

mouthed. A hundred million of them no doubt are. The other fifty million have nothing to learn from Australians and New Zealanders, and if a book I have read this week is even roughly

true as a picture of

APRIL 14 American soldiers their profanity is dirtier than ours, and in most respects more offensive. The book is Norman Mailer's *The Naked and the Dead*, a war novel I had read about but not previously seen. I know not how far any war novel can be accepted as a picture of civilians in uniform. Some of the men are regulars, some recent draftees; some claim to be college graduates, some are almost or wholly illiterate. But the language with a few exceptions is something that it would be unusual to hear among our crudest, roughest, most ostentatious purveyors of verbal filth, with no compensating advantages in pungency and general effectiveness. The over-all picture is powerful, painful, and to those who believe in democracy and liberty deeply disturbing. The only modern war novel I have read that makes as deep an impression is Dan Davin's *For the Rest of Our Lives*, but to compare the two is like comparing the kind of Adam a Congo native might have modelled from mud and baked in a home-made oven with the raw, primitive, but essentially civilised masterpiece of Epstein. They can no more be compared than mocassins and leather boots, which, although they both serve the same purpose, begin and end on a different level. And one of the chief obstacles to comparison is this verbal difference—the language of Mailer's division on Anopopei is as far from that of Davin's division in the desert as a mouth-organ is from a fiddle. Whether we regard profanity as a release from inhibitions or merely as lack of discipline, as poverty of language or just a dirty and offensive habit, it has its standards and fashions, and sinks below those only in the decadence of age or the moral and social illiteracy of adolescence.

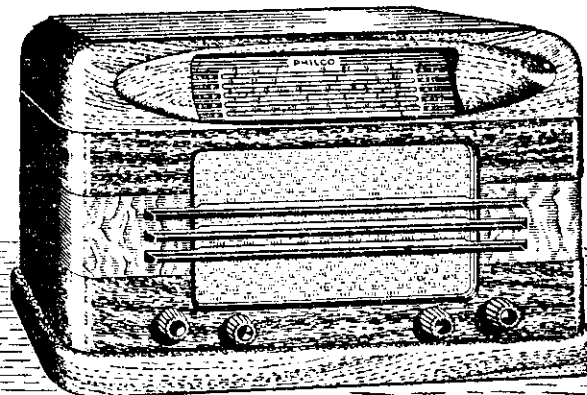
(To be continued)

New Quiz from 3ZB

THEO SCHOU, who conducted the *Do You Know?* quiz at 3ZB for more than five years, has now devised a quiz with a difference which is on the air from this station at 8.45 p.m. every Monday. In *Give and Take*, four competitors begin with 10 points each. After a warming-up question (a small prize, but no points), Theo Schou asks 20 questions. The entrants compete to answer each question, the first to answer getting two points if correct and losing two if incorrect. This fast-moving show can give many surprises. It is possible, for instance, for a competitor to double his original 10 points and yet end with none, or for one entrant to say nothing yet emerge the winner. The three place-winners get a cash prize, and a booby prize—anything from a mouse trap to a gold clock—is given to the lowest scorer. The show winds up with a jackpot question, for which lots are drawn.

"IT'S a horrid fact that most books fail; no matter how skilful and experienced the writer, he still has only a slight chance of success; like the miner he is working in the dark; he has only the lamp of his own intelligence and vision, his own feeling, to guide him."
—Rumer Godden, well-known novelist, in a BBC programme "On Writing and Drudgery."

N.Z. LISTENER, MAY 25, 1951.



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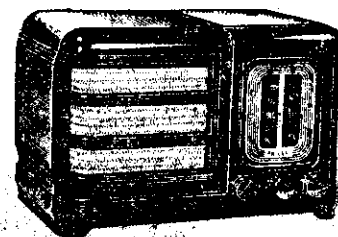
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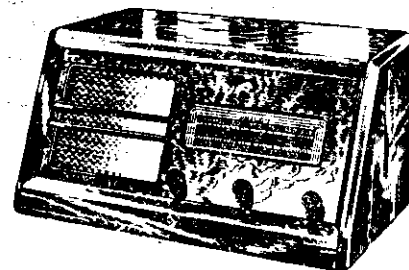
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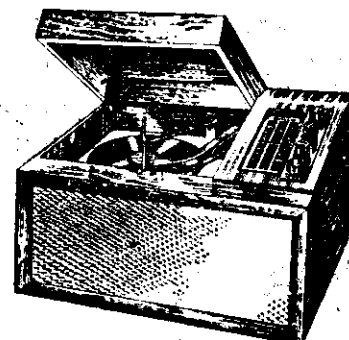
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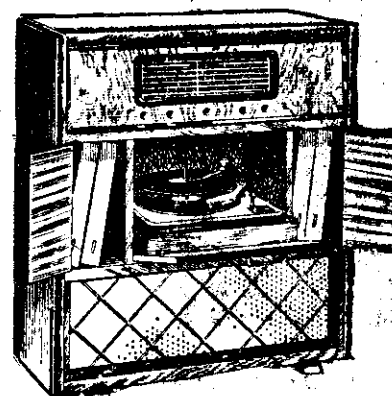
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