

valiant efforts of a competent cast to make it all sound important. When the plot is so shop-worn, only some "lift" in the language can save a play; the language here was of the "Do you think so?" "No." "Are you sure?" "Yes." variety. Not a very happy choice of script, and definitely not in 1YC class—though it may have the effect of sharpening our appreciation of the better offerings.

—J.C.R.

Man's Proper Study

[F I should ask for a gift over and above my own very modest portion, it would be for a retentive memory. What grace can excel a mind full of anecdote as well as intelligence? And indeed, what use, culturally speaking, is a naked intelligence without that store of material upon which it ought to be exercised? It was precisely this richness which F. L. Combs brought to his first two 3YC talks on "Types of Personality." Mr. Combs believes that the proper study of mankind is man and that the best fields for its exploration are the novel and history. In dealing in each talk with different types, e.g., the constructive and vain-glorious, he was able to range far and wide without straining the net, an important point. It is easy to start off on a long journey in the wrong footwear and find the going hard before you have travelled the least part of a journey you know quite well. Mr. Combs was happy, too, in the choice of Mr. Farley, a reader who, despite the occasional slip, delivered the whole with understanding, a thing which does not always happen when someone else reads.

—Westcliff

Everything in a Name

THERE are those who sneer at the morning serials, but I feel that there can be nothing intrinsically tawdry about dramas which give their heroines such good wholesome names. I don't think I have ever met in a morning serial a name that would send a mother rushing to the registrar now and raise a blush on a youthful cheek in twenty years' time—you still have to get your more exotic names, your Cressidas and Imogens and Mirandas, from Shakespeare via beauty-parlour fiction. Perhaps writers of radio serials are conscious of the need for a name with good wearing qualities, a name that will come trippingly from the tongue four days out of seven for fifty-two weeks of the year. Hence the popularity of Ruth—short, sweet and sturdy—which rose to fame with *Big Sister*, and is being aired currently in *The House of Conflict*. Mary and Barbara are firm favourites, and Jane comes in for quite a lot of wear and tear. When a name with fewer associations is required writers still resist the urge to do anything really fancy—Rita Mara-

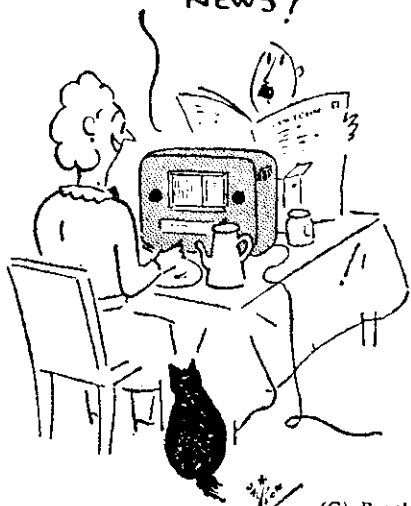
den is, I think, the nearest they got to it—but continue along the straight and narrow with names we wouldn't choose like Lilian, Mildred and Eleanor.

—M.B.

Corny Classics

PEOPLE who enjoy classical music have a thin time from 4YA on Saturdays. Other days may provide their Proms, or the musical broadcasts to schools, or Morning Star, not to mention the never-failing Classical Hour in the afternoon. But on Saturdays? No. A life-line used to be thrown out in Composer Corner, which often provided good listening. Once we were given a Beethoven sonata and a song; another time it was a complete Mozart concerto. Now tuning in to this programme merely proves a triumph of hope over experience, for it has become just another "popular classics" session — (one might ask, popular with whom?) Schumann was the composer in this corner the other day. As illustrations of his work, we were given the song "Dedication" and "Papillons." No doubt it was only the imminent approach of the next programme that saved us from "Traumerei." If we are to be vouchsafed only fifteen minutes of 4YA's time on Saturdays, might we not be given something with fewer concessions to popular taste?

HERE IS THE NEWS!



(C) Punch

Radio Doctor

NOT since *Me and Gus* went off the air have I enjoyed a radio personality as much as I enjoy the Radio Doctor. He is rather like Mark Hendrick, with the same slow, ruefully humorous narration. I have heard him speaking on baldness and on tonics, talks that were well constructed and beautifully delivered, informative and amusing. He throws off mild jokes in passing, designating one tonic as "arsenic and old nails," or commenting that "one can readily imagine that gold can be a tonic on certain occasions." His peroration to this talk summed up a lifetime's experience of many characters in search of a tonic. "Oh, the blind faith of miserable mortals in the restoring effect of a bottle of highly-coloured and preferably ill-tasting tonic. Oh, that belief in the bottle! It makes one weep." As far as I can gather, these talks are to be heard only at 9.30 on Tuesday mornings. They are well worthy of inclusion in the evening programme.

—Loquax

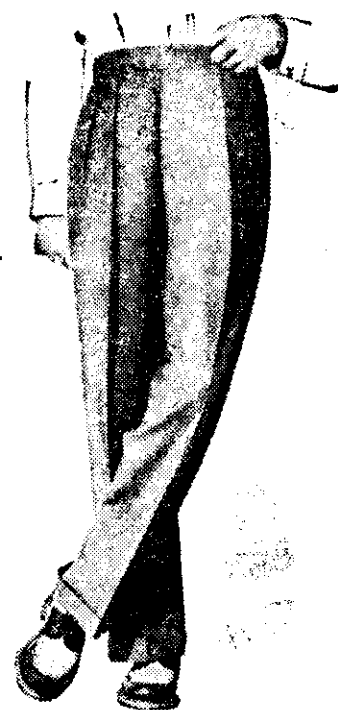
SECOND CHANCE

LISTENERS who were unable to hear the first broadcast of the NZBS production of "Moby Dick," from 1YC on March 15, will be glad to hear that it will be broadcast from 2YC at 8.0 p.m. on Sunday, April 27. "Moby Dick" is probably the most ambitious production ever undertaken by the Auckland Production Studios of the NZBS.

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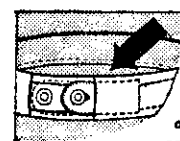
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