

some cross and furrowed in the process. Our wish for 1945 is that we may see some codification of this labelling system—a nice little task for our Standards Institute.

## Verse and Music

HAVING heard, in the series "Anthologies of Poetry and Music," the poems of Walter de la Mare with music by Quilter, I was eager to hear "Ships" from 4YZ. It is an interesting experiment, the welding of verse and music. With so many poems and so little time left between them for the music, it is apt to sound scrappy if there is no suggestion of continuity. But in the case of Walter de la Mare, the fact that there was only one poet helped to make the readings a blended whole instead of a succession of snippets, and the same effect was achieved in "Ships" because all the poems had a similar theme; in both cases the music was by one composer, although I would rather have heard Ansell's "Windjammer" Overture played by itself and not used as background for poetry readings. I felt that the short extracts from Massfield, Bridges, and others, made me want to look up the particular poems and read them entire. One which I hadn't heard before, "There Was a Queen," with its incredible history of the fair damsel swallowed by a shark, and its reiterated chorus, "All in a good sea-boat, my boys," surely deserves, like Walter de la Mare's "Three Jolly Farmers," to be ranked with the immortal ballads of old.

## Now Chickabiddies. . .

ONCE there was a Children's Crusade. Will there ever be a Children's Revolution against the way they are addressed by public entertainers? This reflection occurred to me while listening

## DOROTHY HELMRICH ILL

New Zealand Tour Cancelled

THROUGH illness at the last moment, the New Zealand tour projected for Dorothy Helmrich (soprano) has been cancelled. All arrangements had been made and programmes compiled when advice was received that Miss Helmrich was unable to make the trip from Australia.

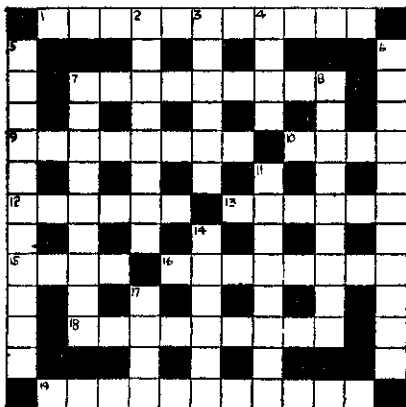
to the narrator of our old friend "Peter and the Wolf"; this cooing and yodelling and over-emphasis really should be restrained. I am sure that I abandoned Children's Hours at the age of nine or so for very much this reason, and I doubt my uniqueness. The really interesting thing, however, about what Wodehouse called the "Uncle Wiggly to His Chicks" manner is its virtual identity with the adult advertisement voice that comes, horribly intimate over radio and film—telling us what we already knew about the advertiser's attitude to his public.

## Local Talent

I WROTE some time back of the recorded series "Men and Music," which dramatised the composition of various famous songs and so forth. Local talent (that usually funeral phrase) at Christchurch recently tried its hand at a feature of this sort, with triumphant success. The broadcast was a 3ZB one on Christmas Eve, and the subject was "Silent Night." The Repertory Society and Cathedral Choir collaborated to make an unusual success of a task full of temptations to the lush and over-soulful, through which it passed almost untouched. The music was allowed to carry most of the weight, and it is striking, but true, that one can hear the carol sung four or five times in 20 minutes without objecting.

## THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

(No. 228: Constructed by R.W.C.)



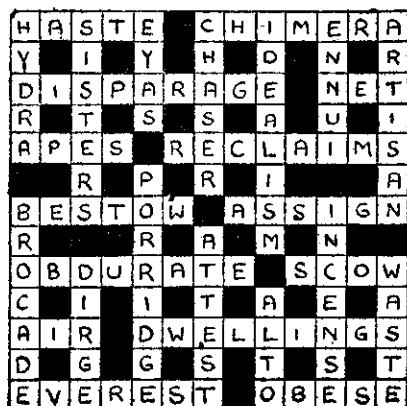
### Clues Across

1. A word well known to Runyon fans.
7. Here you see ham cure it.
9. Dairy tip (anag.).
10. Pins may be a bargain.
12. According to this it's correct.
13. Man of learning.
15. Stepped.
16. The wife of Karenin follows the band.
18. Bred mules (anag.).
19. Dave runs out—ain't he enterprising.

### Clues Down

2. Foot levers.
3. "Tis Death to me to be at ———; I hate it, and desire all goodmen's love." (Richard III., Act 2, Sc. 1.)
4. "The desire of the ——— for the star" (Shelley).
5. Exciting art (anag.).
6. Depart Peter! (anag.).
7. With I.O.U.'s and car, Pa is extortionate.
8. Dance? Not I (anag.).
11. Title of a Schubert song.
14. This opening is in the bag, Tim!
17. "It wouldn't have done for the girl!" as Norman Logg informs us.

(Answer to No. 227)



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