

## Our Own Drama

(Continued from page 1.)

"Effects should be made use of. Scenes by the shore, such as Miss Kerr's 'Devil's Rock,' are useful on this count. Wind, sea and others of nature's noises, laughter and street noises all come over the air well and heighten the effect.

"As for the constructional technique, I should advise anyone interested to consult the appendix to 'Eight Modern Plays.' The essentials are set out there very well, and will help those who are interested. I can recommend no better.

"If those who are interested in the construction of drama would follow English plays and follow them with the seeing eye and hearing ear they would derive untold help. Too many go to the plays or to the talkies, laugh at the obvious jokes, become intrigued with the plot, chatter about the scenery, then promptly forget everything. They do not look beyond the obvious. They do not think of the construction. To anyone who is truly interested in drama these are the bright spots of the whole performance. You will see how an actor will achieve his end, often without saying a word. The situation can be made tense or hilarious by his very gestures.

## Radio on English Trains

## Regular Service

THE first regular radio-service to be inaugurated on English trains was successfully demonstrated to railway officials recently during a journey from London to Leeds.

The headphones, which are fitted with volume controls, may be obtained from the car attendant at the cost of one shilling. They are then plugged in on the backs of the seats, and continuous programmes may be enjoyed while the journey lasts.

"Of course, many of these devices are not applicable to the radio drama, but the idea is there. Study plays intelligently and they will help you immensely.

"Now, I think I have answered your question. I can summarise my remarks by saying that broadcasting has not killed the amateur. In some fields it has stimulated his efforts, and it has certainly unearthed many amateur playwrights. But they must write New Zealand drama, and remember they are doing so for the microphone."

## World Radio News

"THE age of international broadcasting is on us long before we are ready for it," remarks an English writer, deploring the lack of a universal language. "The first step toward a universal tongue is to find from among the welter of sounds in the whole realm of speech those that are common to all languages—if there be any. There is no single language that can be understood by the whole world, and there appears not the smallest particle of hope that we are within centuries of attaining this very desirable end."

A LIFEBOAT reported to be the fastest in the world, was recently launched at Dover. It was specially designed to rescue aeroplanes which have been forced down at sea. A further innovation was the fitting of a special telephone transmitter for communication with coastguard stations.

IN spite of many denunciations of "synchronised" transmissions, that is, transmissions by several low-power stations of the same programmes on the same wave-length, there is a scheme in America to set up a network of such stations throughout the country. Ten companies are to sponsor the evening programmes, which are to be conducted

ed as all-the-evening entertainments, and not as sections of an hour, or half, or quarter of an hour, as is the practice with most American broadcasters at present.

WE hear much against the American type of programme, with its advertising propaganda, so much so, in fact, that we are rather inclined to pity the unfortunate American listener. So it comes as rather a surprise to learn that someone—even when that someone is the president of the American N.B.C.—goes so far as to warn Americans to beware of adopting such a broadcasting system as that favoured in England and Australia. In his own words: "Broadcasting in the United States, unlike that in England and Australia, where it is taxed, must remain a free institution. It is sponsored programmes which have saved the industry from extinction, by giving to the public that which it desires to hear. Vying with one another to gain the attention of the listener, our broadcasting stations slowly better themselves, for they are as envious of their audiences as publishers are of their circulation."

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