

Lodge Listens . . .



but Russell, like Boswell, like Dr. Watson, has managed to steal the show with his sly wit, and above all, his urbanity, which leaves us unprepared for statements such as: "I laughed so heartily at *Eminent Victorians*, that the prison guard felt obliged to remind me that prison is a place of punishment." Or again, of Lytton Strachey as an historian: "In my more unkind moments, I have even thought he was a little like—Macaulay." But most surprising of all was his sudden descent into straight-out mimicry of Strachey's squeaky voice, with amazing effect. Russell was playing *enfant terrible* with gusto, and the result was delightful.

—Loquax

Off the Target

I REMEMBER being told by both Ngaio Marsh and John Casson that the Theatre expects you, the audience, to contribute your bit to the success of the entertainment. But with a radio play you're excused—you can sit back and expect to be entertained. My recent experience of NZBS plays has led me to expect to be entertained rather well, so that I found myself jarred by a lack of technical finish in the production of the recent play, *The Touch of Silk*. The players with Australian accents seemed incapable of flattening their vowels without flattening their reactions, and the heroine was saddled with a Fifth-from-gay-Parée accent which roused in the audience unseemly expectation of farce. The play had a wealth of tragic material—drought, financial ruin, in-law trouble, manslaughter, sadness, misalliance but somehow the whole thing fell short.

—M.B.

French Language Programmes

A SERIES of four half-hour spoken programmes supplied by L'Alliance Française is scheduled for broadcast shortly from YC stations. Entitled *Paroles de France*, the series includes readings from French poets and writers, interviews with Andre Siegfried and Jean Cocteau, and a visit to a French schoolroom. The first programme, entitled *Men and Liberty*, consists of a reading by P. Fouchet of Rabelais's story of the birth of Pantagruel. "Liberty" read by the poet Paul Eluard, and the "Song of the Partisans," a song of the French Resistance. It will be heard first from 3YC at 9.30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 14, and later from other YC stations.

Immediately following each broadcast of the spoken programme there will be a half hour musical programme from the series *Masterworks from France*. This consists largely of French compositions seldom heard in New Zealand. The first programme in the series includes works by Freberger, Couperin, Rameau, Ravel and Messiaen. They are performed by the Ondes Martenot Quartet, a combination using the electrical instrument invented by Maurice Martenot. Its seven-octave keyboard can be adapted to cover the whole range of audible sound.

WHY is the English Bible reckoned as one of the masterpieces of English literature? For one thing it is an encyclopaedia of every kind of literature—drama, poetry, ode, proverb, epistle, lucid narrative; but again it presents us with a vast canvas depicting a mighty panorama of the complex lives of all sorts and conditions of men.—G. A. F. Knight, in an NZBS Book Shop talk.

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