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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

THE PLAYS OF J. B. PRIESTLEY, VOLUME II., 16/9 posted. This volume of plays by Britain's great playwright contains "Laburnum Grove," "Bees on the Boat Deck," "When We Are Married," "Good Night Children," "The Golden Fleece," "How Are They at Home," and "Ever Since Paradise."

27 WAGONS FULL OF COTTON, AND OTHER PLAYS, Tennessee Williams, 10/6 posted. In "A Streetcar Named Desire" and "The Glass Menagerie" Mr. Williams established himself as a playwright of deep perception and poetic imagination. This collection of eleven short plays shows the same qualities.

GAUGUIN. With Introduction and notes by Herbert Read, 10/9 posted. Another Faber Gallery book, containing 16 superb colour plates of this most fascinating of the impressionists.

SHAW, C. E. M. Joad, 16/6 posted. G.B.S. has provoked numerous biographies. This one, by a figure of no little stature himself, aims less at being a factual study than at picturing the influence of Shaw the philosopher, and political thinker—the man who overthrew the shibboleths of an era.

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Obituary

Distinguished Musician

DR. J. C. BRADSHAW, who died in Christchurch on January 16, was one of New Zealand's most distinguished musical figures. Formerly the Christchurch Cathedral organist and Professor of Music at Canterbury University College, he was associated with broadcasting over many years. He was one of New Zealand's finest organists, and his broadcast recitals were both popular and held in high esteem. He did much to champion the work of Elgar, and one of his last recitals was of Elgar's Sonata for Organ in G Major, Op. 28. He was conductor at various times of most of the Christchurch choral societies, and founded the Male Voice Choir there in 1917. As choirmaster at the Cathedral he had a wide influence in this sphere of music, and many hundreds of boys passed through his exacting hands, to their own benefit, and to the benefit of musical standards throughout the country. Dr. Bradshaw was born in Lancashire in 1876, and later was appointed assistant organist at the Manchester Cathedral. After winning many scholarships and diplomas he became in

1898, at the age of 22, the youngest Doctor of Music in the British Empire. He came to New Zealand in 1902, and in addition to his musical activities was a member of the New Zealand Alpine Club. Several years ago he gave the bulk of his extensive music library, including hundreds of text-books and scores, to the Christchurch Public Library.



DR. J. C. BRADSHAW

Radio Review

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when he conveyed to us Antony's despair over his defeat at Actium. Here for once the illusion of life penetrated right through the medium of the radio—only to be dashed to the ground by the announcement that for the next thirty-six minutes I could listen to the Overseas and New Zealand News, the *United Nations Album*, and the result of the New Zealand bowling championships. This to my mind betrayed a complete lack of imagination. At any rate, the interval should not have lasted for longer than fifteen minutes. Fay Compton singularly failed to conjure up the image of "the old serpent of the Nile" or "the ancient Parisienne," as Heinrich Heine called Cleopatra. The woman of irresistible charm "whom everything becomes, to chide, to laugh, to weep; whose every passion fully strives to make itself fair and admir'd." In whatever scene Cleopatra appears Shakespeare lights up her character from a different angle—what chances of variation in shade and tone and volume of her voice were missed here! The illusion of reality and the note of intimacy were achieved,

however, in Bernard Miles's part as Enobarbus, in Eros, and in the roles of Cleopatra's maids. These parts pulsed with life in an unaffected and convincing manner. These actors gave us a taste of what the play might have been. Still I do not wish to let my disappointment run into ingratitude. I am immensely interested in this experiment of the BBC *World Theatre* and am looking forward to the other performances with enthusiasm.

—R.R.

Festival Overture Competition

A PRIZE of £50 is being offered by the Auckland Music Council for an orchestral overture of from eight to 15 minutes' duration, to be performed at the Council's Second Annual Music Festival next June. The overture must be the work of a New Zealander (including those temporarily resident abroad) and entries must reach the Secretary of the Council (or a specified overseas addressee) by March 31 next. Full details of conditions, judging arrangements, entries, and the method of submission of entries, can be obtained from the Secretary at Box 1411, Auckland.