

BOOKS

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finds on his return). It is not only a pleasure instead of a hardship to read this book but one has at least the impression that it has said something important about its subject. Cadell writes as if he could perceive what was going on in front of him and find the right images to fix it on the page. He has published two thrillers under another name but this is his first serious novel.

—Hubert Witheford

TRUE CONFESSIONS

MY TURN TO MAKE THE TEA. by Monica Dickens. Michael Joseph. English price, 10/6.

MONICA DICKENS continues her true confessions, this time as a junior reporter for a small provincial newspaper. Small-town journalism can be as amusing (from the outside) in England, as in places much further from Fleet Street; and Miss Dickens, who has a quick eye for detail, brings life to a dull routine and a rather drab little office. She is at her best, perhaps, when she describes her boarding house, her fearsome landlady and her fellow-boarders. The novelist's touch does not fail her in the treatment of people. It is hoped, however, that truth and fiction have been safely blended: the author

may otherwise be a little diffident about returning to places which have supplied her with so much useful material.

FOR HOME-BUILDERS

THE NEW ZEALAND HOUSE. by the Home Architect of The Weekly News, M. H. Bowden. Auckland, 10/6.

THE special value of this book is in the attention given to the needs of home-builders with modest resources. People to whom its ideas and suggestions are mainly directed are "average citizens" who must use small savings and a loan not exceeding £2000. What are their chances (asks the author) "of buying a section and building say, a two-bedroom house with the finances available?" The answers are given in three parts: hints on construction and planning, some plans and descriptions of houses and sections, and a general specification. Everything is set out clearly, and no details are omitted which might help a practical man to build the house he wants and can afford.

THE new programme, "What Women Are Doing," first broadcast from the ZB stations during the 2.30 p.m. "Women's Hour" on Monday (April 21) will be heard from these stations on Mondays at the same time during the following weeks. The series will begin from 1XH and 2ZA on Monday, April 28, during "Women's Hour," but will be broadcast from these stations on Fridays thereafter.

Magicians' Night at IYA.

ANYTHING can happen—well, practically anything, when magicians foregather, as they do at regular intervals. At all events, there's sure to be strange goings on. Usually these meetings are top secret affairs, open only to privileged guests, but fortunately for listeners, Rex Sayers, of IYA (and his microphone), was among the select few non-members present when the Auckland Brotherhood of Magicians held their last monthly get-together. What actually did happen on that occasion will be revealed by IYA at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday, May 3, in *Magic Parade*. The guest of honour was Virgil, a distinguished American magician now touring this country. Interviews with him and several members of the Auckland Brotherhood will be included in the broadcast as well as Mr. Sayers's description of the evening's magic.

There are about 200 practising magicians in New Zealand. The *Listener* discovered, belonging to brotherhoods scattered throughout the country. The Auckland group has eighteen members. From time to time a Dominion Con-

vention is held—the last one was in Christchurch two years ago—lasting five or six days and with a normal attendance of between seventy and eighty practitioners. Houdini Day, the last Saturday in October, is observed here in the traditional manner, by entertaining as many orphanage children as possible. Auckland's magicians observe Halloween, too, every second year, with a special programme complete with ghosts, skulls, skeletons and weird noises.

The *Listener* wanted to know how one becomes a magician.

"It's all a matter of enthusiasm, study and constant practice," Alan Matthews, a member and former president of the Auckland Brotherhood explained. "Prospective new members have to entertain the Brotherhood with a 15-minute show. Then they may be given six months' probationary membership, and finally admitted—if they have proved they are really keen and active. Magic can be quite a serious study. There's always something new to learn."



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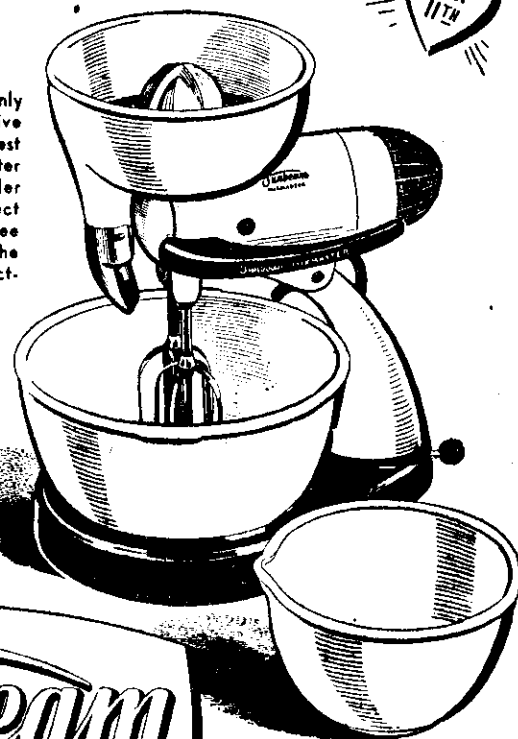


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