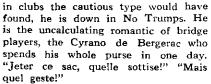
A BLAZE IN THE HA

hear a phrase like this from 1YC, a station given mainly to the arts and to the politely formal lan- Author and Publisher guage of their critics. Sports commentators speak straight from their hearts, and in this case Bruce C. Bell when a play lasts for an hour and a

and Len McKillop were devoting their Bridge on the Air session to the No Trump Bid.

"For some reason or other the No Trump Bid brings out the worst in human nature." It certainly brings out human nature. A man sees a general sort of blaze in his hand, he bids it without adding, he misses a mean slam



When I graduated from auction at the table of my father, an inveterate No-trumper, I found that neither Culbertson nor two-pence a hundred cramped these characters. But the Culbertson No Trump had no panache. It knocked out the suits with a blunt instrument, and recriminations were acid and precise. Similar language crops up in chamber music, though not publicly, when a pianist joins a string quartet. The piano score looks handsome, the notes may be the merest supporting accompaniment, but the pianist will play them as game in No Trumps.

Bridge is the chamber music of games. It comes over the air with the same ficial response" and "raise into a major suit," like an exposition of musical form, Both Mr. Bell and Mr. McKillop expertly developed their theme, which on this evening was the Gladiator No Trump Bid, devised by the late Dr. Bruce MacKenzie.

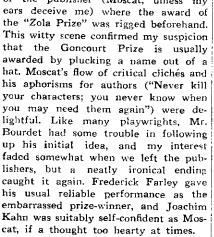
The system promises to restore subtlety to the No Trump Bid, and the name Gladiator surely reaffirms its defiance. There was even a loophole for a born No-trumper. We were told that the minimum for one of the bids was "36 points-or a good 35." A 35-point hand will always look good if you need 36 points to bid. The Jacks are almost Kings-they are Crown Princes anyway -that 3 of diamonds is bound to make with any luck-it's really better than the conventional 36-pointer if you have

The experts finished with a reminder chosen, it should be used consistently. another language we arts critics are shy

HIS is a tale of vice and about, No-trumpers will easily manage sorrow." One does not often the semper, but they are born of the genus mutabile. -Nanook

MOST of us can take crime or even fantasy in half-hour doses, but,

half as did Edouard Bourdet's Prize Novel (1YC), we expect something fairly substantial. This piece, however. amply justified its selection. A skilful satire on the French literary scene and the writer's use of real-life material, it i had a rare sparkle and incisiveness. The best part, I thought, was the first act in the office of the publisher (Moscat, unless my



N.Z. Church Music

WHY is it that, when New Zealand composers are discussed, we rarely lucid pleasure, building up by "arti- hear mentioned the several admirable composers of Church music this country possesses? Is it that, perhaps, the works are heard by too limited a range of people-or that some prejudice exists against accepting music so wedded to a special purpose as music pure and simple? (Poor old Bach!) Whatever the reason, the NZBS is performing a worthy service with the recorded series of Church Music by New Zealand Composers now running from 1YC. The works are performed splendidly by the Christchurch Cathedral Choir, with all the austere beauty of men's and boys' voices. Last week we heard composi-tions by Dr. Vernon Griffiths, Professor of Music at Canterbury University College, who must be one of the most prolific of our composers. This was a moving session of devotional music in the truest sense of the term, in which the Magnificat, the Gloria and the Super Omnia Ligna Cedrorum stood out for me. Here, that whatever No Trump system was I felt, was not a little of that "serenity and luminous spirituality" which Dr. In fact, they said semper eadem, using Richard Terry finds in Byrd's music. It

(continued on next page)



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