

In a crusading young reporter or something. And so it was throughout, even to the high-minded journalist who helps defeat the bureaucrat. With a change of names, the whole thing might have taken place in New Jersey. I'm still puzzled as to whether this was a case of bourgeois deviationism, East meeting West, the reconciliation of opposites, or the revelation of a basic similarity between the Soviet and the American ways of life.

### Black Mark, Edwards

IT has been said that a radio comedian is only as good as his gag-writer allows him to be. It is likewise demonstrable that when radio comics step out of their familiar roles or medium they are often lamentably unfunny. How poor have been the films made by Frankie Howerd, Fred Allen, Tommy Handley and others. The Goons have made one movie which I am told is awful—and I readily believe it. And even on the radio, a comedian who has identified himself with a particular character or show must beware of stepping out of the familiar circle. All this by way of response to Jimmy Edwards's *Desert Discs* session (1YA). The dull collection of records could be excused on the grounds of time-limit. However, in the chit-chat and dialogue exchanges, Mr. Edwards, without benefit of Messrs. Norden and Muir, seemed a mere shadow of his TIFH self, laboriously jocular, straining for a laugh as eagerly as any tyro, and even, at times, pompous. The comic rumbles and humphings, appropriate enough in TIFH, had a contrived sound here, and the chirpy interlocuter, playing straight man, was a poor substitute for Bentley. Perhaps with anyone else but Edwards this might have amused, but then the whole point of the session, I take it, was his presence. In all, a "glum" affair.

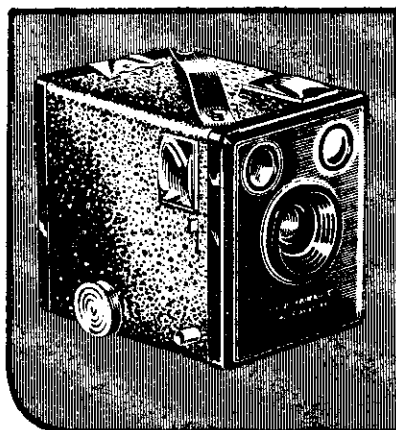
—J.C.R.

### Towards Tomorrow

THE activities of more than 30 Government departments show something of the New Zealand way of life in a series of six documentary programmes, *Towards Tomorrow*, the first of which will be broadcast by ZB stations on November 11, and other Commercial stations on November 18. The nation is shown as a giant stock company with the people as stockholders and something of the policy of the "company" is told by some of the country's public servants. The first programme begins with the cry of a newly-born New Zealander, and proceeds to the play centre, the kindergarten and the primary school; subsequent programmes deal with "The Ordered Community," "Health of the Nation," "The People's Wealth," "Communications" and "Administration." It is suggested that in no country in the world is the work of Government servants more extensive or more varied than in ours. The series was written and produced by Alan Sleeman.

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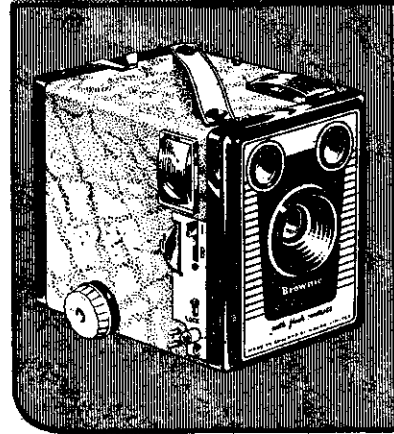
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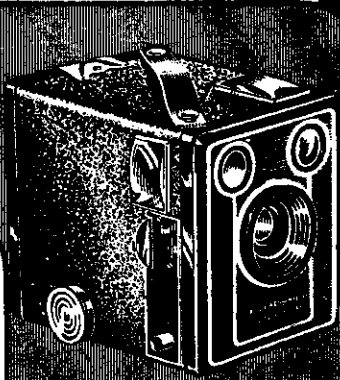
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