

gins with a brief trumpet prelude which merges into a brisk two in the bar. In the middle there is a smooth melody played first by the strings and clarinet, then by flute and oboe. Following this is the beautiful "Love Scene," and the danced march called "Circassian Dance." It is significant of Delibes's reputation as a writer of ballet music when composers such as Gounod and Massenet were commissioned to write for the opera—an honour, by the way, never extended to Delibes himself—they consulted him when in difficulties regarding technical points of the ballet music of the operas.

2YA listeners were brought right up to date in current world affairs when Dr. Guy H. Scholefield scrutinised the events leading up to the dispute between the Persian Government and the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, which has the support of the British Government. Giving his talk the title "Persia's Oil and Soul," Dr. Scholefield mentioned that it was rumoured that the dispute has been inflamed and was possibly due to Russian agents. The shadow of Russia has always loomed largely over Persia, although until recently no attempt has been made to Sovietise Persia. When the country was without stable Government a move on the part of Russia would have necessitated Britain taking possession of Persia, for the preservation of British interests in the country, and to keep the territory as a buffer State between Russia and India. At the beginning of the century Mr. W. K. Darcy, a New Zealander, acquired oil-prospecting concessions from the Shah and powerful local sheiks, and although much capital was

vainly spent in unsuccessful prospecting in early days, within the prescribed time a prosperous oil-producing corporation was established. The Anglo-Persian Oil Company's successful venture was largely due to the monetary assistance from the British Government, which now holds a substantial interest in the company, although involved finance might suggest that its holdings are not so large as claimed. Since the war Persia has had many changes of Government, but with a capable American financial adviser and an ever-increasing revenue from royalties derived from the company's enterprise, Persia may claim to have established a stable Government. Dr. Scholefield explained how the company's ramifications had completely changed the mode of living in Southern Persia. Country which a few years ago had only nomads and robbers to-day supports a population, well-housed, with educational facilities, free medical advice and an improved standard of living, all due directly to the valuable oil industry, which has definitely im-

proved the life of every person in Persia.

THAT Persia has materially advanced is evident when a people, long subjugated by the blight of the Turk, can muster sufficient courage to accuse their greatest benefactor of exploitation. Naturally the Persian is not the only national that has benefited by the Anglo-Persian Oil Company's enterprise. Numerous unskilled labourers in the employ are as discoloured as the remnants of Cyrus's Empire, but whole hordes of Persians are unemployable and not worth bothering about. It may be suggested that a willingness to refer the dispute to the Permanent Court of Justice is a sign of weakness on Britain's part, due possibly to an attenuated exchequer that resulted from winning a war. The Persians seem to be in a hopeful frame of mind when they agree, while the H.M.S. Hawkins is sitting on their front-door step, to submit the pros and cons to a League of Nations which is competent to diffuse poetry but apparently futile in arresting aggression.

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### Valedictory

A PLEASANT function took place in the head office of the Broadcasting Board on Monday evening last when the staff assembled to make a presentation, and say farewell, to Mr. E. Perreau, who for the past five years has been cashier, first to the Broadcasting

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Company and for the past year to the Broadcasting Board.

The general manager for the board, Mr. E. C. Hands, expressed the staff's regret that Mr. Perreau was retiring from the service of the board, and presented him with a case of pipes.

Mr. Perreau, who suitably responded, is retiring from active service and will make his future home in Christchurch.

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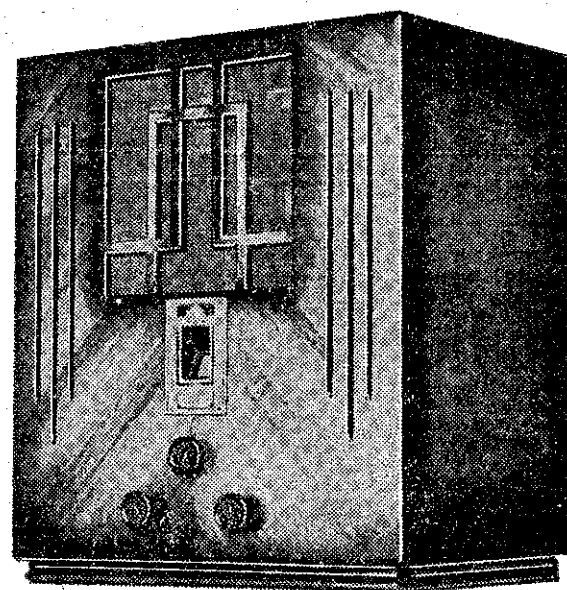
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