

hoven's changes of mind. It was fascinating to hear parts of the symphony played as it might have been finally written, but even more fascinating to catch, under Bernstein's crisp guidance, glimpses of genius at work, to feel the agonised struggle towards perfection, towards realisation of the Idea. Apart from the intrinsic interest of this programme, which opens up inviting vistas of similar analyses, what a fresh light it threw on the familiar symphony! When, after the talk, the old war-horse came charging out, it seemed to be newly caparisoned and to bear round its head the light of Valhalla.

—J.C.R.

## As They Said

WE weren't told whose brilliant notion it was to use the *Oxford Book of English Talk* as the basis for a radio series, but the outcome was splendid. In one way *As We Said* was a synthetic product, since very properly no attempt was made to reproduce the pronunciation of earlier times. But the same is true of Shakespeare. We may not have heard the right sounds but we heard the right words, and they made perfect radio. Is it only the novelty of the vocabulary and usage which makes it seem that ordinary people in those days could express themselves more forcibly and picturesquely than is usual now? Several of the best of the earlier extracts were from court records, before court reporters grew sophisticated enough to doctor speech according to their ideas of propriety. There was one most engaging heretic. Even the knowledge that she went to the stake for what she said couldn't dim the pleasure of hearing her sprightly back-chat. On the other Mr Trevor made the Earl of Strafford's defence at his trial sound almost unbearably poignant. And there were many other good things. I hope the book will be made to yield up more of its treasures in the future.

## Give Us a Break

IT'S unfair to use Athol Congalton's first talk on *Measuring Intelligence* as the text for a sigh about YC talks in general, for it was very good of its kind. It was clearly written, without too much jargon, it was unexceptionably delivered, it embodied his own experience, and it told us something we ought to be told: that most of us when we talk about I.Q.'s don't know what we're talking about. It was one of the best of the type of earnest, intelligent, informative and unimaginative talk which gives the YC schedule the look of an adult education course. I have no objection to it at all. All I object to is that there is so little respite from this kind of talk, so much talking to be interested in, so little to delight in. Speakers who can talk with wit and imagination are often considered lightweights, and you find them on the YAs. I'm pleased to see the YAs given talks like D. W. McKenzie's *Wonderful World of Maps*, but I'd like more of his kind from the YCs, people who will give us something approaching intelligent conversation rather than lectures. Every now and then such a talk appears—Eileen Duggan on Walter de la Mare would have been one if it hadn't been so badly read by her substitute. But oh for more of them!

—R.D.McE.

N.Z. LISTENER, AUGUST 2, 1957.

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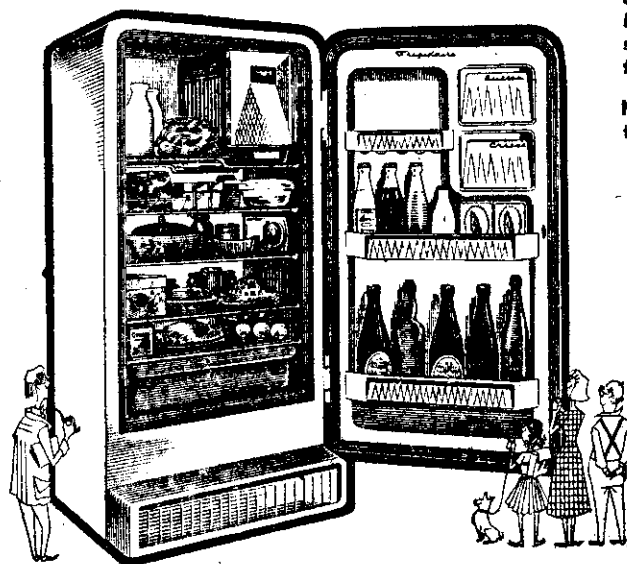


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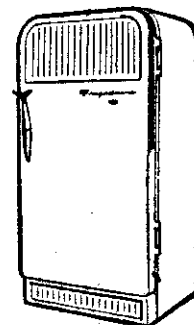
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