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—AND—

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

CONSTANT and interesting developments are taking place in the arena of British broadcasting. The service that has been given over recent years has steadily expanded and reached a pitch of perfection which now commands the general admiration of listeners and all interested in radio broadcasting. There have, of course, been periods of criticism, but the policy pursued has been so thoroughly sound that this criticism has but served to emphasise the general quality of the programmes.

The chairman of the Board of Governors for many years was Lord Clarendon, and ably indeed did he discharge his functions. The necessity for finding a successor to fill his place recently proved the occasion of some little discussion in Britain. One suggestion made was that Sir John Reith, the able Director-General, should himself become chairman of the Board of Governors. To this exception was taken by influential critics, and we think rightly so. In discussing the point, the "Saturday Review" put the matter thus: "The B.B.C. is too vital an element in our public life of to-day for it to be released from all safeguards. Sir John Reith is an admirable administrator and one who has the ethical interests of the public at heart. But it is essential that the chairman of the governing body should have no concern with the administrative cares at Savoy Hill, and that he should constitute a court of appeal in the many differences which are certain to arise between the highly intellectual staff and their highly ethical director." That states the question very well indeed, and it may be taken as certain that some one of those brilliantly qualified and distinguished public men in which England is so rich will be selected to succeed Lord Clarendon.

Following on this comment, the "Saturday Review" adds a few sentences which in their way are illuminating. "The B.B.C., as is inevitable," it says, "is exposed to all the odium which assails the possessor of a monopoly. Yet it must be admitted that it provides the British public with a service far better than that furnished either by the dullards at Königswusterhausen, for hiccups of Hilversum, or the bright advertisements of Eiffel Tower. We do not wish to see any alteration in the staff or direction at Savoy Hill. But we do wish to see someone appointed as chairman who will be in the position to dominate both the staff and the critics of the staff, and to see the wood above the thick and prickly trees by which it is to-day encumbered." This is a fine tribute indeed to the standard attained by the British Broadcasting Corporation. It shows that the foundation on which the service was built—with all payments by the public under license—is sound indeed, in that it relieves the service from the stigma

of dependence upon advertising revenue, and places the responsibility upon the administrators of giving the public the fullest possible effective service in news and culture.

Over recent years the mechanical side of the B.B.C. service has been remodelled in the direction of providing monster stations at some seven points throughout Britain to operate on two wavelengths. The purpose of this is to provide alternative programmes to permit of listeners making a selection of the matter to which they shall devote their attention. On one wavelength is given a programme of one calibre, and on the other a programme of another. Thus those who appreciate solid and classical matter can make their choice, while those who revel in jazz and light-hearted frivolity can gratify their hearts' desires. This programme became effective as from March 9 last, and it will be interesting to see just how effectively it appeals to the public.

One phase of British programmes, the conversational interview, was discussed over the air. To avoid the monotony of a definite statement from one authority extended over a period of, say, fifteen or twenty minutes, the policy now is to secure two performers both of some note, and allow the subject to be elucidated by discussion between the two in the form of question and answer, idea and counter-idea. This is a bright development which has already been adapted in some phases to New Zealand. Another feature of note is the greater use which is being made of gramophone records. The efficiency of reproduction is now so great that very extensive use is permissible of records. This factor has already been emphasised to New Zealand audiences, and as further developments are made it will be possible for even greater use to be made of records of classical import.

"Son of Peter"

"Did You Get That One?"

A Producer's Success

ON Page one is a photograph of Mr. Victor Lloyd, whose voice and skilful presentation of plays have delighted listeners from 2YA for many months past. Probably no performer from that station has established a more interested and appreciative public than Mr. Lloyd. Special interest will therefore be felt on the part of listeners in the fact that the first novel from his pen has just reached New Zealand. This is entitled "Son of Peter" and is published by the well-known publishing house, Eveleigh Nash Ltd.

For his theme Mr. Lloyd has made a study of a strong-minded aggressive Yorkshire business man of the second generation who expands his father's small group of boot stores into a magnificent series of chain stores, covering all the foot needs of the feminine public. Himself a Londoner well acquainted with the pressure of the business and advertising world of that city, Mr. Lloyd has brought to his task an intimate knowledge of his subject and a clarity of literary expression that are at once effective and delightful.

Psychologically Mr. Lloyd's study is interesting and justifies the statement that his work is one of the most effective first novels published in recent years. The story is gripping in its portrayal of the business evolution of the principal character. It is appealing in its revelation of the price paid in the loss of humanity by undue devotion to business. The hero marries—giving to that important action just as much thought as to his lightning decisions to expand his business. A few nights of honeymoon show him his ghastly mistake. He has married a charming French girl, intelligent, cultured and feminine, but built for love

THERE are dangers and perils to announcing, just as there are in other walks of life, so the broadcasting narrator found when 3YA set out to describe the recent street celebrations held by Christchurch students in honour of Capping Day. The main portion of the proceedings took place on the balcony of a hotel in Cathedral Square, which was the cynosure of all eyes and of many other things.

Precautions had been taken to protect the microphone with a water-proof covering, but there was no protection for the announcer, Mr. J. Ball, who successfully dodged all the misdirected fruit and vegetables, until, just at the end of the proceedings, an over-ripe tomato hit him fairly with a loud "plop," which all listeners must have heard. "Did you get that?—well, I did," said Mr. Ball, as he continued with his description, as imperturbable as ever, wiping the remains of the tomato from his face.

and dominated by love. John is on a different plane. Not greatly concerned with women at any stage of his life, he can be constant only to one thing—success in business. So they drift, and in the drifting effective analysis is made of his psychology and telling indication given of just what tremendous consequences follow from small impulses and opportunities. It is the little things that sway life more even than the big things.

Definite congratulations are to be given Mr. Lloyd upon his first volume. It constitutes a gripping and interesting story. It is understood that already Mr. Lloyd is engaged upon a further volume of somewhat more important character. Listeners may well hitch their wagon to Mr. Lloyd's star and enjoy perusal of his "Son of Peter." A special offer to country listeners regarding autograph copies is made elsewhere.