

at unaccountable places at least proved that London musicians will fool visually and London audiences laugh at them for it, which some here denied not so long ago. I was a little uneasy when Peter Harcourt said, in his witty and urbane commentary, that Hoffnung "exposed the pretensions of the symphony orchestra," suggesting that this was Satire with a Serious Purpose. I am sure it was nothing of the kind.

### New Zilland English

[T was a lively *Question Mark* discussion between Pamela Barnard and Harry Orsman, "Do New Zealanders Speak Badly?" but if it had been better prepared the speakers might not have thrown away their points so recklessly. There was a red herring in the title to begin with, since the real subject was whether the speech to be aimed at in New Zealand should be received standard English or some form of received New Zealand English. I would have found it easier to support Mr Orsman's argument for the second alternative if he had managed to define educated New Zealand speech and how it differed from our educated speech. Must we take him at his word and speak New Zilland English? But Mrs Barnard twice sabotaged her whole argument in favour of standard English—inadvertently, one supposes. She strongly maintained that speech reflects character, and that New Zealand speech is slovenly because New Zealanders are smug; which makes it unlikely that we can be taught to speak better unless our whole (alleged) national character is made over. And she said there was no New Zealand standard to base New Zealand speech on, though there will be in a hundred years, thus disposing of her contention that an English standard can be substituted in the meantime.

—R.D.McE.

### A Curious Play

ONE of the most original works of the Moravian composer Leos Janacek (1854-1928), *The Diary of a Young Man Who Disappeared*, can be heard from 2YC on Sunday, May 5, at 9.22 p.m. It is based on a curious newspaper report which the composer found. A well-to-do peasant's son, the hope of his parents, disappears. He leaves behind 22 poems which tell how he has followed a beautiful gypsy girl. His shame over falling for her charms has driven him into exile. This music, for soloists and chorus, contains some fine sound effects and recreates, in a mystical way peculiar to Janacek, the natural scene. Janacek composed some fine operas and two of his best ones, *Jenufa* and *Katya Kavanova*, have recently had successful revivals.

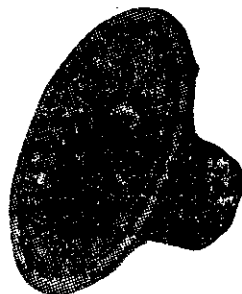
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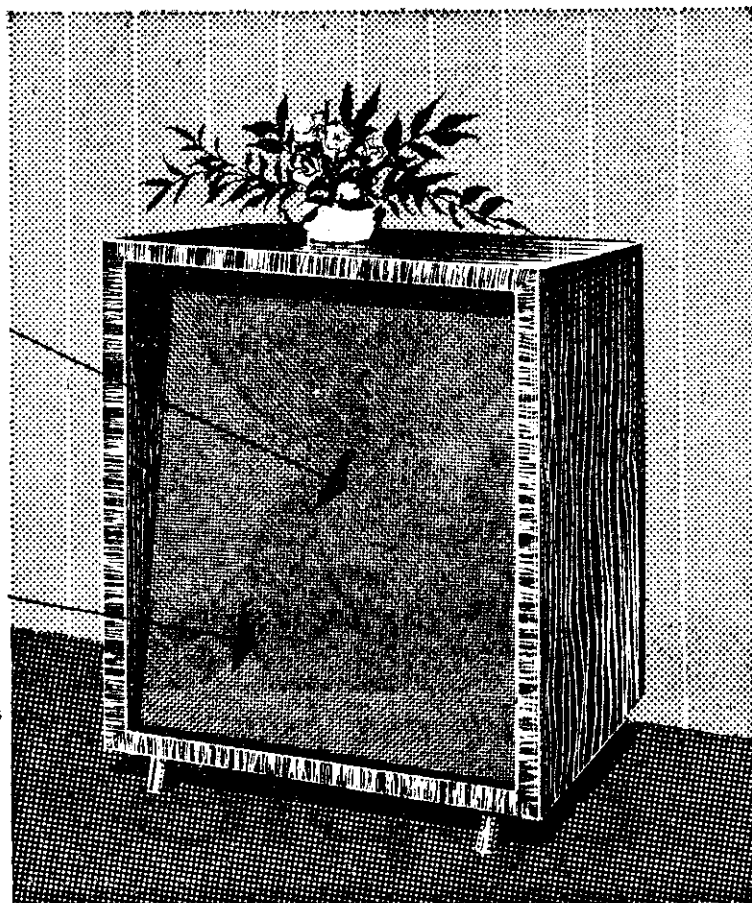
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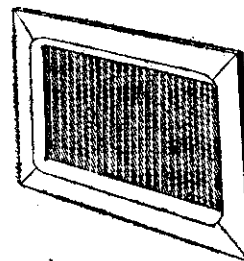
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