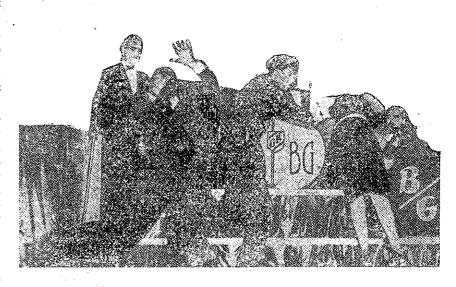
LOOK right . . . The camera of a New York reporter catches a stronge scene. "Swing"maddened dancers in a night club are storming the orchestra, embracing the performers, swaying their bodies to the rhythm of jungle music.

That sort of thing doesn't happen in New Zealand. For some reason, racial or otherwise, our emotions are not stirred up to the same pitch. We don't lose control. We—those of us who are "swing" addicts merely close our eyes and tap our

But what ingredient is there in "swing" that moddens mobs in America? and how much does that same ingredient affect "swing" fans nearer home?



HE psychiatrists--the mental specialis ts —of America have at last begun to sit up and take notice of a new epidemie that is sweeping the country -- "swing" hys-

Fortunately (perinevitably) habs few of the symptoms have yet appeared in British countries.

We have yet to see half-crazed dancers mob a dance orchestra and embrace performers, others making grimaces that would frighten a professional medicine man in deepest Africa, still others seized with convulsion-like paroxysms that are a fair imitation of an epileptic fit. . . .

Such things are possible only in an amazing society that toler-ates Hollywood "religious." Reno divorce laws, negro lynchings, and elected judges.

There seems little doubt that the people who are so powerfully affected are in themselves unbalanced emotionally and mentally,

Nevertheless, American scientists have thought it worth while to consider the nature of the stimulus as well as the weak-nesses of the victim. Here, more or less, is what they have found out:

SWING music-In common with the music of African ritual dances- is strongly and insistently rhythmical. In tone it is monoto-nous, with frequently recurring cadences in a minor key that ela bornte a simple, emotionally excit ing theme.

But rhythm is the basis of swing. This rhythm is cumningly designed in a tempo slightly fasfer than the average human heart

beat—72 per minute. Faster respiration and eventually a faster heart-heat are in duced by aural suggestion. This speeding up of bodily functions a kind of musical hypnosis-tends to break down normal reserve and to dull the faculty of self-criti-cism. Where there is a pro-

nounced mental unbalance the intoxication is aggravated to a degree that approximates musical D.T.'s.

But here you ask: "What about normal people surely swing does not have that effect on them? Anyway, what harm is there in experiencing this musical excitement?"

MAKING the questions in order, the American League of Music Students, which recently issued a paper on the subject of swing, is satisfied that normal people, once they have become familiar with swing music, experience exactly the same reactions as abnormal people, but in a very much modified degree. They do not lose

control of themselves.

The harm, if any?

The American League of Music Students has satisfied itself that swing music is aphrodisiae.

Ritual dancing among African negroes is admitted by observers to be aphrodisiae, and it is a reasonable supposition that the related "swing" has the same effect, but in a degree very largely modified by civilisation.

But do not leave the supposition merely to logic by the American investigators and the anthropologist. Professor Arthur Cremin, president of the society, conducted one of those nasty experiments American psychologists are given He told a reporter about it unblushingly in these words:

"WE placed a young man and a girl in a room where we could watch them without feding observed. First, we provided a programme of good music, classical pieces and popular songs, such as waltzes. They were friendly, but that was all.

⁴Eater we arranged another meeting. This time the played swing music. They the radio much bolder, both of them. boy took much more leeway in his actions and the girl didn't object."

(Continued on page 39.)



THE CANDID CAMERA. . . Catches a Campus Couple.