

rich voice—the voice of the Sybil herself—is as appropriate to the declamatory rhythms and the prophetic utterances of her later verse as Dylan Thomas's voice was to his very different poetry. In her reading, the elaborate symbolist patterns came across as passionate and profoundly simple vision, not as mannered contrivances. The beauty, compassion and deeply religious temper of these poems fell from the air like "the great dewdrops that come to the sick rose." Surely no greater poem came out of the war than "Still Falls the Rain." In Benjamin Britten's inspired setting, this poem pierced to the heart. Perhaps because I had been thinking of the hydrogen bomb tests and all they imply, I realised, as never before, how more than anyone else's poems, Dame Edith's are poems of the atomic age, how completely she catches its mood, and how, while touching universal themes, she makes the perfect comment on man's folly now. "Then to the murdered Sun a totem pole of dust arose in memory of Man." That and the "Starved Man Christ" form, surely, "the heart of the matter."

—J.C.R.

### Diatribes

A RECENT conversation runs like this: "Why don't you review more NZBS plays?" "Because the plays don't interest me." "Why don't they?" "Because they are, on the whole, more or less accurate reproductions of second-rate English successes of twenty years ago." "Then shouldn't you say something about that?" I should, and will. In the past few months, I have listened to many NZBS plays in a variety of dialects: Welsh, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Scottish; and there have been plays translated from the Spanish and the French. But, to my knowledge, there has not been a single play by a New Zealand author in, say, the last six months. Now, the quality which unites all these regional and translated plays has been a general second-rateness; none has been quite worthless, none really distinguished, and the NZBS has made a good job of them. But my point now, which I should like to hammer home, is that if English second-rate is good enough for the NZBS, why should not our own second-raters be acceptable? No doubt few first-rate plays have been written in New Zealand, but if regional comedy is to be the norm, then there is plenty of this here quite good in its way, of which I have personal experience, no less amusing and workmanlike than some of the potboilers we have heard since Christmas. Last year, the Invercargill Centennial Committee offered a handsome prize for a three-act play. The competition attracted over sixty entries from some of the most distinguished literary reputations in this country. Six were named by the judge in his placing. Does the NZBS propose to produce them? Have they solicited scripts from all the authors who entered? I really think they should, if broadcast drama is to be taken seriously in this country.

—B.E.G.M.

### PLASTIC COAT TORN?

Plastine will mend it. Plastine mends all pvc plastics, curtains, bags, inflatable toys. Ideal for putting plastic linings in lunch cases, covering books, mending garden hoses. Simple to use. 2/3 per tube. Your store has it, or will order for you from UNIPLAST, P.O. Box 734, Hamilton.



### "THE RECORD MONTHLY"

LISTS EVERY NEW RECORD released in N.Z. each month. Keep right up-to-date on all new releases, pops, jazz, classical. All for LESS THAN £1 per year! Send 18/- (Postal Note, cash, or Money Order) for a year's sub., or see your local record dealer.

THE RECORD MONTHLY,  
Record Publishing Co.,  
P.O. Box 175, Christchurch.



### To match the '51' Pen The Parker '51' Ballpoint

Elegant and beautiful, and as finely made, Parker Ballpoints are perfect companions to famous Parker Pens and Pencils. Five times the usual writing capacity, with a sliding cap that extends and retracts the writing point.

and the Parker Duofold Ballpoint to match the Duofold Pen range

Always buy  
**2tins**

THE ESSENTIAL  
HOUSEHOLD MILK



ZSC52.6

**HIGHLANDER**  
SWEETENED CONDENSED MILK

**Famous hands**  
*are proud to accept*  
*a Parker '51'*

Hands which have received the world's highest honours with no less pride accept the treasured gift of a Parker '51' . . . the most gracious compliment famous people can pay their friends. No pen was ever more perfect, with its precision-made elegance, its beautiful proportions, the satin-smooth writing of its electro-polished point. Someone you know—perhaps you yourself—deserves the one pen famous people give and use. The world's most wanted pen. The Parker '51'.



For best results in all pens  
use Parker Quink—the  
only ink containing Solv-x.

**Parker '51'**

PRICES: Parker "51" Gold Cap Pen, 165/-; Pencil, 78/-.  
Parker "51" Lustraloy Cap Pen, 137/6; Pencil, 47/8.  
Parker Duofold Pens, from 39/6 to 75/-; Pencil, 34/-.  
Parker Ballpoints: "51" Gold Cap, 78/-; "51" Lustraloy, 47/6; Duofold, 34/-.

N.Z. Distributors and Repair Service Station:  
E. J. Hyams & Son Ltd., 118 Wakefield Street, Wellington.