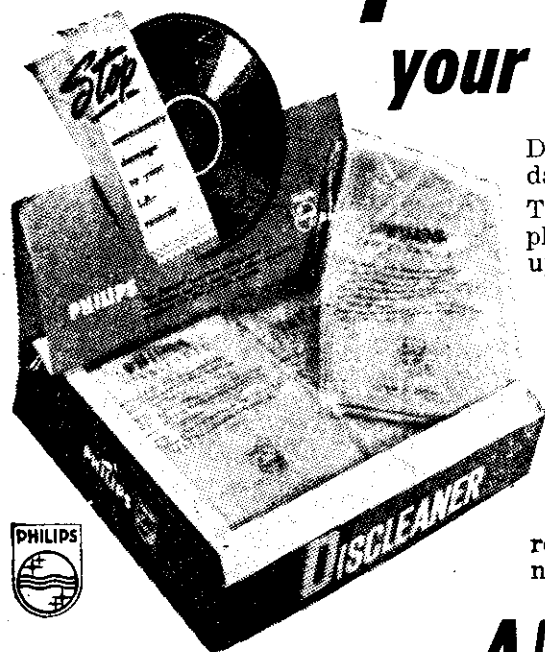


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NEWS OF BROADCASTERS ON AND OFF THE RECORD

companies and the BBC before returning to Australia in 1949 to compere ABC variety shows. She is married to a radio producer and writer, Maurice Travers. In radio and on the stage Miss Mather has had many "wicked lady" parts, but in *The Shadow of Doubt*, an NZBS play heard recently, she was able to atone. Later this year she will be heard in *The Sleeping Partner*.

Another member of *The Boy Friend* Company who has worked with Miss Mather in Grace Gibson radio productions for the past five years—though not in *Doctor Paul*—is Minnie Love. She should be well known to New Zealand listeners as Portia's personal companion, Miss Daisy, in *Portia Faces Life*. Miss Love first faced the microphone 15 years

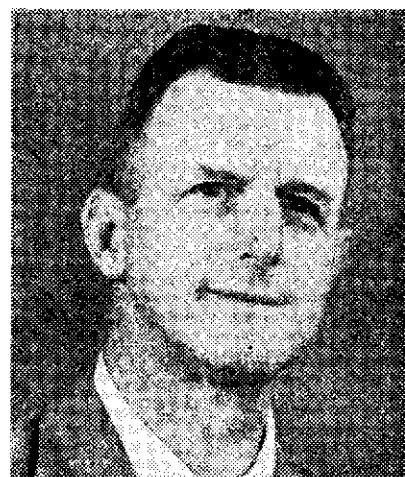
WHEN Laurel Mather (above), of *The Boy Friend* Company went along to 12B for a *Women's Hour* interview, she got rather a shock. "I was expecting to have a quiet chat with Marina," she said. "But when I got to the Radio Theatre it was full of people and I, in skirt and jumper, was the one they had come to see. I hadn't realised that *Doctor Paul*

TROUPERS was so popular in New Zealand." Listeners had

been told in advance that Miss Mather plays the notorious Elizabeth in this serial, and they turned out in strength. On two points Miss Mather was able to reassure them: *Doctor Paul* was likely to continue indefinitely, and she has not forsaken the serial for the stage.

"When we were touring with *The Boy Friend* in Australia I had to fly from Brisbane and Melbourne to record further episodes in Sydney," she told us. "And when the company came to New Zealand I had to stay behind for a couple of days and record another 13 programmes. No, I was not the original Elizabeth, although I have been playing the part now for five years. For a year

FOLLOWING THE SPRINGBOKS



ATHOL GARLICK, local commentator for the Springboks' last provincial game in New Zealand, at Rotorua, on September 28, himself represented Bay of Plenty at Rugby before the war. He was once a prominent athlete—he won the National 440 yards hurdles in record time—and was active in swimming and water polo.

ago in some of Gladys Moncrieff's musical comedy and variety shows on the ABC. She is a fine character actress, too, and in 1954 won the Macquarie Award for the best supporting radio role of the year. Born in England, Minnie Love was for several years on the London stage before coming to Australia. She has been visiting New Zealand since the First World War.

RESTLESS after 15 years as a school-master, and frustrated by the outbreak of war in 1939, Rex Alston might still not have become one of the BBC's outstanding sports commentators if he

had not been asked COMMENTATOR to billet a member of the BBC Music

Department during the war. Rex was a little reluctant about the billeting, but his guest turned his thoughts in the direction of broadcasting, and after a spell as an announcer he did his first running commentary in 1943—on a war-time cricket match. How good at his new job he became listeners will know who have been enjoying his broadcasts as a

(continued on next page)



MINNIE LOVE

before that it was played by Neva Carr-Glyn, and I had to do a careful imitation because, you know, a change of actresses is so unpopular. But over six months I was gradually able to introduce my own voice, and not a fan noticed."

Laurel Mather was born in Australia, but went to school in England, where she worked for 10 years with repertory



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