

(Continued from previous page)

on the string players, nor on Schubert who was substituted—it is just that we had looked forward to a rich half hour of Dorothy Davies' playing, for her all too infrequent broadcasts are apt to be given on Sunday afternoons, when we can get little more from 2YA than a dim impression that something delightful is taking place.

Hard Work, But Worth It

ONE of the finest concerts we have heard in years was that given by the Dunedin Professional Musicians, and listeners who tuned to 4YA that night would hear the best item of the concert, the Bach Four-piano Concerto, played by Olive Campbell, Max Scherek, Clarice Drake, and Mary Martin. I don't suppose the non-musical listener would appreciate the fact that to get this work performed at all is a tour de force. The finding of four pianists capable of Bach and familiar with concerted playing, the learning of the actual music, the arranging for rehearsals, the finding of a place to hold such rehearsals, the procuring of four pianos, the tuning of them, and the performance itself—all this seems a great deal of sheer solid work to prepare for only one performance. The result was so vigorous and vital, so neatly accurate, and so competently timed, that the four pianos sounded as one. The concert audience encored it, and so, I imagine, would the radio audience have done, if it were possible. Perhaps even now, if we applaud loudly and long enough, we may hear this work broadcast again!

Musical Switches

I CAN'T understand why concert orchestras and brass bands are so addicted to that curious form of musical arrangement known as the "pot-pourri," or, in plebian terms, the "musical switch." A composer, without two ideas of his own to rub together to make a cerebral blaze, takes a couple of dozen ideas of some

famous composer or composers, and by means of interpolated modulatory passages and the forcing of themes into keys for which they were never intended, manages to regale the listening ear for seven minutes or so with a sort of musical haggis. The 4YA Concert Orchestra began a programme inauspiciously with one of these curiosities, a Fantasia on the Works of Brahms, into the very brief minutes of which were crammed, alas, most of Brahms's loveliest melodies. I was pleased when the second orchestral item proved to be two movements from Sir Hamilton Harty's "Irish Symphony." The charming and typically Irish sentiment of these movements was exactly the sort of thing which suits such an orchestral combination.

Patronising Patrick

A READING of a ghost-and-peasant story by O. L. Simmance recently provided an interesting example of the curious attitude of 19th century authors towards the inhabitants of Ireland. There was no minimising of the hair-raising poverty of the peasants under the semi-permanent threat of eviction; the general tone was sympathetic; but the author—and there were many like him—declined to regard any of the characters as more than one degree above the half-wit. It should surely be possible to show that people are superstitious without presenting them as cretinous or childish.

The writer was clearly possessed of the most kindly feelings towards the peasants, but he illustrated with singular clarity the truth of G. K. Chesterton's dictum that in a revolution the philanthropists, with their unfailing patronising superiority, would be the first to be lynched. But I congratulate Mr. Simmance on his brogue.



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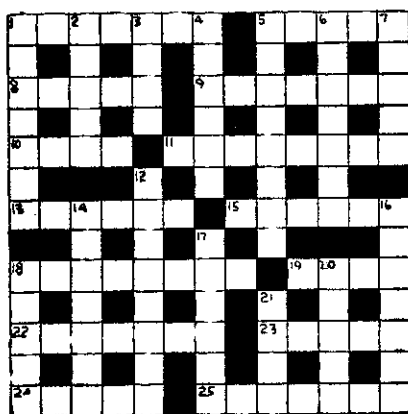
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Clues Down

1. Suppress.
2. As in eel.
3. Star seen from below.
4. Canter (anag.).
5. Some port! (anag.).
6. Eel trap (anag.).
7. Name of a sea basin in the Orkney Islands.
12. Complete form of triangle.
14. Blow up with tin leaf.
16. "Oh what a — web we weave. When first we practise to deceive" (Scott).
17. Fruit is often this.
18. Plies with medicine.
20. Gem found in 6 down.
21. Overturned saucepans.

(Answer to No. 225)



Clues Across

1. It's near (anag.).
5. Gas or bag?
8. Confused notes in the beginning.
9. Her coal gives rise to a disease.
10. Lash may be vigorous in her old age.
11. Or in Panama.
13. Singer in disorder.
15. Rested (anag.).
18. Turns aside.
19. I am taken out of Spain for a short distance.
22. Row after a spar—you'll get the bird.
23. Beaten track.
24. Incantation.
25. The Doctor of Divinity in short seems to have swallowed an apple.

