

ARTHUR POLKINGHORNE'S

Sydney Diary -

VISITORS to the Festival of Britain this year will see the **only** flying saucer in captivity—a plastic job of six feet in diameter, which will gyrate above the heads of the people in Manchester, Leeds, Nottingham and Birmingham. It was invented by Richard Levin, who calls it the Ectoplat—but he's not telling anyone how the saucer is kept in the air.

DON BAKER, of 2CH, is always up to some good work. He's been giving free lunch-time entertainments at factories, has just finished an eight-weeks' job recording the voices of spastic kiddies, and now has started off to see what he can do for TB patients and TB organisations for a 10-minute broadcast, to be called Round the Hospitals. Any group who'd like to be in it should contact Don Baker, or his offsider, Olga Deane, at

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2CH.

THIRTY - EIGHT years ago author Frank Clune sailed out of Victoria, British Columbia, in the three-masted, full-rigged ship Dunsyre for Sydney. With him was an Australian cadet, Bill Peters. Time moved on. Frank churned out his books. Bill sailed the seas. This week Bill, now captain of a ship sailing the Pacific, dropped in to see his old shipmate, and the pair of them did a lot of talking about travel at Prince's.

THERE'LL be no restrictions on beauty in this year's Yulunga contest. For the first time entries are not confined to the daughters of British or naturalised British parents, but are open also to new Australian beauties — and, just from casual observation, they include some very tasty dishes.

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IF the Government had plotted the holiday weather over Christmas and the New Year it couldn't have done a better job of giving people a sense of the joy of work and the folly of too much leisure. Weather-bound husbands who foregathered for a consoling drink over the holidays muttered darkly: "A man would be better off at work in this weather"—and most of their wives agreed with them.

DR. AMANDO MARTENS, Portuguese Consul, a bachelor, with a charming home on Mosman Bay, really looks after his small flock of compatriots. On Christmas Day he entertained every Portuguese he could find in and around Sydney and had a gift for each. All told, he had about 40 guests.

SOME people have a poor sense of humor. Denis Baker, aged 12, and his twin sister Margaret, struck a chap from one of the suburban cricket ban cricket

ban cricket clubs. He asked them if they'd like a couple of tickets for the big game, and they said "Yes" in a very big way. All unsuspecting they

went out yesterday, bright and early with their lunches in a haversack, only to discover that the tickets were old ones and they were turned back. They were a very mortified and tearful couple until Sun cricket writer Dick Whittington smoothed their path for them.

THE NRMA's a wonderful organisation to which to belong when you're in trouble. A young motorist, who'd just earned his licence, couldn't get his car to budge on his first official excursion, rang up the NRMA and asked could they help. They explained that they aided only members; he explained that he hadn't had time to join up, but the NRMA stuck to its rule. The young motorist immediately hotfooted into Sydney, joined up within half an hour, darted back home, phoned the NRMA again—and they were out to his aid in 10 minutes.

SYDNEY artist and theatre decor designer Alec Mackenzie, who's done a lot of sets for local Little Theatre productions, is all of

a lot of sets for local Little Theatre productions, is all of a flurry. He's just learned that some designs for the Barber of Seville, which the National Opera Company asked him to submit, have been accepted. Now he's off to Melbourne to execute them.

C O N V E R S A T I O N

PIECE: Assimilation into a new country is a marvellous thing. A European who's been in Australia for 40 years, but hasn't lost his heavy accent, rang up a city firm the other day, had difficulty in making himself understood. "Ah," he grumbled afterwards. "Why do these firms employ these foreigners who don't know the language?"

