday in Austria and repeated visits to Stratford-upon-Avon, where the Oliviers were



N.P.S. photograph

PAULINE KERMODE
Facts without frills

playing. And Paris was wonderful, too, especially by night." During the next few months Pauline will be heard in the *Women's Hour* from the ZB and X stations and 2ZA in six talks on her Continental travels. The first will be broadcast from 2ZB this Friday (July 27).

Since coming home Pauline has been teaching speech and drama, both privately and to school classes. Drama, she admits, is still her main interest. In recent years she has taken part in both radio plays and Wellington repertory productions. Her most recent radio part was in *Christopher Columbus*, and lately she has been working hard as producer of Moliere's *Sganarelle* for the Victoria University College Drama Society. Outside working hours she has been giving some time to fencing, which she took up enthusiastically while in London. "But skiing is still my favourite recreation," she says. Incidentally, this is an interest she shares with her fiancé, John McLean, whom she will marry at the end of the year. John is in the final year of a law course at Victoria University College.

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THE Austrian pianist Paul Badura-Skoda had found his New Zealand audiences most appreciative, he told us when we saw him briefly about half-way through his tour. All over the world audiences are different, he finds, and their response largely depends upon their basic musical education. "This is true whether the artist is playing jazz or any other kind of music," he said,



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