

(Continued from previous page)

heard than the songs and the First Symphony which made up 2YA's hour. This is the symphony which was dedicated to "Hans Richter, Mus.Doc., True Artist and True Friend," in gratitude for the fact that Richter, recognising Elgar's greatness, had made the Enigma Variations known and appreciated in Germany before they were listened to kindly in England. Many modern composers alarm us by their consciousness of a purpose and a message, but listeners to Elgar have his permission to relax and enjoy themselves. "I have tried to compose some tunes which I hope will give pleasure to some people," he said late in life to a group of musicians. "I like my music performed in a free open-air way. People try to put too much into my music." That was a healthy and very endearing attitude.

Pigeon English

THE other evening we met an old friend, the "Dove Song" from Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro." Seeing this misprint in the programmes, I merely dismissed it as a likely printer's error; when the announcer from 4YA repeated it, I laughed in an annoyed fashion; but when he continued to say it, not once or twice, but three times, no less, I began to wonder if perhaps I were the one at fault. So I tracked the song down, and after failing to find any mention of it in two articles on opera, I finally came across this. "The Countess enters . . . she bewails the lost devotion of her husband . . . she moans, 'Where now are those blessed moments' (Dove sono i bei momenti)." Instead of a mental "I told you so," I found myself breathing a sigh of relief at finding myself vindicated, and I now state unequivocally, for the benefit of singers, printers, and announcers, that there is no "Dove Song" in "The Marriage of Figaro." I did find mentioned in one book of reference the sad fact that this opera has actually been produced "with music by Mozart and

alterations by Bishop." As the latter composer was addicted to writing songs about larks, mocking birds, and other birds, there may be some obscure reason for the persistent cropping up of an ancient error. But from now on, please, no "Dove Songs."

Bread on the Home Front

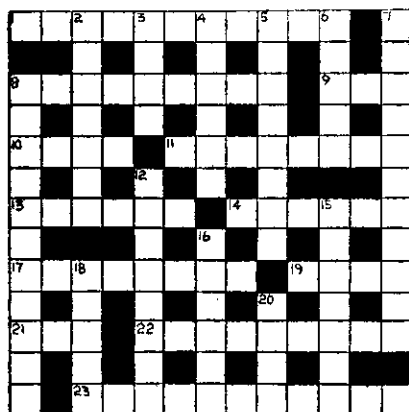
ANY Aucklander will tell you with emphasis and detail that the loaf he is eating is not a patch on the one made by his former baker who is now zoned to the other side of the town. We were in need of the reminder in a recent *Home Front Talk* that at least we are sure of an adequate supply of bread at a fixed price. Looking at it from this angle we



realise that we are not rioting, queueing up, or paying black market prices for bread; we are not even hungry enough to eat up all our crusts. Some of this is due to good luck — we have quite a large wheat-growing area, a small population, other good food, and no hungry neighbours; but the talk dealt mainly with the good management aspect — planning and control of production, distribution and price. An economist might point out that large subsidies are paid to keep the bread at its low and steady price, and contend that though this way of meeting high costs may be fairer, less painful, and better for morale, we should be reminded that we are paying for it. A nutritionist might add that our health would be better if wheat were so scarce that we had to eat a whole-meal or near-wholemeal national loaf and to rely more on vegetables. But the *Home Front Talks* are not prepared by carping fellows like these; they are concerned with describing policy in action, not with questioning or shaping it, and within these limits they do quite a good job.

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

(No. 234: Constructed by R.W.C.)



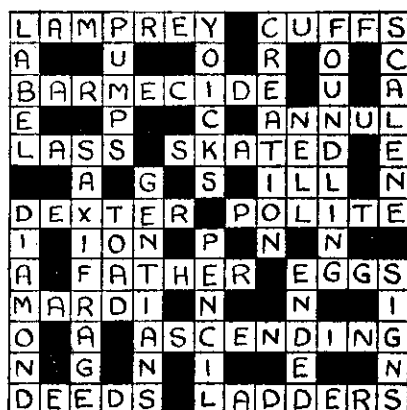
Clues Across

- I'd get in a rut to display this.
- Shout coal for a wholesale destruction.
- Geneva may also be a trap
- Regretted—this sounds impolite.
- Deteriorate (2 words).
- A pity he didn't stick to housepainting.
- Come to a standstill (2 words).
- Small rodents out of order after a rotter—this is scholarly.
- Surface concealed in a bare altar.
- It is, in short.
- Arise and toil for a single stone.
- Toned in pen (anag.).

Clues Down

- One of a famous operatic partnership.
- The char is upset.
- Ruined (anag.).
- Drawn out in order to be unlucky.
- Keen.
- This would prevent the burglar from leaving prints on the door (2 words).
- Adjective applied in the song to pretty little Polly Perkins of Paddington Green. ("for six months she married, this girl . . .").
- Set free with seal and deer.
- Marital.
- Stimulus.
- Very musically.
- Nuts going up.

(Answer to No. 233)



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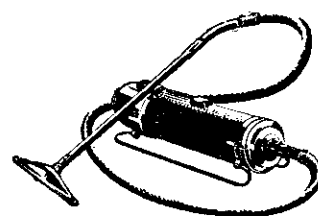
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