

OWING to her temporary absence from New Zealand, Aunt Daisy's page does not appear this week, and may not appear for the next few issues.

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rounding up of conclusions and morals. Very poignant and very good propaganda.

ALTOGETHER the BBC has been doing us well lately. *Tommy Handley's Half Hour* is good fun, full of laughs and surprisingly full of puns. It is a good many years since a noted authority on Shakespeare spoke disparagingly about the Elizabethan fondness for such a paltry form of humour. Evidently puns are back and they come slickly from Tommy Handley. The whole half-hour is bright and quicker than we normally expect English programmes to be, and it is very full of unexpected laughs. I hope there will be many more.

[T] always strikes me as an interesting situation when novelists and poets read their own works. It would seem reasonable to expect that an author could put over just what he wants to say, and that his familiarity with his work would add so much charm and clarity to his reading. I haven't heard many poets reading their own poems, but I remember the endless monotony of Masfield's reading and my disappointment at finding that Walter De la Mare robbed his own verse of much of its magic. J. R. Hervey did well by comparison when he read some of his poems from 3YA the other Monday evening, but I still feel that poets are not the best people to read their own poetry. Perhaps it is that they are too familiar with their own words. Perhaps it is a certain shyness, a reluctance to sell their own wares, perhaps a tendency, which I noticed especially with Mr. Hervey, to stress the metre of the lines sometimes at the expense of meaning. Reading poetry to a large audience is, of course, a highly-skilled job whoever does it. The actor tends to elocute, to over-emphasise sound at the expense of meaning. The ordinary man is liable to fumble and hesitate in a way which does not matter much with prose but which can be almost as fatal to a poem as to a song. But there must be many listeners who would find such a programme once a week or so quite as stimulating as a recital of songs. I hope that we may hear more poems by New Zealand poets.

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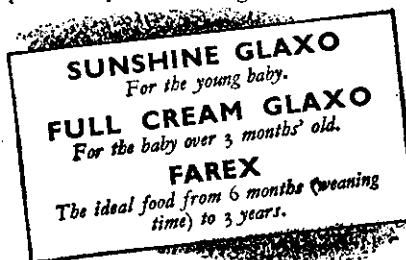
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