South America and have a revolution every morning before breakfast.

## FRED MACISAAC.

## THE scientific basis for "Murder on the Mike":

Perhaps readers will think that the electric earthe parabolic microphone by means of which *Craig Kennedy* spots a murderer—is an invention of my own imagination. But let me point out that the super-sensitive parabola is a scientific fact. Radio engineers have spent years perfecting this invaluable piece of apparatus, and the larger broadcasting companies have been using it for many months. By means of it, quite as though with their own ears—much better, in fact --radio owners have been listening to the hoofbeats of horses on the race track, to the bombastic speeches of politicians at great national conventions, to Olympic games and the World Series and big football matches.

The advantage of this type of "reflecting" or "focusing" microphone over the older variety is that it can be made to pick up even the faintest of sounds made at some distance from it, and to exclude sounds outside the desired area. If you will imagine a searchlight beam—but one in which the rays (comparable to sound waves) are traveling backward and are being collected in the searchlight itself—you will have grasped the principle of the thing.

Craig Kennedy, of course, uses one of these extraordinary electric ears as a kind of mechanical stool pigeon.

ARTHUR B. REEVE.



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